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AIPNO PRESIDENT MESSAGE



Greetings

My name is Dr Dharmesh Mehta. I am an Internal Medicine Physician working at Atrium Medical Group; a Private Practice on the east side of Cleveland. I am Chief of Staff Elect at Euclid Hospital, Medical Director at Heartland of Willoughby, and a Team Physician with Heartland Hospice.

I am honored and privileged to be the AIPNO president for the year 2021. I am very excited to start this role and looking forward to working with all of you.

AIPNO is a vibrant non-profit organization founded in 1983 geared towards enhancing the quality of healthcare by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine and supporting efforts to improve the availability of healthcare.

Our mission is to continue to enhance community involvement and coordinate with other local, national and international organizations through our philanthropy.

We strive to use the resources and knowledge of AIPNO for the health and welfare of the community we serve. I encourage everyone to participate and contribute to the quality healthcare that is accessible and affordable.

We will continue to focus on active participation of young physicians. I request every member to approach friends and colleagues to spread the word about our goals and missions.

AIPNO fosters and encourages participation from high school students, medical students, residents, fellows, faculties, seasoned researchers, allied healthcare providers, community leaders, philanthropic practitioners, dedicated donors and valued beneficiaries alike.

We will continue to conduct educational programs to acquaint the members with clinical, scientific and other developments in the field of medicine.

We will also continue to work on improving our website and expanding our social media network.

In spite of the uncertainties during COVID, we were able to accomplish many of our goals in 2020 and start new initiatives. I am looking forward to continuing those this year. Even with the vaccine, we are uncertain when things will be normal again. As we know more, we will be able to plan the activities for this year accordingly.

AIPNO and our leaders have done an excellent job serving the community over the years. Like those before me, I am deeply committed to serving this noble organization and I look forward to working with all of you.

Sincerely,

Dharmesh Mehta, MD
President, AIPNO 2021

AIPNO OFFICERS

President: Dharmesh Mehta, MD
Past President: Rupesh Raina, MD
President-Elect: Vinni Makin, MD
Secretary: Saloni Khatri, MD

Board of Trustees

Chair: Beejadi Mukunda, MD *through 2023*
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Umesh Yalavarthy, MD

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Shanu Agarwal, MD *through 2021*
Yatish Goyal, MD *through 2022*
Vikas Jain, MD *through 2021*
Keyur P. Parikh, MD *through 2022*
Dalbir Sandhu, MD *through 2022*
Satnam Sandhu, MD *through 2021*
Chirag Shah, MD *through 2021*
Dr. Vaishal Shah *through 2022*
Dr. Palak Shroff *through 2022*
Asif Shaikh, MD *through 2021*

MESSAGE FROM AIPNO PRESIDENT-ELECT



Dr. Vinni Makin is the Director of Endocrinology for the Cleveland Clinic's Endocrinology and Metabolism Institute in the East region; where she provides overall direction and leadership for endocrinology operations for six distinct facilities. With a career spanning the areas of education, clinical work and administration, Dr. Makin is renowned for her expertise at balancing the theoretical knowledge of endocrinology with actual clinical practice. She has successfully devised scalable processes for making healthcare delivery more efficient, while continually improving institutional standards of patient care.

As a firm believer in improving public health through better education of healthcare providers, Dr. Makin holds a number of academic appointments, including the Director of the 2nd year Endocrinology Curriculum at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Ohio Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and the past Director of Endocrinology Curriculum at the Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency program. Dr. Makin was the Education Fellow at the Cleveland Clinic Education Institute, a highly competitive Fellowship focused on leadership in original, independent research in the field of medical education. A celebrated educator, Dr. Makin has won a host of awards for developing the next generation of healthcare professionals, including the Scholarship in Teaching Award in both 2014 and 2016.

Active across a variety of professional organizations, Dr. Makin is a board member of the Ohio Chapter of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), and has served on various national committees such as the AACE National Diversity and Inclusion Committee, AACE Public Impact Committee, the Search committee for the editor-in-chief for "Endocrine Practice" as well as "AACE Clinical Case Reports". Recently, as the Director of the EMI grand rounds, Dr. Makin has led the transformation of the Endocrinology Grand Rounds through a nationalization initiative called EMI LIVE, which focuses on broadcasting the grand rounds nationally, increasing the outreach, influence and audience tenfold.

