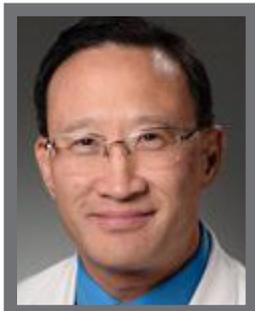


Mertin A. Hendrickson, M.D. Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community



MICHAEL TAKEHARA, M.D.

Southern California Permanente Medical Group - San Bernardino Region

Dr. Michael Takehara practices as a Rheumatologist and is a partner in the Southern California Permanente Medical Group with a clinical practice at the Fontana and Ontario Medical Centers, where he has been since 1990. He graduated from Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois and completed his Internal Medicine residency in Grand Rapids Michigan. He went on to complete

his Rheumatology fellowship at Los Angeles County USC (University of Southern California) Medical Center.

He is proud to have served his medical group in a multitude of ways, including as Regional Chief of Rheumatology in Southern California, Chief of the Department of Internal Medicine and as Assistant Area Medical Director.

Dr. Takehara was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. As such, he claims to be the most rabid White Sox (NOT Cubs) fan west of the Mississippi. Raised by parents who were incarcerated in the Japanese-American concentration camps during World War II, he maintains a life-long passion for supporting civil rights and serving the underprivileged. From a medical school rotation at a "St. Elsewhere" hospital in a Chicago ghetto to the chaotic scene at LA County hospital, his greatest enjoyment in the practice of medicine has been helping those with the least support from our healthcare system to progress in life.

With these experiences and his passion to assist and advance those with the greatest need, Dr. Takehara had envisioned a physician volunteer program to alleviate the growing problems of inequality in the community. Soon after joining Kaiser Permanente in 1990, his dream began to coalesce. With the tremendous support of local leadership, his vision became a reality in 2010. He set forth to develop a program that coordinates the passion of volunteer physicians with the needs of community clinics throughout San Bernardino County.

Over the past eight years, up to 50 Primary Care and Specialty Care physicians have served several community clinics encompassing thousands of patients. Dr. Takehara still has the honor of helping to lead and promote this program, and he continues to volunteer at two of the free clinics each month.

Although changes in our nation and culture have concerned him with regard to the fate of underserved populations in our communities, he holds on to the hope that physicians and other healthcare providers who have tremendous altruism, compassion and passion for helping others will continue to expand the capacity for helping those in greatest need.

We salute Dr. Takehara as he receives this well-deserved award.



San Bernardino County Medical Society

