

VAY LIANG & FRISCA GO AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Suresh Chari, MD
Professor, MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Chari is currently Professor of Medicine and Consultant in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic Rochester. He trained in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology in India. He then did the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship in Mannheim, Germany. He moved to the United States in 1993 where he completed a residency (Univ. of AZ) and Fellowship in Gastroenterology (Mayo Clinic) before joining as faculty at Mayo Clinic Rochester in 1999. He has been the Director of Pancreas Clinic at Mayo Clinic Rochester. He has been Councilor and past President of the American Pancreatic Association as well as Councilor and past President of the International Association of Pancreatology.

Dr. Chari is known for his clinical acumen, research and mentorship. He has contributed significantly to research spanning the spectrum of pancreatic diseases, including chronic pancreatitis, autoimmune pancreatitis, cystic diseases of the pancreas and early diagnosis of sporadic pancreatic cancer. He has over 350 publications including over 300 original articles.

Over the past 20 years he and his team have studied the intricate, multidirectional association between diabetes and pancreatic cancer with a goal to develop a rational, evidence-based strategy to detect pre-symptomatic sporadic pancreatic cancer. Since 2003 this work has been funded by the NIH. A series of studies by his group and others have now established that pancreatic cancer causes a paraneoplastic diabetes, likely mediated through exosomes shed by pancreatic cancer. In a recent editorial diabetes induced by pancreatic cancer was called an “exosomopathy”, the first disease to be caused by exosomes. Currently he is the PI of Mayo Clinic’s U01 Consortium on Study of Chronic Pancreatitis, Diabetes and Pancreatic Cancer (CPDPC), a co-investigator in Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium (U01) and a member of the Steering Committee of the Early Detection Initiative, a collaborative effort among NCI, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and CPDPC to launch an early detection protocol for pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Chari was a member of select panel of experts that developed what are called “Sendai guidelines” for management of the cystic lesions of the pancreas. A subsequent meeting in Fukuoka, Japan made further improvements to these guidelines. These guidelines have had a major impact on the field by markedly reducing the need for potentially morbid surgery for a benign disease. His original studies on MCN resulted in adoption of ovarian stroma as a requirement for diagnosis of MCN in the international consensus guidelines.

His major contributions to the field of autoimmune pancreatitis field are i) Developing, along with international collaborators, criteria for diagnosis and treatment of AIP. ii) Proposing subtyping of AIP into type 1 and type 2. Type 1 AIP is also called IgG4-related pancreatitis or simply AIP. iii) Defining steroid-sparing therapeutic approaches to preventing relapse in AIP iv) His group was the first to report the utility of B-cell depletion therapy with rituximab as therapy for AIP. v) Describing the natural history of a cohort of subjects with biliary involvement in AIP and proposing diagnostic criteria for it. As a mentor, Dr. Chari is recognized by the Outstanding Mentor Award from the Department of Medicine Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota in 2017 and the Research Mentor Award by the American Gastroenterology Association Pancreas Section American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), Bethesda, Maryland, 2018.



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