

Community Service Award

The Community Service Award is bestowed upon an ACG Allied Health Member, Resident Member, Trainee Member, Member, Fellow, or Master who has initiated or has been involved in volunteer programs or has provided extensive volunteer service post-training. The service must have been performed on a completely voluntary basis and not for the completion of training or position requirements. Such service may include but is not limited to the following: community education programs (e.g., colon cancer awareness); working in free clinics; mentoring advocacy groups or local government committees; teaching in under-served schools related to health education; and political work on committees for comprehensive health insurance or other issues.

2019 Recipient

Seshadri T. Chandrasekar, MD, DM, D.Sc, FACC



Seshadri T. Chandrasekar, MD, DM, D.Sc, FACC, is a native of India and has practiced gastroenterology in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, South India, for over three decades. He received his MD and gastroenterology fellowship from the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India.

Dr. Chandrasekar established a new department of Gastroenterology at Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, India. He is currently the Founding Chairman and chief Gastroenterologist, MedIndia Hospitals, a GI Institution affiliated to the Tamil Nadu State Dr. MGR Medical University (TNMGRMU), Chennai, where he sits as the Adjunct Professor.

Dr. Chandrasekar has published several innovative techniques in GI endoscopy in peer-reviewed journals, including intralesional xylocaine in drug-induced esophageal ulcers, catheter pull sign in glue injection in gastric fundal varices, double-step invagination technique in the retrieval of embedded esophageal stent, and mucosotomy for rectal foreign bodies. He served as Honorary President of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology, contributing greatly to the advancement of gastroenterology in India and South Asia, and has been an active International Member of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG), advancing to fellowship in ACG this year.

Dr. Chandrasekar provides free medical camps, health awareness programs, and concessional treatment. He also created numerous patient materials, including braille charts and medical cards to expedite treatment in emergencies. His love for service is reflected in MedIndia's provision of free services for patient populations which are underserved and in need. Dr. Chandrasekar has volunteered at Red Cross Society medical clinics and has run over 90 free medical camps, 60 of which provided GI treatment exclusively for school-age students who are blind, deaf, immobile, or otherwise physically challenged.

Community Service Award, *continued*

To continue serving patients beyond the camps, he developed public health awareness exhibitions, launched a website, instituted a toll-free digestive diseases helpline, and authored books for the public on digestive health and diseases. He has also scripted, directed, and produced several short films on GI-adjacent topics such as hepatitis, alcohol use disorder recovery, personal hygiene, and environmental issues like water conservation and air pollution.

Many of Dr. Chandrasekar's initiatives for students who are disabled, blind, or hearing-impaired are the first of their kind. Prominent examples include health cards and braille charts on personal hygiene tips and nutritional deficiency rectification, and a unique QR-coded life-saving emergency medical care card (emc2) with the cardholder's contact and health information. Over 5,000 people have benefitted from this, which serves as a lifeline during zero-hour medical management. He has plans to expand these initiatives from India to the global level, with the support of sponsors.

Dr. Chandrasekar also serves his community by supporting aspiring gastroenterologists and providing training opportunities. He serves as a PhD Guide and runs a PhD course at TNMGRMU. In commitment to his local medical community, he has trained over 750 doctors in advanced endoscopy procedures and created a series of DVDs documenting some of the more than 23,000 complex endoscopy procedures he has performed to provide medical education to medical students and trainees.

Dr. Chandrasekar believes in the dictum, "innovation distinguishes between a leader and follower," and that of Mahatma Gandhi, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Past Community Service Award Recipients

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| 2018 | Louis J. Wilson, MD, FACP |
| 2017 | Amar R. Deshpande, MD, FACP |
| 2016 | David J. Hass, MD, FACP |
| 2015 | Darrell M. Gray, II, MD, MPH |
| 2014 | Timothy B. Gardner, MD, FACP |
| 2013 | Richard T. McGlaughlin, MD, FACP |
| 2012 | March E. Seabrook, MD, FACP |
| 2011 | Joseph D. DiMase, MD, FACP |