Distinguished Alumni Award
Honoring
Dr. Arjun Srinivasan ‘92
June 10, 2017

Dr. Arjun Srinivasan knew as early as 1988 that he wanted to pursue a career as a research scientist. His application for admission discussed growing up “an Indian in Mississippi,” earning a trip to the International Science Fair in Puerto Rico and being raised by parents who believed “enjoying one’s job is payment in and of itself.” Arjun’s myriad experiences and influences prepared him for success at, and after, Davidson.

The biology major, Concert Choir member and Phi Beta Kappa inductee graduated from Davidson summa cum laude. He attended medical school at Vanderbilt, then heading to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he completed a residency and fellowship and became an assistant professor of medicine in the Infectious Diseases Division and the associate hospital epidemiologist. While there, he also founded the Johns Hopkins Antibiotic Management Program and coordinated efforts to eliminate healthcare associated infections.

Today, Arjun is the associate director for healthcare associated infection prevention programs in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He leads the CDC’s work to improve antibiotic prescribing and works with a team of experts researching new techniques to eliminate healthcare associated infections. Put simply, he helps people understand when antibiotics work and when they don’t.

In 2008, he assumed the medical directorship of a new CDC campaign called “Get Smart for Healthcare,” which teaches patients and clinicians about appropriate use of antibiotics. Studies demonstrate that improving prescribing practices in hospitals can improve individual patient outcomes, all while reducing healthcare costs. Before assuming his current role, he was the Response Team leader for the division, where he supervised more than 20 successful field investigations, five of which led to national recalls of medical products or medications.

A highly respected voice in healthcare, Arjun has authored numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals on his research in epidemiology, infection control and antibiotic use and resistance. His landmark work in infection control led the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of American to honor him with the 2008 Investigator Award, and he received the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service.

Dr. Arjun Srinivasan, for your momentous contributions to the field of medicine; for your commitment to building safer communities through research and education; and for your daily service to the world, the Davidson College Alumni Association recognizes you with the Distinguished Alumni Award on the occasion of your 25th reunion, June 10, 2017.