

Newsworthy Notes on CSA Members

Avant! Foundation Honors Interplast Board Member and Volunteer Dr. Terri Homer

In June, the Avant! Foundation presented a 2003 MAGIC Award and \$10,000 check to longtime Interplast volunteer and board member, Dr. Terri Homer.

The Fremont, California-based Avanti Corporation (Avant!) launched its “Avant! Foundation” in 1997, and has generously supported a number of philanthropic endeavors with grants totaling more than \$8 million to date. The MAGIC Awards Program (“**M**aking **A** **G**reat **I**vestment in the **C**ommunity”) provides grants to people doing outstanding work to improve disadvantaged communities. “The awards are designed to reward those who help their communities, and to encourage others to do the same,” said Dr. Steven Lehane, director of the Avant! Foundation. “This year, we were pleased to be able to give away a total of \$200,000 in MAGIC Award grants.”

Dr. Homer was one of 20 MAGIC Award recipients selected from a total of more than 500 nominees. Immediately upon receiving her \$10,000 gift, Dr. Homer turned the check over to Interplast. “On behalf of the hundreds of children who will benefit from this generous gift, I’m very grateful to Dr. Lehane and the Board of the Avant! Foundation for selecting me for this award,” said Dr. Homer. “I began volunteering with Interplast about 22 years ago, and for many reasons, I’m still at it. The pleasure of seeing such joy on the faces of the children and their parents has become a real part of me; I can’t let that go.”

Dr. Homer, an anesthesiologist, has worked with Interplast’s surgical teams in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, and Vietnam, to treat children with disabling birth defects, severe burns, or other injuries. She has also provided advanced training for host country medical professionals, and served as an inspiration to them in their efforts to care for needy children and families.

Notes on CSA Members—Cont'd

“Dr. Homer has been a pivotal Interplast figure in three distinctly different capacities: as a medical volunteer; as a fundraiser; and as a board member and medical specialty committee member—including stints as chair of both our anesthesia and quality improvement committees, which create medical policies governing the organization,” said Interplast president and CEO Susan Hayes. “We are thrilled that Dr. Homer has been honored for her work with Interplast, and of course, we are deeply grateful to her for presenting her generous Avant! grant to us.”

In addition to volunteering with Interplast, Dr. Homer has become involved with a number of other service organizations over the years. “Many physicians feel the way I do about volunteering their time and services; they feel an obligation to give back to the community that has supported them,” said Dr. Homer. “Two years ago, some of my colleagues introduced me to an organization called Operation Rainbow, and I began volunteering with their programs providing orthopedic surgery for needy children in developing countries. A pediatric dentist I work with has introduced me to ‘Sonrisas,’ a dental clinic providing low cost or free dental care to needy families living on the San Mateo (California) coast where I live. I hope to begin volunteering this summer at Sonrisas by providing free anesthesia services to patients (mostly children) who require sedation for extensive dental work. All of these opportunities enrich my life beyond measure. Whenever possible I talk to young physicians and students about the many amazing experiences I have had in the hopes that they will catch the ‘volunteer bug’ that I have!”

Dr. Homer continues to serve on Interplast’s board of directors and anesthesia committee, and led an Interplast trip to Loja, Ecuador, in January. She has already signed up to lead another trip to Loja in January 2004.

Anyone who wishes to get general information or application requirements for physicians (plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, pediatricians) may contact Interplast at (650) 962-0123 or visit www.interplast.org.