

Dr. F. Ray Dolly's Introduction of Dr. David Huang, Recipient of the 2024 I.B. Harrison, M.D. Humanitarian Award

Managing Editor's Note: These are Dr. F. Ray Dolly's notes and not a formal write-up. Please excuse spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.

It is my great honor to introduce Dr. David Huang who is this year's recipient of the I.B. Harrison, M.D. Humanitarian Award. Dr. Huang was born in Taiwan and raised in Plant City, Florida. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1982 and his medical degree in 1985. He completed a rigorous residency in internal medicine at Parkland Memorial Hospital in 1988 and a fellowship in pulmonary medicine/critical care at the University of Florida in 1992.

Upon coming to Tallahassee in 1992 and joining the Tallahassee Pulmonary Clinic, he was immediately recognized as an outstanding physician who put excellent patient care first. Dr. Huang was technically superb in pulmonary medicine and critical care especially with the most challenging patients who other physicians sometimes avoided. Dr. Huang has been faithful in critical care night call for more than 30 years even though it was not required. He demonstrated calmness in difficult situations and showed willingness to help beyond expectations. When critical care was obviously futile, he was able to skillfully transition many patients and families to end of life care avoiding unnecessary suffering while practicing ethical medicine.

The advance of sleep medicine in Tallahassee is one of his many outstanding accomplishments. Even though there was not an opportunity to complete a sleep medicine fellowship at the University of Florida when he finished the program, Dr. Huang was able to teach himself sleep medicine and passed the American Board of Sleep Medicine exam in 1999. He began the HealthSouth Sleep disorder center in 2002 and then the 12-bed Tallahassee Memorial Sleep Center in 2009. He served as medical director and wrote all the initial protocols for both centers. Dr. Huang helped multiple physicians become board certified in sleep medicine, including me, since he provided sample questions from his own experience that were much more difficult than the AIBM test questions. Dr. Huang organized multiple sleep symposiums, which brought internationally acclaimed experts to Tallahassee, recruited other physicians to help with sleep patients, and markedly advanced sleep medicine patient care.

Dr. Huang has faithfully volunteered on multiple hospital committees, gave countless informative lectures to physicians, medical students, residents, technicians, and the community. He personifies the best of the medical profession and deserves the I.B. Harrison, M.D. Humanitarian Award.