A Fellow of the American College of Endocrinology, Dr. Makin underwent medical training at the Lady Hardinge Medical College, one of India's top 10 medical colleges. She then pursued an internal medicine residency from John Stroger Hospital of Cook County in Chicago, and completed her endocrinology fellowship from the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Makin is an alumnus of the prestigious Case Western Reserve University FLEX Leadership program that focuses on developing female physicians for top-tier leadership opportunities.

"Dear colleagues,

It is my honor and privilege to be nominated as the 2021 President-elect for the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio. I am delighted to have this platform to further the standards of medicine and improve access for underserved populations – two ideals that are foundational to my professional journey, and something that AIPNO has always stood for. More importantly, if there is one thing 2020 has shown, it is that seemingly insurmountable adversity can be overcome by working together – to that end, I am most excited to partner with the AIPNO Board of Trustees, President Dr. Dharmesh Mehta, Officers and all members in serving our community and getting closer to the ideal of health-for-all.

We hope that you will continue to support us as we move upward and forward."

Thank you
Vinni Makin MD, FACE
President-elect

Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio (AIPNO)

Member Spotlight: Aishwarya Sharma, DO



Dr. Aishwarya (Sunny) Sharma, DO, is a current Family Medicine Resident at the MetroHealth Hospital/Case Western Residency Program in Cleveland, OH. In this role, Dr. Sharma not only has the ability to care for vulnerable patients inside of the hospital system, but also participates in several community and city-wide initiatives to combat homelessness, health disparities, and hunger. True to her name, Sunny endeavors to spread light and positivity through every avenue of her life whether it is professionally or personally.

Sunny began college at the young age of 13, graduating as Valedictorian with her AA and AS at the age of 16 followed by obtaining her B.A. in Political Science and B.S. in Biology with a pre-law and pre-med concentration, graduating at the age of 19 as Summa Cum Laude. Having lived in Northeast Ohio for a majority of her life, she moved from Parma to Perry before planting her roots in Timberlake. Sunny went on to pursue her medical education at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine – Cleveland Clinic campus, choosing to remain local so she could continue her nonprofit work within the community. She actively volunteered throughout medical school while remaining politically engaged by working as the council secretary for the Village of Timberlake along with volunteering with several political campaigns. While studying medicine, Sunny was a dynamic member of Omega Beta Iota Honor Society—the political honor society—, Gold Humanism Honor Society—the humanitarian honor society—, the Student Osteopathic Medical Association, and several other organizations within her campus. Moreover, she served as an OU Medical Mentor with both high-school and college students, promoting the art and science of medicine to the next generation.

When she is not fundraising, volunteering, researching at the Cleveland Clinic, or working through her residency, Sunny enjoys exploring new cuisines and cooking for her loved ones while spoiling her 4-year old cat. As a lifelong vegetarian, she is passionate about using food as medicine and working with the American College of Lifestyle Medicine to promote a plant-based diet to enhance health and wellness. She has visited over 30 countries, speaks three languages fluently, and intends on volunteering with global health initiatives to increase access to medicine after residency. She is also an academic tutor and has taught over a three hundred students in the past decade. She is an avid-reader and writer, as well, who has a novel in progress and several short story/poetry publications.

Prior to medical school, Sunny worked as an emergency-room scribe at Lake Health. There she witnessed first-hand the detrimental effects of the primary-care physician shortage in Ohio. Her passion for enhancing healthcare drove her future ambitions to pursue family medicine and her drive to stay local enabled her to join residency at MetroHealth, where she could continue to care for lower socioeconomic patients. She is an active advocate as well, working with OSMA and ABFM to improve medical training educational standards in the state. As an NHSC Scholar, Sunny has dedicated her life to combatting the healthcare disparities she observed around her. She focuses her energy on becoming a part of the solution to the primary care shortage epidemic while providing compassionate and inclusive care to her diverse community of Northeast Ohio.

