

On October 22, 2015, Ron Nahass was the recipient of the prestigious Legends in Medicine & Health Care Award presented by the Leon Smith Infectious Diseases Foundation. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to medicine through improving quality and access to care.

Dr. Nahass was introduced by Barry Rabner, CEO and President of Princeton Healthcare System. In his remarks, Mr. Rabner stated that “the only one I can think of more deserving of this award is Ron Nahass, ten years from now, because he isn’t done yet. In his acceptance speech Dr. Nahass talked of the people who have influenced, mentored, and supported him in the evolution of his career from the early days working in his father’s produce business, through Medical School and training, and throughout his career. Joining Dr. Nahass at the awards dinner were his wife, his parents, and two of his three children. Also in attendance were several of Dr. Nahass’ ID CARE partners, their wives, and two members of ID CARE management.

An unexpected moment in the evening occurred when Richard Firtzky was receiving the Smith Foundation Humanitarian Award. Mr. Firtzky is a survivor of Neisseria Meningitis. The award was presented to honor Mr. Firtzky’s tireless devotion to helping others despite having to overcoming the consequences of the disease which included coma, strokes, amputations, 22 operations, and kidney failure. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Firtzky, a father of 12, publicly thanked ID CARE physicians Joe Kim and Steve Williams for their heroic work in saving his life.

The Leon Smith Infectious Diseases Foundation was established almost 25 years ago to, in the words of Dr. Smith himself, “further the field of infectious diseases and support the research that is still required to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Our modest goals were to improve the clinical and medical care capabilities in Newark, surrounding communities, and in certain instances around the globe.”

James Padley, Chief Operating Officer