

American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin

Northern California

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NEWSLETTER

AAPIO Semi-Annual Meeting in San Ramon

The AAPIO Semi-Annual Meeting was held on November 16th, 2002 at the San Ramon Marriott. The social hour began at 6 pm followed by the General Meeting at 7 pm sharp. There were three invited guest speakers for the event. The first speaker was Dr. John Whitelaw who was introduced by AAPIO Past President and CMA Executive Committee Member, Dr. Anmol S. Mahal. Dr. Whitelaw outlined the crucial challenges to the practice of medicine at the present time and how the physicians can meet these challenges.

Next, Mr. Steven Fisher from the Department of Managed Health Care took the podium after he was introduced by Dr. Sunil S. Dhawan, President of AAPIO. Mr. Fisher is the Deputy Director for Communications and Planning in the Dept. of Managed Health Care and he spoke of the importance of educating the consumer of their rights under managed care and the need for taking the initiative for their own health. The department has a system for tracking HMOs for services they render and for prevention of patient abuse.



(LtoR) Drs. Sunil S. Dhawan, Dr. John Whitelaw, CMA President, and Dr. Anmol S. Mahal at the AAPIO Semi-Annual Meeting

The third speaker of the evening was Ms. Linda K. Whitney, Chief of Legislature, California Medical Board. She was

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Sunil Dhawan, MD

From the President

Beginning of a Great Year...

First off I would like to wish all our members and their families a happy and healthy New Year! As you may be aware the Executive Committee has been quite busy over the last few months. We

are excited to announce that we were granted official CME status from the California Medical Association to provide credit for our CME events! This approval has been a long time coming, and is due to the hard work and efforts of the CME Committee - Drs. Karim Hussain, Sunil Dhawan, Ranjana Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Mihir Meghani, Bina Erasmus, and Ram Ramachandra. Please show your support and attend these CME events - learn, enjoy, and get credit too! *All this at no cost to you.*

Our Semi-Annual Meeting was also a success, with over 150 attendees, on November 16, 2002, at the San Ramon Marriott.

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Non-profit Org. IRS Tax Exemption #94-3124000

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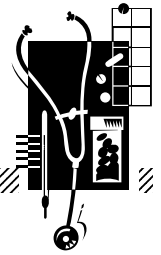
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AAPIO Welcomes New Life Members



We are very pleased to welcome the following new Life Members to the AAPIO family.

If you have recently become a life member and you are not listed here, our sincere apologies to you. Please let us know and we will include your name in the next published list.

If you are not a life member yet, we encourage you to become one. The membership application form is on the last page of this newsletter, and it is also available on our website: www.aapio.org.

Physician Members:

- Ujwala Agharkar, MD
- Anupama Bhardwaj, MD
- Rama Dayal, MD
- Murali Dharan, MD
- Jacob Eapen, MD
- Umesh Gheewala, MD
- Jyothsna Narla, MD
- Pradeep Rustagi, MD
- Rao Sankavally, MD
- Daksha Vaid, MD

Allied Health Members:

- Salwan Dharan

Physician Resource Committee

A New Physician Resource Committee has been established to help AAPIO members that are new to the area both professionally and personally. We are looking for individuals who would be interested in joining the committee. We hope to help new members in a broad spectrum of areas such as HMO paneling, hospital liasons, locating office space, practice development, local schools, cultural resources and more. We have a tremendous reserve of members with experience and expertise in many of these areas and more. The committee is intended to draw upon this reserve to assist physicians in these diverse areas. This is an exciting opportunity to become a part of this group early in its' development. Both physicians and/or their spouses/significant others are welcome.

Please contact Dr. Keshav Narain for more info at 650-949-8111 (H) or e-mail at knarainmd@yahoo.com.

Visit our new and improved website

www.aapio.org

Submit directory corrections to us at:

aapiocalif@aol.com

AAPIO Annual Meeting and Dinner at Fremont Hilton



CME Speaker Dr. David Stempel speaking on Asthma. Outgoing AAPIO President Dr. Sunil Dhawan also seen in the picture.

The Annual General Meeting of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPIO) was held on April 5th at the Fremont Hilton. At the event the outgoing president, Dr. Sunil Dhawan, passed on the baton to the new person-in-charge, Dr. Bina Erasmus, the organization's president for 2003-04. During his dynamic term, Dr. Dhawan has increased membership, implemented regular monthly CME meetings and with the help of the CME Committee Chair Dr. Karim Hussain, succeeded in obtaining CME credits for the talks. Dr. Erasmus outlined her goals for the organization in the coming year and will focus on community outreach and mentoring programs.

The evening began with cocktails and social hour. The first Guest speaker was Dr. Robert Pearl, CEO and Executive Director of the Permanente Medical Group. His topic was the Future of Health Care in California. At the outset Dr. Pearl acknowledged the more than two thousand year tradition of disease prevention in India. He talked about the crisis in health care affordability due to an aging population in the United States,

increased cost of living and spiraling wages in California and expensive healthcare technology. Last year 500 new legislations were introduced out of which 499 raised the cost of health care.