AIPNO SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM



Dear AIPNO community



Over the course of the past year, we have had the privilege to help guide, lead and assist a phenomenal group of research on numerous exciting and clinically relevant projects. Despite the trials and tribulation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AIPNO research team was able to grow and develop into stronger and more qualified clinical researchers. Students from the high school, undergraduate, medical school and post doctoral fellow were brought together to work with each other on projects of varying scopes from Case Reports to Systemic Reviews. With the wide range of research experience held by different members of the research members, weekly educational seminars were held with talks and lectures provided by research and clinical experts on topics such as pubmed searches, how to conduct a systematic review, writing a clinical discussion and more. Alongside these educational seminars, daily research meetings were held where each fellow would present updates on their research projects and ask any questions they may have. Some of the projects started during the summer were, the creation of a ADPKD, VPS COVID-19 and PHIS database, manuscripts on High Volume High Flow SR, Dialysis disequilibrium, Opioid, AKI and COVID-19 and technical guidelines on FSGS guideline, Nutritional AKI and AKI BMT. Many of these projects have been concluded and have either been accepted or submitted for publication. Once the summer program ended many fellows continued to work passionately and studiously on these projects and many more. Publications have come out in many

prestigious journals such as Hemodialysis International and AJKD. All of the research fellows further participated in the AIPNO research showcase in December of last year. This upcoming summer we expect many of the fellows to continue with the program and continue to get further involved in research projects. Another set of educational programming is being curated to continually work toward educating and developing their clinical research skills and to also better prepare them to serve as future health care professionals. A list of AIPNO research fellows from this past year are shown below.

Research Directors

Rupesh Raina MD

Beejadi Mukunda MD

AIPNO research Fellows:

Nikhil Nair (Co-research coordinator)
Ronith Chakraborty (Co-research coordinator)
Aadi Pandya
Isabelle Mawby
Ira Mehta
Krishna Mukunda
Lena Nemer
Maahi Mistry
Nikhil Nair
Nikhita Kumar

Nirav Agarwal
Paul Nemer
Pooja Khaira
Prabhav Vasistha
Sarisha Mahajan
Swathi Jothi
Zubin Mahajan
Richa Dua
Arul Metha
Rahul Jain

Perspective of a New EC Member



As a practicing gastroenterologist in the northeast Ohio region, I was looking for ways to give back to my community and expand my own professional network. When I learned of AIPNO, its mission, services and events that it sponsors, it was clear that I had found the right organization for me. In addition to fostering healthcare education and access throughout the community, through AIPNO, I have found plenty of service based programs that allow me to give back and support the underserved. With the ongoing COVID pandemic, it is more important than ever that we continue our mission of using our resources and knowledge for the health and welfare of the community we serve. Beyond this, I also found excellent opportunities to network with other physicians in the community. Through their picnics and tennis events, I was able to meet with colleagues from the region in a relaxed and casual environment, which may ultimately help foster future collaborative efforts.

As a new member in the AIPNO EC Committee, I'm excited to continue the work started by my predecessors. I hope to contribute new ideas and support ongoing events to continue to grow our organization. I will be reaching out to friends and colleagues to join us at our events and encourage participation from my peers. In addition to the major events, I look forward to helping AIPNO continue its mission and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful organization.

~ Keyur Parikh MD

Dr. Keyur Parikh is a gastroenterologist working in private practice at Great Lakes Gastroenterology. He also holds clinical faculty positions at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine within the Department of Medicine, serves as GI clinical faculty at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center (UHCMC) and the Heritage School of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency and fellowship at University Hospitals and has been practicing in Mentor, OH since 2017. He is currently chair of the Gastroenterology Department at Lake Health Medical Centers. He performs screening colonoscopies, upper endoscopies, performs endoscopic mucosal resections for complex polyps, treats inflammatory bowel disease, gastrointestinal bleeding, liver disease, irritable bowel syndrome, gastrointestinal reflux disease, celiac disease, exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, other GI-related conditions. He looks forward to serving the AIPNO community and supporting its mission.

Humanitarian Initiatives

In 2020 AIPNO started a new initiative of serving food to local homeless shelters under the leadership of Dr. Rupesh Raina and Dr. Dharmesh Mehta. This was done in collaboration with SEWA international. The team members(Dr. Saroj Mahalaha, Dr. Saloni Khatri, Mrs Viji Vijay) communicated with local shelters to assess their needs. The first delivery was in May 2020 to Laura's home, a crisis center for women and children. Since then monthly deliveries have been made to numerous shelters due to generosity of our AIPNO members. This initiative continues in 2021. Few other shelters that the initiative has been able to serve include-Saint Herman's shelter, Family promise of greater Cleveland, Zelma George Family center, Saint Elizabeth catholic charity Norma Herr women's center of YMCA. This has been a great way to be involved and serve our greater Cleveland community in time of need.



