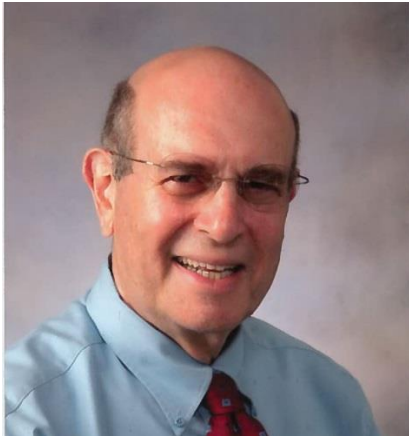


December 2016 Volunteer of the Month: Kenneth Berns, MD, PhD



Dr. Kenneth Berns exemplifies experience and dedication. He is the former dean of the UF College of Medicine and chair of the board at UF Health Shands, and has dedicated his time to the ACORN Clinic board of directors since 2012. During the years 2015 and 2016, Berns served as ACORN Clinic Board President. “I have a strong sense that there are a lot of people who do not have access to healthcare,” Berns said. ACORN Clinic has a really nice model that adequately fills this need.”

Berns said that during his time as president of the board, he mainly focused on increasing the amount of state and federal funding for the clinic as well as promoting the clinic to potential pre-medical and pre-dental student volunteers. “Frequently, the worst issue is the dental problem for people in rural communities so I think that [ACORN Dental Clinic] is a tremendous asset.”

Berns said that the most memorable moment from his time on the ACORN Clinic board was when he received a heartfelt thank you from a state lawmaker after the clinic received an appropriation from the state.

“That tells you that someone understands, and that is important.” Berns said.