The second speaker, Dr. David Stempel from University of Washington Seattle, spoke on asthma and the widespread under reporting of symptoms by patients, under-diagnosis and under-treatment. Adherence to NIH treatment guidelines will ensure unnecessary variations in asthma care. There are annually two million ER visits for asthma and 470,000 hospitalizations. Inhaled corticosteroids have proven superior for prevention of asthma exacerbations and the combination of inhaled corticosteroids and long acting bronchodilators are particularly effective for asthma management.

The talks were followed by dinner and introduction of office bearers for the following year. Free portrait picture taking was available to all and the evening concluded with dancing to DJ music

— **Padma Srinivasan, MD**
Secretary, AAPIO.



Guest Speaker Dr. Robert Pearl, CEO and Executive Director of The Permanente Medical Group speaking at the AAPIO Annual General Meeting. CME Speaker Dr. David Stempel and Incoming AAPIO President Dr. Bina Erasmus are also seen.



Mihir Meghani, MD, Chair, AAPIO Communications Committee and Member-at-Large, spoke recently at the Santa Clara Law School at a Symposium on Disaster Law. Dr. Meghani is Disaster Committee Chair, Member Board of Directors, and Founding Member, American Academy for Emergency Medicine in India (AAEMI). He also chairs the Joint Disaster Medicine Committee of AAEMI and the Society for Emergency Medicine in India (SEMI). Dr. Meghani has given several talks on various aspects of emergency medicine and disaster response here in the United States and in India.

Emergency Medicine Spreads in India



Mihir Meghani, MD
mihir@eyepiece.com

India's first international conference on Emergency Medicine and Disaster Preparedness (INTEM 2002) was a great success. The conference was held from October 25th to 27th, in Hyderabad, a modern yet deeply historic city, the capital of Andhra Pradesh. INTEM was attended by 700 delegates from over 10 countries including India, Singapore, Korea, USA, Iran, Canada, the UK and Trinidad. The academic portion of the conference was outstanding, in large part due to the impressive caliber of contributors, and the efficiency and planning of the teams from the Society of Emergency Medicine, India (SEMI), Apollo Group of Hospitals (Hyderabad), and the North-Shore LIJ Health System. There were over 116 hours of lectures and workshops covering almost every aspect of the core content of Emergency Medicine and also topics unique or of particular interest to India such as organophosphate poisoning, the logistics of setting up an emergency department, and disaster management. A maximum of 24 Category 1 CME credits were awarded from the Northshore-LIJ Health System. The six workshops conducted (X-rays, EKGs, Vascular access, Regional Anaesthesia, Splinting and Airway) were extremely well received by the delegates.

Traditionally, efforts to gain recognition for Emergency Medicine as a specialty in India have met with resistance and inertia. SEMI has been working hard since its inception in 1999, to expand awareness of Emergency Medicine as a vital component of health-care delivery. SEMI's focus has been on pre-hospital ambulance and emergency activation systems, disaster preparedness, resuscitation protocols, and continuing medical education both in emergency departments and through annual conferences like this one. Awareness of Emergency Medicine by the public and within the medical profession itself is higher than ever before because of their efforts.

INTEM 2002 has attracted the attention of several academic and private organizations. The American College of Emergency Medicine (ACEP) was well represented among the faculty as well as members of AAEM (American Academy for Emergency Medicine) Emergency International, SEMI (Society for Emergency Medicine, India) and AAEMI (American Academy for Emergency Medicine in India). There were 55 oral and poster research presentations that were of exemplary quality, drawing prizes for best oral and poster presenter, and best young investigator. Monetary prizes were donated by Advantage Testing of New York, a private educational corporation. The judges were from institutions across the United States, Singapore and India.

As a result of the live panel discussions held between key officials like the Minister of Health, Vice Chancellor of the re-

gional university encompassing several medical colleges and experts on International Emergency Medicine from around the world, a commitment was made to promote Emergency Medicine as a specialty in India. This represented a huge step forward for the specialty and several medical colleges have been encouraged to start formal training programs in Emergency Medicine.

INTEM 2002 set a new benchmark for teaching Emergency Medicine in India. Due in part to the huge success of the conference and the exponential growth in interest in Emergency Medicine over the past few years, SEMI has announced that the next conference will be held in Pune, India, on October 24 to 26th, 2003. The Academic Co-Chairmen will be Drs. Suresh David (Vellore, India) and Kumar Alagappan (New York).