SPECIAL HONOR

It is a matter of great pride for all of us at AIPNO to recognize the special honor bestowed on one of our fellow members, Dr. Sanjay Rajagopalan. Dr. Rajagopalan has been awarded the 2021 Distinguished Scientist Award – Translational Domain by the American College of Cardiology (ACC) for his contributions to the cardiovascular profession .

Dr. Rajagopalan is the Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine and Herman K. Hellerstein, MD, Chair in Cardiovascular Research, University Hospitals (UH) Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute; and Director of the Case Cardiovascular Research Institute at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. Rajagopalan's research has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation (ASCI), American Association of Physicians (AAP), Association of University Cardiologists (AUC) and the Association of Professors of Cardiology (APC). Dr. Rajagopalan has published more than 300 original peer-reviewed research publications in journals such as JAMA, The New England Journal of Medicine, Circulation, The Journal of Clinical Investigation and Circulation Research, and led more than 300 invited editorials and reviews. He has also served as an editor for at least two textbooks and several monographs on vascular disease and atherosclerosis.

Dr. Rajagopalan's work has helped transform global perceptions and understanding of the impact of environmental risk factors on cardiovascular disease. He has also made significant contributions toward the development of cardiovascular imaging and therapeutic modalities.

Congratulations Dr. Rajagopalan from your AIPNO family!



Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio (AIPNO) Gala Updates



Dr. Dharmesh Mehta, a practicing Internal Medicine Physician at the Atrium Medical Group, Chief of Staff-Elect at Euclid Hospital, and Medical Director at Heartland of Willoughby, was elected the 38th President of the Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio (AIPNO). His election along with the presidency of Dr. Raina, the prior 37th President, coincided with the worst pandemic this nation has seen: COVID-19. Like many other organizations, AIPNO had to shift gears in regard to their many service and partnership-based activities. Dr. Raina along with Dr. Mehta helped spear head this process by seamlessly transitioning the 37th Annual Gala to a completely virtual event. This event also entailed the 29th Chiraag Fundraiser along with the 9th Research Showcase.

The event kicked off with a CME Activity along with the Research Showcase, where dozens of high school, college, and medical students presented their work to the Research Showcase Committee, chaired by Dr. Mukunda, Dr. Gupta, Dr. Raina, and Dr. Ahluwalia. For their diligence, the top researchers were awarded a monetary gift and acknowledged during the Gala. All of the abstracts and winners in each of the three categories –basic case reports, quality improvement, and clinical research—were published in the AIPNO Annual 2020 Report.

The dinner portion of the Gala began with the lamp lighting and invocation, which has been a long-standing tradition, followed by the American and Indian national Anthem. After the welcome address, the Chief Guest, Senator Sherrod Brown, who is the US Federal Senator for Ohio, shared some remarks. His speech was followed by Mr. Gary Robinson, the CEO of the CDC along with Mayor Jerry Hruby, the Mayor of Brecksville, and Mayor Frank Jackson, the Mayor of Cleveland. Dr. Raina presented his annual Presidential Address followed by the Representative's address by Niraj J. Antani, who is a member of Ohio House of Representatives 42nd District. The Physician of the Year Award was

presented to Dr. Yatish Goyal for his exemplary work in internal medicine as the Chief of Staff at Medina Hospital. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Shashin Shah, who was the first elected President of AIPNO and dedicated himself to the mission of this noble organization. Furthermore, the keynote address was given by Dr. John Langell, MD, PhD, MPH, MBA, who is the current president of NEOMED. The past Presidential Award was gifted to Dr. Harbhajan Parmar for his incredible work in moving AIPNO forward in 2019. This was followed by addressing the changes in health paradigm given the current COVID-climate by Dr. Dinesh Chatoth, the Associate CMO of Fresenius Kidney Care, followed by Dr. Mehta's presidential address.

Like every year, key staples of the event including the beneficiary award, comedy performance, and Bollywood dance sessions were all transitioned to the virtual platform. The hundreds of members in attendance were able to enjoy entertainment, research, and educational initiatives throughout the night. Senators, community leaders, hospital executives, and local representatives were all present during this monumental Gala, the first of its kind in AIPNO history. The event was made possible by the diligence of Dr. Mehta and Dr. Raina, the members of AIPNO, and the generous contributions of several sponsors. In the upcoming months, AIPNO will continue to host CME lectures virtually showcasing research and world-renowned presenters in a wide category to topics. The organization continues to stay true to its mission by focusing on education, community service, and research.

