

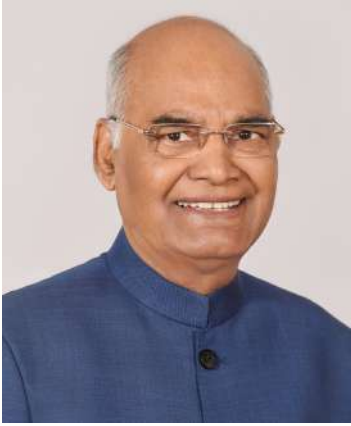


# Annals of AAPI



1982 - 2020

**A Tale Of The Trailblazers**



सत्यमेव जयते  
राष्ट्रपति  
भारत गणतंत्र  
PRESIDENT  
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) is celebrating the 37th year of its foundation on July 10, 2020.

Over the years, AAPI has been an effective forum to facilitate and enable Indian American Physicians to excel in different dimensions of medicine and healthcare.

At present, the medical and healthcare fraternity around the world is at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19. It is heartening to learn that AAPI too has taken several laudable initiatives to address the situation brought about by the pandemic. While doing so, AAPI and its members have showcased the best of the Indian values rooted in serving the needy.

I extend my greetings and felicitations to AAPI and all its members on this occasion. I wish that the 37th annual celebrations are successful and fruitful.

(Ram Nath Kovind)

New Delhi  
July 08, 2020

# Virtual Summit June 2020

## PM. Modi addressing AAPI members



# Virtual Summit June 2020

## Dalai Lama addressing AAPI members



# *Table of Contents*

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Evolution of AAPI Logo</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Biographies of the Presidents</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Genesis of AAPI</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>History of AAPI</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Past Chairs BOT</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>History of BOT</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>History of CF</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>AAPI Endowment Fund</b>	<b>85</b>



Presented to

With Deep Appreciation For Your  
Extraordinary Leadership  
and  
Service to the Profession & Community

Dr. A. Suresh Reddy  
President, AAPI 2020

Dr. Meher Medavaram  
Convention Chair AAPI 2020

Dr. Seema Arora  
Chair BOT, AAPI 2020

**AAPI Executive Committee & Board of Trustees**

36th Annual Convention  
Chicago, IL  
June 2020

# FOREWORD

## Suresh Reddy. MD

36th President of AAPI  
President 2019-20



I am extremely happy to present before you this Compilation of Tribute to the founders and leaders of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. It's my hope that every AAPI member will have as much fun glancing through this tribute to our Past Presidents as I had while compiling it!

Although we fondly remember and are proud of the growth and contributions of AAPI and its leaders, the general consensus in the AAPI community has been to recognize and honor our tireless leaders of the past and the achievements of the current leadership of AAPI through a compilation of tribute such as this.

Many of our Past Presidents have been trailblazers in the pursuit of justice and equality for Physicians of Indian origin in the United States. This original goal and theme has now branched into several other objectives meeting the diverse needs of our times. AAPI has become multifaceted over the years that we now want to be part of community development and social justice, while being cultural ambassadors in this country.

It is an honor and privilege for me to be included in this club of the Past Presidents of AAPI. I salute and honor the sacrifice, commitment and dedication of all the Past Presidents, which guided me during my term as the 36th President of AAPI. During my decade long active journey with AAPI, I have been blessed to have had many of you as my mentors, guides and philosophers.

Over the past 37 years, AAPI has grown and is now the largest ethnic medical society in the United States, representing the interests of over 100,000 Indian American physicians and Fellows. AAPI has come to be recognized as a vibrant, united, transparent, politically engaged organization, ensuring active participation of young physicians, increased membership, enabling that AAPI's voice is heard in the corridors of power.

Indian American Physicians have carved a comfortable niche in the American medical community and have earned a name for themselves with their hard work, dedication, compassion, and amazing skills and talents. AAPI has been successful in capping the voluminous achievements of the past 37 years with a clear vision to move forward.

It is often said that the best things in life are often not things, and my experience with AAPI attests to that. The camaraderie, connections and convictions that came with my association with AAPI are priceless. Working with many physicians has motivated me to become a better human being and physician.

My time in AAPI has shown me that leadership is a balancing act. I took every role I played in AAPI seriously. My term as President of AAPI will be noted as a "Global war time President in an unconventional year during unconventional times without a conventional Annual Convention due to the Covid-19 Pandemic".

