



**American Association of
Physicians of Indian Origin**

AAPIO Bulletin

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www.aapio.org

From the President:

As I begin my term as the president of such an organization, I have set many goals I would like to accomplish. I believe in AAPIO and I believe that AAPIO can attain many successes. We have developed tremendously in our time and have initiated much good work in politics and education of the medical field. Our parent organization, AAPI, has achieved (gained) a great voice politically, affecting legislature with the CMA and ACCMA. For us to maintain our strength as an organization, we need every member's active participation. We must have membership presence to show the support of AAPIO causes. What is my agenda for AAPIO? What is AAPIO working toward? We want a voice in society, to have an opinion for developing policies affecting physicians. We want to educate the public through patient education and outreach programs. We want upcoming medical professionals to feel welcomed and supported through our mentoring program. We want to be a force in society, unified with a message and strong in number.

AAPIO is further cultivating its relationship with AAPI to increase our voice with the national organization. Developing AAPIO's participation in AAPI may allow our individual representatives to make headway in American policies affecting Indians and physicians. We are going to have a retreat with the AAPI Board of Directors in May 2004.

A Yosemite retreat for AAPIO members only is set for April 2004.

Our education and outreach programs have been evolving, addressing real life concerns of the public. We have organized successful health seminars in the past, and our most recent arrangement expects a health seminar every 3 months at the ICC in Milpitas starting September 2003.

Continuing with an attempt to offer medical care to the public, we are organizing health fairs. We have decided that health and medical awareness is not only an issue for physicians. Our committee decided that other Indo-American organizations or outreach organizations should share the passion to help educate the public about good health.

Our popular CME programs will continue monthly for our members with new speakers discussing the latest research in various fields.

The AAPIO Mentoring Program is the newest project of my presidency. We have started to contact new residents, settling physicians, and medical students to offer our assistance and advice. Some physicians have opened their practices to have these individuals shadow them. I look forward to having more eager mentors come forward. Even more so, I will gladly be there for those of you who feel confused or overwhelmed about the medical steps.

Finally, other than our Semi-Annual Meeting and Annual Meeting Events, AAPIO will be sponsoring a fundraising event in February 2004. The donations from this event will go to a charity that provides health care to the under-privileged.

Though this year promises to be busy, I am truly excited about all of our prospects. I hope to attain the goals we have set, but I can only do that with our members. AAPIO can only succeed with your help! Our members should try to increase our membership and show their support of our organization. As you know, the power of an organization lies in its membership. The power depends on its members' commitment, passion, and activity. I hope you share my passion and hope you will make AAPIO stronger. Thank you and I will see you soon! We still have only a fraction of e-mail addresses of our members. Please use this website to send us your e-mail addresses. We look forward to hear from you soon.. Please write to me at president@aapio.org.

— Bina Erasmus, MD, AAPIO President

From the AAPIO Treasurer...

To those who have paid your dues, thank you for your continued support. We will be sending out confirmations soon. For those who haven't, this is just a friendly reminder so we can include you in the next directory. AAPIO needs your support to continue to operate this superb organization. In addition to the inclusion of your name, specialty and other information in our directory, there are a myriad of benefits to consider.

AAPIO provides a socio-cultural and educational resource for physicians, their families, and the Indo-American community-at-large. This has facilitated professional networking, social interaction and support, and development of CME and educational community health programs. Indo-Americans are a visible and critically important ethnic element of the Bay Area community. AAPIO provides a unified voice to represent Indo-American health care professionals in the political and community arena.

So when you ask how AAPIO has helped you lately, keep all these things in mind. Remember, when patients seek you out as their doctor and entrust their care to you, part of that initial trust arises out of the excellence and professionalism that many Indo-American doctors have established before you. Last year, AAPIO participated in three well attended health fairs and two community health forums. We hope to continue such activities and extend them to include all persons, of Indian origin or not.

AAPIO is part of a national organization, AAPI. AAPI has helped to insure the respect, equal treatment, and socio-political status for Indo-American health care professionals. AAPI has a website that lists the major objectives and goals of the organization at www.aapiusa.org.

So, if you haven't sent in your dues yet, please do so to allow us to continue along these lines. The only way we can really make a difference is as a group! (The membership form is available on our website: www.aapio.org)

— *Keshav Narain, MD, AAPIO Treasurer*

AAPIO Picnic - A fun filled event!

The picnic was held on July 20th at the San Ramon Central Park. Seventy people participated despite the sweltering heat. It was a time to socialize under the shade of the trees and to eat a variety of foods. We had chaat and masala dosas made to order. We also had tandoori chicken, vadas, sandwiches and an assortment of other dishes. Of course, there was the traditional game of cricket led by Dr. Ramchandra and others. Dr. Tej Singh seems to be the obvious choice to lead the soccer team next year! The Rajapuram family won the "guess the number of candies" game. Nikhil Rajapuram won the ring toss. The girls of all age groups had their hands decorated with mehendi. It was a fun event where everyone was able to meet new friends and get reacquainted with the old friends.

A special thanks to Dr. Muralidharan and Viju for securing the picturesque park for the picnic venue. We appreciate the efforts of many others who helped in organizing this event and hope to see you all at the picnic next year.

— *Sam Oommen, MD, AAPIO Secretary*

Member in the News...

Santosh Oommen, a 4th year medical student at the University of Connecticut, has received a one year research fellowship from the Sarnoff Endowment for Cardiovascular Science. The Sarnoff Endowment - established in 1980 by biomedical inventor and pioneer Stanley J. Sarnoff - hopes to encourage physicians-in-training toward a career in academic medicine by providing the opportunity for an intensive research experience in a laboratory of that student's choosing. Santosh received one of the eight fellowships granted this year to a national pool of medical school candidates. He is currently working at the Falk Cardiovascular Research Center at the Stanford University where his primary research focus is on the mechanistic links between insulin resistance and atherosclerosis.

Special Benefit for Kaiser Providers

The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG) may reimburse you for professional society dues. AAPI (national) and AAPIO (chapter) are both now approved by TPMG for reimbursement as professional medical organizations. You will need to provide a receipt of payment to your member benefits department. If you have any questions, please contact your physician benefits department, or Dr. Mihir Meghani at mihir.a.meghani@kp.org

Upcoming AAPIO Events

- November 7 / AAPIO CME on 'Dyspepsia' @ Sarovar Restaurant, Milpitas
- November 9 / Health Awareness Seminar on 'Sun and Skin' @ India Community Center
- November 22 / AAPIO Semi-Annual Meeting & CME @ San Ramon Marriott
- December 6 / BAPS/AAPIO Medical Camp & Blood Drive @ BAPS Mandir, Milpitas
- January 9 / AAPIO CME - TBA

Visit www.aapio.org
for more information on
these and other
upcoming events