About AIPNO

AIPNO is a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1983 by visionary Indian physicians with the purpose of giving back to the society. This organization has grown due to the hard work of its leaders and dedicated members. AIPNO has more than 400 multi-specialty members geared toward enhancing the quality of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine and supporting efforts to improve the availability of health care in under-served population in local and international communities. both very appreciative of this donation and stated that this assistance from the Jain Society will provide substantial relief to the local community.

An Update on Global COVID-19 Epidemiology and Vaccines

AIPNO President Initiative for 2021

A webinar was organized by AIPNO on Update on Global COVID-19 Epidemiology and Vaccines on the evening of February 5th, 2021. Dr. Raina invited excellent speakers to share their knowledge on the epidemiology of COVID-19 and the latest information about the various vaccines.

Dr. Kashmira Date spoke on the epidemiology of COVID-19 and shared her knowledge about the global trends, the number of cases, test positivity, WHO database, testing trends, and various other aspects of COVID-19. Her presentation was extremely informative and gave a comprehensive overview of the global pandemic of COVID-19. She is the team leader of the international task force epidemiology team and a medical officer at the Center for Disease Prevention.

Dr. Wilbur H. Chen gave an excellent presentation on the COVID-19 vaccines, including the latest information about the available vaccines. He also spoke about the emerging COVID-19 variants, efficacy, benefits, and side effects of the vaccines. Dr. Chen is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and a world-renowned infectious disease physician-scientist with a particular interest in vaccines. He is also the chief of the adult clinical studies section in the center of vaccine development.

The session was moderated by Dr. Rupesh Raina, past president of AIPNO; Dr. Neil Mehta, Associate Dean at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine; and Dr. K V Gopalkrishna, Chair of Dept. of medicine and Chief of Infectious Disease in Fairview Hospital.

Dr. Dharmesh Mehta, president of AIPNO, gave the opening remarks, and Dr. Beejadi Mukunda, Chair of the Board of Trustees of AIPNO, introduced the speakers.

The virtual session was attended by more than 150 physicians and physicians in training. There was a very interactive discussion during the question-answer session after the two presentations from distinguished invited speakers.



DR. DHARMESH MEHTA, MD

AIPNO President
Chief of Staff Elect
Cleveland Clinic, Euclid Hospital

DR. BEEJADI MUKUNDA, MD

AIPNO BOT Chair
Chief of Staff
Cleveland Clinic, Hillcrest Hospital

MODERATORS

DR. RUPESH RAINA, MD

Past President AIPNO
Adult-Pediatric Kidney Disease
Cleveland Clinic, Akron General Hosp
Akron Children's Hospital

DR. NEIL MEHTA, MD

Associate Dean, Cleveland Clinic
Lerner College of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University

DR. KV GOPALAKRISHNA, MD

Chair, Department of Medicine
Chief, Infectious Disease
Cleveland Clinic, Fairview Hospital

AN UPDATE ON GLOBAL COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGY AND VACCINES

AIPNO PRESIDENT INITIATIVE FOR 2021

SPEAKER

DR. KASHMIRA DATE, MD

International Task Force Epidemiology Team

Team Lead 2019 Novel Coronavirus Response

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



SPEAKER

DR. WILBUR H. CHEN, MD

Professor of Medicine
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Infectious Diseases Physician-Scientist

Chief of Adult Clinical Studies Section
Center for Vaccine Development



EVENT INFORMATION

Friday, February 5th, 7:00 PM EST

Kindly Join Zoom Meeting Using the Below Link:

[AIPNO LIVE WEBINAR](#)

Passcode: aipno

Celebrating Women in Leadership

The Women in AIPNO event was a new endeavor, the brain child of the AIPNO president Dr. Dharmesh Mehta to honor the involvement of women in this wonderful organization.

