

## Jeffrey Garber, MD, FACP, FACE '74

2009 Distinguished Alumnus

Like many college students in the late '60s and early '70s, Dr. Garber remembers being caught up by the era's progressive social culture.

With its all-new program devoted to medical training with a social conscience, Stony Brook made it to the top of his short list of medical schools. "It was very much in keeping with the value system of the times," said Dr. Garber.

Dr. Garber embarked on what has been a successful career path by first earning his undergraduate degree in math from Cornell University. After graduating from Stony Brook School of Medicine, he was an intern, resident, and then resident supervisor at the Los Angeles County USC Medical Center.

He returned east with his wife Sheri Leiman (a 1973 Stony Brook graduate) to work as an endocrine fellow in the Harvard Thorndike Laboratory at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. Dr. Garber later entered private practice while establishing the endocrine division at Harvard Community Health Plan, now known as Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates.

Dr. Garber is a member of the endocrine divisions of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Brigham and Women's Hospital, and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, where he played a substantial role in the clinical training of more than 35 endocrine fellows.

A graduate of the School of Medicine's first-ever class, Dr. Garber has recently earned another distinction: President of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), the largest organization of clinical endocrinologists in the world.

"Dr. Garber has proven, once again, that a medical degree from Stony Brook University can be a ticket to a lifetime of excellence," said fellow alum Sherry K. Sussman, MD '95.

As AACE President, Dr. Garber plays an active role in promoting and reviewing AACE's publications and positions in a number of clinical areas, most notably those pertaining to thyroid disease. He also serves on the AACE/American Thyroid Association clinical practice guidelines committees on hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism, which he co chairs. His work takes him around the country and across the globe—sometimes within the same week.

Aside from his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Garber supports the AACE's efforts to develop a larger, more



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influential presence internationally to work with Congress to improve patients' lives and enhance the public's understanding of the unique roles and contributions of clinical endocrinologists.

Dr. Garber's own contributions to the effort of a more informed public include his book, *The Harvard Medical School Guide to Overcoming Thyroid Problems*.

Dr. Garber is grateful for the opportunities that have come from earning his medical degree, which has enabled him to pursue many fulfilling professional experiences. However, he advises medical students today to focus less on their career trajectory and more on their ultimate interests. "It's important for graduates to take advantage of their medical training. It gives them the ability to ask important questions and pursue their answers for the benefit of society."

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—Sherry K. Sussman, MD '95