



The John C. Gienapp Award for Distinguished Service honors those that have dedicated themselves to graduate medical education and have made outstanding contributions to the enhancement of residency education and ACGME accreditation activities.



Lawrence M. Opas, MD

DIO and Senior Associate Dean for GME
USC/LA General Medical Center
Los Angeles, California

Dr. Opas is recognized for his commitment to the enhancement of resident and fellow education and training during five decades at USC/LA General Medical Center, where he was the founding program director for the internal medicine-pediatrics program and for 25 years served as the program director for both the internal medicine-pediatrics and pediatrics programs. Since 2001, Dr. Opas has served as the DIO at USC/LA General Medical Center. Throughout his career, Dr. Opas has made significant contributions with the ACGME, including serving on the Institutional Review Committee (IRC) for seven years and co-chairing the Sponsoring Institution 2025 Task Force, helping to plan the evolution of institutional accreditation. Dr. Opas received the ACGME Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award in 2012.

Nomination excerpts:

“Dr. Opas’s leadership has been instrumental in shaping the landscape of graduate medical education.”

“He serves as a mentor to DIOs across the country, offering guidance and support in navigating complex accreditation issues and encouraging their participation in national committees, including the IRC.”

“Dr. Opas mentors dozens of program directors—no matter the situation, he is always available, helping push programs to greater heights.”