This hybrid event was held on March 27th at the Marriott ballroom obeying all social distancing guidelines in Beachwood and commenced with an educational talk by Dr. Rupesh Raina, past AIPNO president followed by an interactive discussion which was well appreciated. This was followed by a welcome address by Dr. Dharmesh Mehta, current AIPNO president highlighting the importance of this landmark event. He also honored the current women officers of the organization including Dr. Palak Shroff (Member at large), Dr. Saloni Khatri (Secretary) and Dr. Vinni Makin (President- elect). The event then proceeded on to a slide show by Dr. Makin honoring past women presidents starting with Dr. Ambika Ambekar in 2000 till Dr. Mona Gupta in 2018. The incorporation of some early medical school pictures of the past presidents injected some fun in the proceedings along with a sense of pride of how the organization has always been ahead of its times. We had the good fortune to have two of our past presidents Dr. Sandhia Varyani (AIPNO president 2011) and Dr. Mona Gupta (AIPNO President 2018) at the event who were then invited to speak about their experiences. Dr. Varyani talked about her very early involvement because her parents were one of the founders of this organization while Dr. Gupta elucidated some of the notable events during her tenure. This was followed by the presentation of the first ever” AIPNO Women of the year” award to Dr. Gita Gidwani. We then moved on to our invited speakers of the evening Dr. Teresa Dews , President Cleveland Clinic Euclid Hospital who could attend the event in person and Dr. Beri Ridgeway , Chief of Staff Cleveland Clinic who was kind enough to do it virtually. Both of them discussed their own professional journeys, how women make unique contributions to every organization and how to overcome the barriers they can sometimes face in their careers. Hetal Mehta, Dr. Dharmesh Mehta’s wife conducted an enjoyable game of movie trivia and then Dr. Mehta closed the event with a note of thanks. Everybody enjoyed a delicious dinner afterwards – we hope that this event will become a yearly feature moving forward.



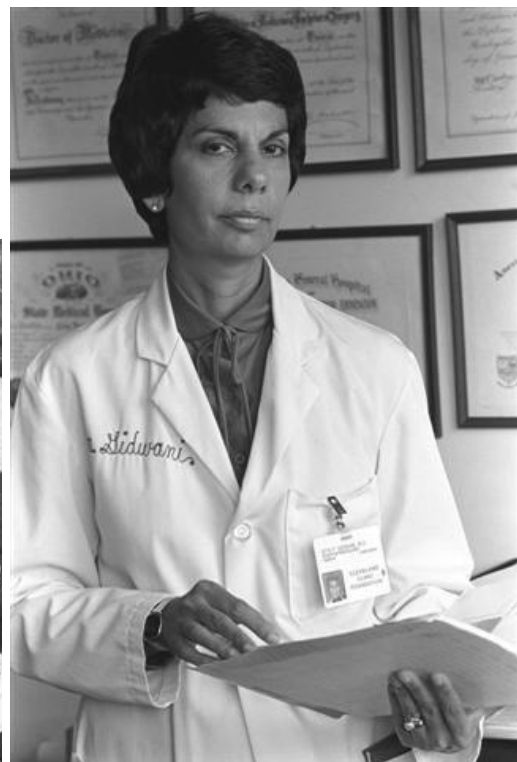
Dr.Gita Gidwani

Recipient of the “AIPNO Woman of the Year” Award

Dr. Gita Gidwani was the first woman surgeon appointed to the staff at Cleveland Clinic in 1976 and continued to serve as a gynecologist at the Cleveland Clinic for over 30 years

Notable among her multiple achievements is her involvement as a founding member of the Women’s Professional Staff Association (WPSA), founding member and later president of the North American Society for Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology as well as founder of Helping Hands, an organization which has supported the Indian community by providing much needed support to families, new immigrants and people in need. She is also one of the founding member of Medical Yatra, the humanitarian mission under the umbrella of AIPNO in 2001 . The organization first started after the earthquake in Gujarat, India and other than the exception of the pandemic has continued its yearly trips to India.

The Gidwani Mid-Career Leadership Development Scholarship which is awarded specifically to advance women professional staff to leadership positions at Cleveland Clinic has been made possible through a gift from Dr.Gidwani. We hope Dr. Gidwani will continue to inspire women everywhere.





AIPNO Initiative for Covid Crisis in India

As you are aware, current COVID pandemic has been severely affecting our homeland, India. It is a sad situation and AIPNO feels the pain and suffering of our friends and families over there.

AIPNO has been in touch with the Indian consulate and we are also working with AAPI and FIPA regarding the current covid condition in India.

AIPNO has collaborated with MDtok to provide tele consultancy to the patients. We have several physicians who have volunteered to help

AIPNO will also be generating local funds to provide oxygen, medications and ventilators through Red Cross. We feel Red Cross is well versed with the Indian continent local needs and has a track record for delivering to the needful.

