

S. 'Jay' Jayasankar, MD

Dr. Jay, as he is known, champions Indian physician and International physicians' (IMG) cause and is very active in patient advocacy and health policy, besides his various contributions to orthopaedics, patient care, education and public health. He is dedicated to mentoring youngsters, leadership development; and preventing diabetes, heart disease and family violence.

Dr. Jayasankar serves on the faculty of Harvard University and the Massachusetts General Hospital and the New England Baptist Hospital for the last 30 years. He is the President of the prestigious (originally est. 1805) Boston Medical Library (BML), which has one of the richest collections in the History of Medicine and combined with the Harvard Medical Library as the Countway Library of Medicine has the largest collection of medical books and journals under one roof. Dr. Jayasankar chaired the International Medical Graduates Section of the American Medical Association. It represents the interests of 180,000 physicians in the US who graduated from medical schools outside the US and who constitute a quarter of all US physicians. He chaired the Board of Trustees of the Indian Medical Association of New England and chairs the International Health Organization's Board (dedicated to Public Health in South Asia) and is director of the Massachusetts Medical Society Charitable Foundation.

Dr. Jayasankar is a recipient of many awards and recognitions, among which are: US Congressional recognition award for "Outstanding and invaluable service to the community," Pfizer "Housecall" honor for contribution to the public health of the Indian American community, and Indus Star 2002 Award.

Dr. Jay is much credited for elevating the status and role of the AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin- there are 38,000 physicians in the US who are graduates of medical schools in India) to a "new high" while serving as its national President. Amongst his legacies to the AAPI is the DIA (Diabetes among Indian Americans), Initiative which is involved in researching and preventing diabetes among Indian Americans, the first such coordinated effort in the US, for which precedent setting grants from private industry and from the CDC were obtained. He helped the AAPI gain admission as a member of the American Medical Association and was responsible for the publication of the AAPI book on Nutrition of Indian Foods (the first copyrighted AAPI book).

In his leadership role at the Massachusetts Medical Society and at the American Medical Association, Dr. Jayasankar has helped advance many advocacy issues on behalf of patients, the profession, general physician issues and specific issues of Indian American physicians. He has authored, as committee chair, reports on physician workforce, peer review principles, evaluation criteria for creation of new cardiac surgery centers in Massachusetts and others which are considered national standards in the areas. He has conducted much applauded national leadership training programs for leaders in Medicine at the AMA National Leadership Conference.

He and his physician wife enjoy traveling and being involved in the lives of their two physician children (a daughter, a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, and a son, a cardiac surgeon in training) and their families including five grandchildren.