

For immediate release:

Dr. Helmet Diefenthal Earns 2015 ACR Foundation Global Humanitarian Award

Washington, DC (May 19, 2015) -- The American College of Radiology Foundation ([ACRF](#)) presented the 2015 ACR Foundation [Global Humanitarian Award](#) in the individual category to Helmet Diefenthal, MD, HFACR of Minneapolis, MN. The ceremony took place at [ACR 2015™](#) — the College's all-new annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Dr. Diefenthal (age 91) has provided international service in low and middle income countries for over 50 years. After completing his residency in internal medicine in 1956, Dr. Diefenthal, working with his wife Rotraut, began his international outreach efforts in Malaysia. But it was his work in Tanzania where Dr. Diefenthal made his mark. He began serving at a 40 bed hospital in the early 1960s that had no electricity. He was able to get a sponsoring church to provide electricity and eventually provided the first x-ray machine to the facility.

“Dr. Diefenthal is renowned and respected physician who has dedicated most of his adult life to helping those in underserved and developing areas of the world. We are proud to recognize his years of service and sacrifice with this award,” said Howard B. Fleishon, MD, MMM, FACR, chair of the ACR Foundation Executive Committee.

Dr. Diefenthal completed a residency in radiology in the late 1960s at the University of Minnesota and served on staff there and at the VA hospital between 1973 and 1988. During that time he began volunteering at the [Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center](#) (KCMC). Immediately upon retirement, he and his wife moved to Moshi, Tanzania to work full-time at KCMC. Working 12 to 14 hour days until the age of 90, Dr. Diefenthal established a lasting legacy for radiological care in Africa. He established a radiology department at KCMC and eventually developed both an Assistant Medical Officer and a radiology residency program there. These programs have produced well over 100 graduates that are providing radiological care throughout Tanzania and sub-Saharan Africa.

To ensure adequate funding for KCMC's radiology department, Dr. Diefenthal, working with radiology colleagues from the University of Minnesota's radiology department, formed the [East Africa Medical Assistance Foundation](#). The foundation is working to provide graduates from KCMC with portable ultrasound machines. Portable ultrasound has proven to be an invaluable diagnostic tool in low to middle income countries that lack basic access to radiological care.

Based on the impact of his work and his dedication and commitment to the patients and students he has served in Tanzania, Dr. Diefenthal was honored with the American College of Radiology's (ACR) Honorary Fellowship in 2003. Fittingly, he is the first recipient of the ACRF Global Humanitarian Award which was established in 2014 to recognize individual radiologists, organizations and industry groups, and allied health workers for their extraordinary volunteer efforts to improve quality access to sustainable radiological care throughout the world. Dr. Diefenthal received the award at the Annual Meeting of the ACR.

The American College of Radiology is an organization committed to serving patients and society by empowering its members to advance the practice, science and professions of radiological care. The mission of the ACR Foundation is to support charitable, scientific and educational programs and services for the promotion and advancement of the field of radiology.

For further information, please contact Shawn Farley at 703-648-8936 or PR@acr.org.