

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER LEADERS CELEBRATED AT AAHCI GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM

AAHCI Awardees Lauded for Commitment to Improving Health by Advancing the Academic Health Center Mission Worldwide

April 2023

The Alliance of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI) is pleased to announce the recipients of the AAHCI Distinguished Service Award and the AAHCI Innovation Award. The awardees were recognized at the 2023 AAHCI Global Innovation Forum (GIF), held April 12-13 in Washington, DC, for their dedication and significant contributions to advancing the critical work of academic health centers worldwide.

The **AAHCI Distinguished Service Award**, established in 2019 to honor extraordinary commitment, leadership, and service to advancing the effectiveness of academic health centers worldwide in patient care, biomedical research, and health education, was presented to three awardees:

- Luciano Saso, PhD, AAHCI European Regional Office Ambassador; academic guest of the University of Zurich; professor, Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome (Italy)
- Mohamed H. Sayegh, MD, AAHCI MENA Regional Office Ambassador; senior scientific advisor to the director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; senior advisor to the chief academic officer, President Office, Dubai Academic Health Corporation; professor of medicine and immunology, American University of Beirut (Lebanon)
- Ari Syam, MD, MMB, PhD, FINASIM, FACP, AAHCI SEA Regional Office Ambassador, dean, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia (Indonesia)

The **AAHCI Innovation Award** was presented to Valeria Aoki, MD, PhD, associate professor and director of the Immunodermatology Laboratory, Department of Dermatology, president, International Office, University of Sao Paulo School of Medicine in Brazil. Dr. Aoki was honored for her exceptional commitment to AAHCI and for her leadership in the development of an innovative program, the [AAHCI Student Leadership Initiative \(ASLI\)](#).

"These four AAHCI awardees have demonstrated outstanding academic health leadership and exemplary community and global vision as they guide their institutions to innovate and thrive in challenging economic and healthcare landscapes," said AAHCI Executive Director, Steven L. Kanter, MD. "It is a privilege to recognize and honor the great work they have accomplished."

Academic health centers are deeply imbedded in their communities. They provide tertiary and quaternary healthcare services, specialize in the most complex and difficult diagnoses and treatments, serve as safety-net providers, stimulate the economy, and educate the next generation of health professionals. Their research leads to advances in understanding and treatment of diseases.



AAHCI is a wholly owned subsidiary of the AAMC and comprises an international constituency.