As my year as president has come to an end, I want to thank my many ardent supporters who have stood by me for years. I thank the many who have taken an advisory role. I cannot but thank my critics and my "arch rivals" who made me work harder and put extra effort into everything I did! Thank you for helping me make better decisions.

My sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Ranga Reddy for being the "Shruti-Kartha" of this book. He chronicled the history of AAPI. Spending thousands of hours in the past 25 years, making sure this book saw the light of the day. He wrote the biographic sketches of each past President with inputs from most of them.

Special thanks also goes to Dr. Raj Bhayani, who as the IT Chair two years ago, had published some parts of this series in our weekly AAPI newsletters. Special thanks also goes to Dr. Jagdish Gupta for compiling the article about one of our Past Presidents, Dr. Ajay Lodha, a Covid-Warrior. Special thanks to Ajay Ghosh, AAPI's Media Coordinator for proof reading and being a guest writer.

This coffee table book is dedicated to all the "First Ladies" who have sacrificed innumerable hours of their family time for the sake of AAPI.

I want to dedicate this Tribute to the Past, Present and Future Leaders of AAPI, who are committed to taking this noble organization to newer heights, responding to the ever changing needs of our times !. This book has been put together with great attention to detail and diligence regarding the accuracy of facts. We apologize if not all facts could be incorporated in this book.

I am extremely indebted to Dr. Prem Reddy, Chairman of Prime Healthcare for sponsoring this coffee table book.

Sincerely,



**Suresh Reddy, MD**

President, 2019-20

**June 2020**

# *Evolution of AAPI logo*

**Ranga Reddy. MD**

**14th President of AAPI 1997-98**

**Chair,  
AAPI History Task Force**



A logo is a symbol made up of text and images that represents an organization and its values. AAPI's logo has undergone several changes evolving over the past 37 years into what adorns today at every AAPI event across the United States and around the world. AAPI's unique LOGO represents the face, structure and mission of AAPI reminding each of us of our mission, our values and the community we represent.



The above logo was created initially when American Association of Physicians from India (AAPI) was formed in 1982 in Detroit. It had a round shape with letters AAPI inscribed in it. This logo was hand-drawn, and was not computer created. It served the purpose during the initial years of the new organization till 1992.





Dr. Adoor Amanullah, Regional Director and AAPI Journal Editor at that time, designed and updated a digital version of the logo shown above. The new logo, in elliptical shape, was approved by the AAPI Governing Body Meeting without any dissent in 1992.



In 1995, the original name of AAPI, (American Association of Physicians from India) was changed to American Association of Physicians of Indian ORIGIN since some of the members and officers were of Indian origin but they were not from India, including two past presidents (they came from other countries).

The new name of the organization includes all physicians of Indian diaspora while retaining letters AAPI as the organization's abbreviated nomenclature since these letters were widely recognized. Truly, it should have been AAPIO but AAPI stuck with the organization.

At my request as the Secretary of AAPI, Dr. Amanullah redesigned and sent two shapes, one round and the other elliptical, with American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin inscribed on it. During the Governing Body Meeting in 1995, the new logo was approved. Ever since, the new logo has become the official logo and the face of AAPI for the last 22 years.

Dr. Adoor Amanullah is a physician from Detroit who served as the President of MAPI and AKMG (Association of Kerala Medical Graduates). He also served AAPI in various capacities such as Regional Director, Member of the Board of Trustees, and Editor-in-chief of the AAPI journal. He is indeed one of most humble leaders of AAPI and deserves recognition.



# **Ujamlal Kothari. MD**

**First President of AAPI**

**1982-85**



Dr. Ujamlal Kothari was a was a Psychiatrist from the city of Detroit. While serving as the President of Michigan Association of Physicians from India (MAPI), he along with Dr. Navin Shah, a Urologist and President of the Indian Urologists Association and several other leaders felt the need for a national association of Indian Physicians in America to address some of the discriminatory practices in residency recruitment, license reciprocity and hospital privileges. In December, 1981 several leaders of the local associations from various states met at Dr. Kothari's house and decided to form a national umbrella organization.

A steering committee was formed with Dr. Kothari as the Chairman and Dr. Jagan Kakarala, Late Dr. Ratnakar Kini, Dr. Bhimsen Rao and Dr. Bhanu Shah as members. As those few dedicated leaders from various parts of the country explored on ways to create an alliance, little did they realize that their efforts would lead to great success story!