For more information about the American Academy for Emergency Medicine in India, INTEM 2002, the 2003 Emergency and Disaster Medicine Conference in India in Pune, or emergency or disaster medicine in India, please contact Dr. Mihir Meghani (Disaster Committee Chair, Member Board of Directors, and Founding Member, American Academy for Emergency Medicine in India), Dr. S. Mahadevan (Assistant Professor of Surgery/Emergency Medicine, Associate Chief, Division of Emergency Medicine, Emergency Department Medical Director, Stanford University Medical Center; Vice-President AAEMI), or visit aaemi.org



AAPIO Picnic

July 20, 2003 / Sunday
San Ramon Central Park

Please join us with your family for fun, food, games, sports and other activities for children and adults alike on July 20th at the San Ramon Central Park at Bollinger Canyon Road and Alcosta Blvd. Exit Bollinger Canyon Road off I-680.

For more information, please contact any of the AAPIO Executive Committee Members.

AAPIO Semi-Annual Meeting Report

Continued from cover page



(LtoR) Dr. & Mrs. Dhawan, Mr. & Mrs. Prakash Ahuja (VP Charles Schwab), Dr. & Dr. Erasmus, Dr. & Dr. Sharma, and Dr. Hari Puri



Noted dancer Vishal Ramani

introduced by Dr. Bina Erasmus, Vice President of AAPIO. Ms. Whitney exhorted physicians to become more active in the activities of the California Medical Board such as medical record reviews.

The AAPIO Semi-Annual Meeting was generously cosponsored by Charles Schwab Inc. who presented an information booth to outline investment strategies provided by the company. Mr. Prakash Ahuja, Vice President of Charles Schwab, and Ms. Mythili Kadambi spoke to the audience regarding expert portfolio management and Schwab Private Client Services. The evening's entertainment was a delightful Bharatanatyam recital by Mrs. Vishal Ramani and her students. The program concluded with music and dancing and members were treated to a parting gift of delicious *mithai* by Dr. Veena Puri.



— **Padma Srinivasan, MD**
Secretary, AAPIO.

From the President...

Continued from cover page

We enjoyed talks by Dr. John Whitelaw, President of the CMA, and other guests. There was also an exciting Bharatanatyam recital by Mrs. Vishal Ramani, and her students. Finally we all enjoyed socializing, eating, and dancing till late in the evening! Please plan on attending our Annual Meeting at the Fremont Hilton on April 5, 2003. Dr. Robert Pearl, Executive Director

and CEO of the Permanente Medical Group will be our special guest. There will also be a CME lecture on Asthma by Dr. David Stempel of University of Washington Seattle.



(LtoR) Drs. Naras and Kusum Bhat, and Drs. Harmeet and Tripta Sachdev dancing it up at the New Year's Eve Party



Our New Year's Eve Event, held on December 31, 2002, at the Fremont Marriott, was a great success, with over 160 attendees. We had great fun, watched excellent Hawaiian dances, and danced and ate till the wee hours of the morning. This was due to the efforts of Drs. Bina and Desmond Erasmus, Shifali Erasmus, the Lal Family, Anchal Dhawan, Nafisa Taghioff, and Dr. Surjit Mahal. Please plan now to join us to usher in the year 2004.

Finally I would like to encourage you to become a life member, or pay your annual dues, and participate in as many events as possible. This is your organization!! I look forward to your continued support of AAPIO.

AAPIO Membership Application

New Membership **Renewal** **Directory Corrections**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____
 HOME Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Home Fax: _____
 OFFICE Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Office Phone: _____ Office Fax: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Medical School in India: _____ Year Received Medical Degree: _____
 Specialty: _____
 Name of the Spouse: _____ Children/Year of Birth: _____
 Is your spouse a physician? _____ If yes, please provide above information.
 Comments/Suggestions: _____

- Life Membership – Individual \$500
- Life Membership – Physician Couple \$600
- Physician Spouse Life Membership (*if other is a life member*) \$100
- Annual Membership – New / Renewal \$50
- Housestaff Membership (*in training*) \$10
- Life Membership – *Allied Health Professional Only* \$350
- Allied Health Professional – New / Renewal \$35
- CHECK ENCLOSED FOR THE AMOUNT OF **TOTAL** \$ _____

■ Please mail your application with check to:

SAMUEL C. OOMMEN, MD
 AAPIO TREASURER
 19 RAY COURT
 ALAMO, CA 94507

Visit **AAPIO Website** for
Membership Application
 and **Latest Calendar**
www.aapio.org

Mark Your
Calendar...



AAPIO Activities

June 13, 2003

Friday

AAPIO CME*

Sarovar Restaurant, Milpitas

July 20, 2003

Sunday

AAPIO Picnic

San Ramon Central Park

December 31, 2003

Wednesday

AAPIO New Year's Eve Party

TBA

*** AAPIO CME**

2nd Friday each month

Sarovar Restaurant, Milpitas

*For more information about AAPIO CME, contact:
 Dr. Karim Hussain at karimhussainmdfcp@hotmail.com,
 or Dr. Mihir Meghani at mihir@eyepiece.com*



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 physicians benefits department, or to Dr. Mihir Meghani at mihir.a.meghani@kp.org.



**American Association of
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