

Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Humanitarian Award



Nestor P. Sanchez, M.D.

Nestor P. Sanchez, M.D., has been awarded the 2005 Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Humanitarian Award for his work in his

native Puerto Rico with children and adults whose lives have been altered by disease and poverty.

Dr. Sanchez was born in Aibonito, Puerto Rico, and received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine at the University of Puerto Rico Medical School. After residency training in dermatology and dermatopathology at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Sanchez completed a fellowship in dermatopathology at Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education in 1981.

When Dr. Sanchez returned to Puerto Rico, where he established a private dermatology practice, he began teaching in the University of Puerto Rico Department of Dermatology. He was later named professor and chairman of the Department of Dermatology and has served as president of the Puerto Rico Dermatology Society three times.

Dr. Sanchez also began work and contributed his personal funds to help those in his community who were most in need. He founded Sociedad Integra de Aibonitena to provide social services to poor children. The program has served more than 500 children.

In 1990, he helped found the Hogar Divino Nino Jesus, an orphanage for HIV children. Dr. Sanchez remains heavily involved in the daily activities at the home. More than 100 children have lived at the home since it opened.

In his hometown of Aibonito, he established the Fondita Divino Nino Jesus, a soup kitchen and rehabilitation center for drug addicts and alcoholics. The center was created in 1997 in a historic downtown building.

A resolution by the Senate of Puerto Rico recognized him for his work in 1998, honoring him as the Most Distinguished Physician.

