

Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS, to Receive 2018 Distinguished Service Award



When Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS, joined the ACFAS Student Club at the California School of Podiatric Medicine in 1994, little did she know that nearly 25 years later, she would be an established leader in her new profession. Even more, when she migrated to the United States, leaving her parents in Iran nearly 34 years ago, she never imagined that she would be receiving the 2018 ACFAS Distinguished Service Award for her selfless service to the College.

Dr. Mirmiran has been an unsung hero in many ACFAS roles including, but not limited to, Clinical Consensus Statements, postgraduate/residency affairs, consumer education, *The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery* and president of the ACFAS Big West Region. She and her family also donated the Mirmiran Family Scholarship in the College's Legacy Fund that provides student scholarships to the annual conference.

Through her years of involvement with ACFAS, Dr. Mirmiran met many volunteer leaders who freely gave their personal time to

teach and mentor others. Seeing the fruits of their hard work inspired Dr. Mirmiran to volunteer with the College. "I made a commitment that I would do what I could to promote the profession and my colleagues at the hospital, local and national levels while giving back to podiatry," she said.

She credits her volunteer activities with ACFAS for making her a better practitioner, a stronger leader and a lifelong learner, and she appreciates the experiences that come with giving back. This past year, Dr. Mirmiran once again presented a surgical skills workshop to podiatric medical students at Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona and hosted two third-year students to attend the 2017 annual conference. "To see the students' excitement as they listened to the clinical sessions and learned from leaders in the profession was so rewarding," she recounts.

Helping these and other podiatric medical students and residents succeed reminds Dr. Mirmiran of the many mentors, friends and family members who guided and supported

her as a student and throughout her career. Among them are Drs. Janet Simon, Kathy Piatak, Ross Taubman, Albert Burns, Joshua Gerbert, Jeff Page and Jeff Robbins.

"My uncle, who was a general surgeon in Iran, as well as my husband and parents, always encouraged me to persevere no matter what hardships or obstacles came along," she says. "They stood by me despite my having missed many family weekends and dinners."

Dr. Mirmiran advises those who would like to get more involved with the College to remember that volunteering is a two-way street. This means one donates his or her time, skills and expertise while also thinking broadly to keep members' and the entire profession's best interests in mind. "It doesn't matter what committee or task we're assigned—each one of us can make a difference," she concludes. "As the saying goes, 'Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.'"

The ACFAS Board of Directors selects the Distinguished Service Award winner each year. Dr. Mirmiran will accept her award during the annual ACFAS Honors and Awards Ceremony at ACFAS 2018 in Nashville.

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— Roya Mirmiran, DPM, FACFAS