

Dr. Joseph R. Masci



Dr. Joseph R. Masci was an infectious disease specialist and public health leader who spent more than 40 years working to improve the lives of patients in New York City and around the world.

He began serving as an attending physician at [Elmhurst Hospital Center](#), a public hospital in Queens, NY, in 1982. In 2002, he was appointed Director of Elmhurst's Department of Medicine, a position he held for more than 15 years. In this capacity, Dr. Masci supervised a clinical faculty comprising 11 specialty divisions and had responsibility for all aspects of care, as well as teaching and mentoring medical students and

young physicians. He was also a professor of medicine and infectious diseases at the [Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai](#).

In 1985, he founded Elmhurst Hospital's HIV/AIDS program, which has been recognized repeatedly for providing high quality and compassionate care. Through his work with the [New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute](#) and the [HIV Health & Human Services Planning Council of New York](#), he had a vital role in shaping more humane and generous AIDS policies for both the city and state.

Dr. Masci was a leading figure in New York's response to HIV/AIDS, post-911 emergency planning, and preparations for Ebola and other possible emergencies. During the COVID epidemic of 2020, when Elmhurst became known as "the epicenter of the epicenter," Dr. Masci was the chief medical advisor on COVID for the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation, which runs 11 hospitals and dozens of health centers.

He wrote books on HIV care, bioterrorism preparedness, and Ebola that have been used around the world and, as a consultant to the United Nations, he gave regular updates on infectious disease topics to 200 UN medical staff. He was active in community outreach, including appearing weekly on The Reset, a program then on Caribbean Power Jam Radio, to answer questions and share his expertise on COVID and other medical topics.

During his career, Dr. Masci was recognized for his service by the White House, New York State, and New York City, and he received many awards, including Mount Sinai's highest teaching honor, the Jacobi Medallion.

Dr. Masci was a long-time partner of the American International Health Alliance, leading multi-year twinning partnerships to improve HIV/AIDS care in [Russia](#) (2004-2012) and [Ethiopia](#) (2007-2014), as well as teaching at the [Pavlov University Medical Academy](#) AIDS program in St.

Petersburg, Russia (2009-2013). He also served on the faculty of the [Fogarty International Program in Research Ethics](#) at Icahn School of Medicine and participated in the [Hope for a Healthier Humanity](#) project in Honduras.

In 2017, Dr. Masci founded the [Global Health Institute](#) at Elmhurst, serving as its Chairman. He was a true champion of public health collaboration. He was also a caring, compassionate doctor, who educated and mentored infectious disease physicians who trained at Elmhurst Hospital Center and around the globe. He was a role model who combined vast knowledge with a kind, empathetic, patient-centered approach.

Dr. Masci died in 2022 at the age of 71. To commemorate and advance his life's work as a dedicated physician and inspiring teacher and mentor, his family has established the Dr. Joseph R. Masci Legacy Fund, which supports capacity-building projects in Ethiopia and the Philippines.