

Jack Higgins, M.D.

Dr. Jack Higgins has served on the Board of Directors of the Los Altos Rotary AIDS Project (LARAP) since 2001. Based in Los Altos, CA, LARAP has worked for 25 years to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and to encourage Rotary clubs throughout the world to sponsor HIV/AIDS-related projects. LARAP is currently focused on efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Dr. Higgins recently traveled to Liberia to help launch a program in partnership with the organization, Save the Children. With funds raised by LARAP and with a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation, this new program offers testing and counseling for pregnant women, and if they are found to be HIV-positive, provides treatment for both mother and newborn child.

He also founded and serves as President and Medical Director of the HouseCall Foundation (HCF), whose mission includes the use of telemedicine technology to eliminate geographic, economic and cultural barriers to health care access in the U.S. and throughout the world. HCF is currently recruiting volunteer physicians in North America and Europe who will work from their own homes or offices and use two-way audio and video communication systems to treat patients in developing countries and in underserved areas of their own nations.

Since 2000 he has served on the Board of Directors of RotaCare Bay Area, a nonprofit organization that operates twelve free clinics in the San Francisco Bay Area, providing free medical care for people who have the most need for and the least access to health care services.

Dr. Higgins also has a “day job” as Chief Medical Officer for Avantis Medical Systems, a medical device company based in Sunnyvale, California.

Working with Avantis since its founding in 2004, he has assisted physicians in conducting and publishing six clinical research studies involving the Third Eye Retroscope, which has been proven to increase the diagnostic accuracy of colonoscopy by at least 23%. He is actively involved in research and development, both with the Third Eye Retroscope and with other products to improve health care, especially in the area of gastroenterology.

Before beginning work in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2000, Dr. Higgins practiced Family Medicine in the Chico, CA area for 20 years, with an emphasis on preventive health. Throughout that time, he held leadership roles in community health promotion efforts, including colorectal cancer and breast cancer screening programs, as well as multiple campaigns in collaboration with local and state affiliates of the American Heart Association, American Lung Association and American Cancer Society.

His health promotion activities in Chico also included a weekly newspaper column, as well as health and fitness segments on the evening news program of the local CBS-TV affiliate.

Dr. Higgins earned his M.D. degree from Michigan State University and completed residency training in Family Practice. From 2004-2005, Dr. Higgins served a Fellowship at Stanford University in the Reuters Digital Vision Program, where he focused on development of programs in international telemedicine. He has served on the clinical faculties of Stanford University, University of California, Davis and the Western University of Health Sciences.