Many people are under the realm of covid and AIPNO hearts go out to our fellow Indians. We pray to higher powers and seek blessing to provide strength and armamentarium to help our own "Desh"

AIPNO members have been always been supportive with zeal and zest. This is a very sensitive time and your contribution can save many lives.

As Mother Teresa said "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is but a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

We want to thank all sister organizations collaborating with AIPNO for the fundraiser.



Sincerely,

Dharmesh Mehta , MD
President AIPNO

Please Support



AIPNO FUNDRAISER FOR COVID CRISIS IN INDIA

Your donation can save save many lives.

Donate Via



or

Mail check payable to AIPNO

**4370 Karen Lynne Dr, Broadview Hts, OH 44147
216.228.1168**



admin@aipno.org



www.aipno.org

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Dare we call ourselves human?



Late at night, I was groggy when the phone call came that his oxygen levels have dropped to 85% even with oxygen supplementation and he is experiencing shortness of breath. The fine balance between hope and worry hung precariously.

Sleep was not on the menu, as I tried calling the physicians at the hospital in Chandigarh, seeking local contacts, trying to get guidance from my friends who are Infectious disease consultants here, and calling family to soothe and reassure. Pray!

My brother-in-law (my sister's husband) got diagnosed with Covid 19 a few days ago and despite following recommendations of Fortis Chandigarh Pulmonologist, the condition steadily deteriorated. The high-grade fevers relentlessly persisted and the usual other symptoms stayed.

The CT scan was already showing ground-glass opacities and signs of viral pneumonitis. As my sister paid for a CT scan and was walking out, an employee sneaked out to tell her that the Imaging facility had deliberately overcharged her by thousands. She went back and yelled at them about the social responsibility and such uncommon virtues, and surprisingly they returned money!!

She left no stone unturned to get her husband admitted. With her son (my nephew) also sick with Covid at home, she faced this alone but then sought help from neighbors/ friends locally. Hospitals are full. Fortis was full- no beds; so was Max.

Finally, after a politically connected neighbor called the health ministry, they were able to get an ICU bed at a different local hospital in Chandigarh. Remdesivir, Decadron, anticoagulants, and the other appropriate treatment were started. This privilege that we take for granted in the USA, will be considered a mighty stroke of luck in times of COVID crisis in India. This is the small personal story of a family who is educated, fortunately, has resources and some contacts but what about a common man, the illiterate, the poor?

Such is the plight of our country and it's shameful. This is not even the tip of the iceberg. We are all aware of the total collapse of infrastructure, deep-seated corruption, selling of fake medications, floating dead bodies in Ganga, Yamuna; overflowing crematoriums!!! The exploitation of people's suffering has become the norm.

How can we even call ourselves human with such behavior?

The very fabric of humanity has been ripped by greed. We may fulfill the definition of being human with our articulate speech and abstract reasoning but we have clearly lost the essence of humanity. Being humane is human, otherwise, we are no better than apes.

We can blame the administration (rightly so) but who chose them? We as a society have to take collective responsibility too. We have to CHANGE!

Our country nurtured by saints, sages; the land of the yogis and yodhas, where this sacred earth has been walked by Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, has been gruesomely invaded by our very own selfishness, callousness. The god has become confined in Temples, Gurudwara, Churches, and Mosques.

He has been abandoned by the human heart.

How did we get here??

Dr. Saloni Khatri
AIPNO Secretary



MVRC

AIPNO Tennis

**ROUND ROBIN
(Doubles)**

SATURDAY, MAY 15TH

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

MAYFIELD VILLAGE RAQUET CLUB

6685 Beta Drive

Mayfield Village, OH 44143

**Dharmesh Mehta MD
President AIPNO**

**Ravi Krishnan MD
Past President AIPNO
BOT Member**

Break with refreshments - **COVID rules apply!**

Please text or email Ravi Krishnan to
RSVP before May 8th
(216) 410-8414
Rvk2643@gmail.com

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Tennis Tournament





Save the Date

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN PHYSICIANS OF NORTHERN OHIO

Sunday | August 22
12 PM onwards

South Chagrin Reservation, Bentleyville

AIPNO
PICNIC / KAROKE

www.aipno.org



Save the Date

*Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio
presents
38th Annual Gala and 30th Fundraiser
"Chiraag" with Research Showcase*

Date

**Saturday | October 30
04:00 PM onwards**

Venue

**Renaissance Hotel,
Downtown Cleveland**

More Details to Follow

**Email : admin@aipno.org
Phone : 216-228-1168**

