
Samuel S. Weiss Award

The Samuel S. Weiss Award was established as a service award in commemoration of the founding father of the College, Samuel S. Weiss, whose efforts and initiative resulted in the establishment of the College in 1932. It is presented periodically, and not necessarily annually, to a Fellow of the College in recognition of outstanding career service to the American College of Gastroenterology. Nominations are solicited and reviewed by the Awards Committee and the recipients must be approved by the ACG Board of Trustees.

2011 Recipient

Frank L. Lanza, MD, FAGG



Dr. Frank L. Lanza received his medical degree and a master's degree in biochemistry from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1962. He did his training in internal medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine Hospitals and his fellowship in gastroenterology at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Cancer Institute, both in Houston, Texas. He remained on the staff of the M.D. Anderson Hospital for four years before entering a full-time private practice, at which time he accepted a clinical appointment as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He established the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Clinic at the Ben Taub Harris County Hospital and has remained continuously in that post until the present time. He was promoted to full clinical professor in 1980.

Dr. Lanza joined the American College of Gastroenterology in 1978 and in 1982 was elected Governor for Texas (later South Texas) and served in that post until 1990. In 1992, he was elected to the Board of Trustees and was a Trustee for five years, Treasurer for three years, and ultimately served as President during 2002-2003. During his presidency, the College approved the purchase of its new headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland and at that time the College also underwent expansion and reorganization of its administrative offices. Dr. Lanza has served on numerous committees for the College and chaired the Membership Committee for four years, during which time the membership of the College increased dramatically.

Dr. Lanza has been active in clinical research throughout his professional career and has published over 100 papers in peer reviewed journals, including two guidelines on the use of NSAIDs, which were sponsored by the College. Dr. Lanza also is a founding member of the Texas Society for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy. He served as Secretary of that organization for many years and as President from 1980-1982.

Dr. Lanza and his wife, Alice, recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. They have five children and five grandchildren. They enjoy ballroom dancing and both are avid collectors of antiques and other collectibles. Dr. Lanza is also an avid fisherman and likes to spend time at his beach house in Galveston, Texas.

The American College of Gastroenterology has always been an extremely important part of Dr. Lanza's professional and personal life and he will always be an active participant, and hopes to always be an active participant in his activities.