

H. Jack Geiger
Doctor of Science

Dr. Jack Geiger is Arthur C. Logan Professor Emeritus of Community Medicine at the City University of New York Medical School. He is a founding member and past president of Physicians for Human Rights (which shared in the 1988 Nobel Peace) and Physicians for Social Responsibility, the U.S. affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which received the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. For more than six decades, Dr. Geiger has dedicated his personal and professional life to championing issues of human rights and health. He established and served as director of the country's first urban health center (Columbia Point, Boston) and first rural health center (Mound Bayou, Mississippi). Dr. Geiger helped bring the concept of community-oriented primary care to the U.S. health system after his studies in South Africa with Drs. Sidney and Emily Kark, and went on to become a leader in a movement that resulted in our national health center network, which serves more than 12 million low-income individuals in more than 900 facilities. His work has been recognized by election to Senior Membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and many other awards and distinctions, yet he has not stepped back from being a dedicated and accessible scholar, teacher, and mentor. A few of his recent venues include the UNC Annual Summer Public Health Research Institute and Video Conference on Minority Health, and the Physicians for Human Rights Conference in Chicago. Dr. Geiger's philosophy of life is perhaps best summed up by these remarks at the Chicago conference: "Never be silent in the face of injustice. Never be silent in the face of human rights violations. Never be silent in the face of racism, or injustice in health care. I welcome you to the company of all those who refuse to bow down to pestilence and strive their utmost to be healers. This is the work we have ahead of us for the rest of our lives."