The first national meeting was held at Dearborn, MI, and was hosted by MAPI in August, 1982. Dr. Jagan Kakarala and Dr. Bhimsen Rao drafted the first Constitution and Bylaws. This historic meeting led to the formation of American Association of Physicians from India (AAPI) named after MAPI. Dr. Kothari was elected as the first President, Dr. Navin Shah as the Vice President and Dr. Jagan Kakarala as the Secretary.

This fledgling organization spent the next few months recruiting new members and co-opting other organizations, Dr. Ujamlal Kothari laying the foundation for a strong and vibrant AAPI.

**Navin Shah, MD**  
**2nd President of AAPI**  
**1985-86**



**Dr. Navin Shah graduated from University of Poona. After immigrating to USA in early 70s, completed residency in Urology in Washington Hospital center Washington, DC. and in private practice ever since.**

**Dr. Shah's involvement in organized medicine to safeguard the interests of the IMGs is very extensive. Dr. Shah served as Chairman and Executive Director of IAAP—International Association of American Physicians—body comprising several Ethnic Physician Organizations in the United States. He spearheaded the movement to bring together all the local associations of Physicians from India as an umbrella organization along with like minded leaders from Michigan and other states and thus paving the way for the formation of the AAPI.**

**Dr. Shah was invited to give oral Testimony before the GAO Committee, appointed by the US Congress to study the issue of IMG discrimination. These persistent efforts by IAAP and AAPI, eventually led to a single pathway Licensure Examination for all IMGs in USA. After the GAO report President Bush signed the Bill prohibiting discrimination against the IMGs in the US.**

**Dr. Shah also testified before the AMA House of Delegates regarding a separate IMG Section. Eventually, with persistent efforts by subsequent AAPI and other Leadership over several years, a separate IMG Section by the AMA was established..**

**Dr. Shah is recipient of many prestigious awards: India Abroad Person of the year; AAPI Most Distinguished Service Award, ACIP Outstanding Physician Award and many more and TV interviews including Amazon Prime-Trailblazers Award. One of the hobbies of Dr. Shah is coin collection from 600 BC till today.**

**Roshan Lal, MD**  
**3rd President of AAPI**  
**1986-87**



Dr. Roshan Lal is a well respected philanthropist and cardiologist from Palatine, Illinois . Along with the founding members, Dr. Ujjamlal Kothari, Dr. Navin Shah , Dr. Jagan Kakarala and others, AAPI was formed as an umbrella organization of State chapters, Alumni and Specialty chapters to represent all the physicians of Indian origin.

Several Regions were created and Regional Directors were selected to represent in the Executive committee. Many volunteers donated money and the leaders spend their own resources to organize the meetings. Later the patron membership was created to improve the financial condition of the Association.

Under Dr. Lal's leadership, 5th annual convention of AAPI was held in Atlantic City under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sunder Mansukani. Representative Stephen Solarz who played an important role in safeguarding the interests of the Indians and Indian Physicians was the Chief Guest.

**Jagan Kakarala. MD**  
**4th President of AAPI**  
**1987-1988**



Dr. Jagan Kakarala, an internist from Ann Arbor, MI has been involved with AAPI since its inception along with Dr. Ujamlal Kothari, Dr. Navin Shah and others and had served as its Secretary during 1982-84. He drafted the first constitution and Bylaws of AAPI along with Dr. Bhimsen Rao. He took over the Presidency of AAPI at the Annual convention held at Atlantic city, NJ in July 1987.

Under his leadership, Patron membership was initiated to improve the long-term financial stability of the organization. Permanent headquarters of AAPI was established in Flint, MI. As the number of FMGs increase in numbers and competing with the local graduates, discrimination started to show up in licensing and residency recruitment.

FMGs of all ethnic background about 175,000 in number came together to form an umbrella organization called International Association of American Physicians (IAAP) and elected Dr. Kakarala as its Chairman. Dr. Kakarala spearheaded the campaign to fight this discrimination and was appointed as Chairman of the Council of Graduate Medical education (COGME).

A Bill was introduced and passed both in US Congress and Senate to eliminate some of the inequalities facing the FMG community thus leading to Federal Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) in License Reciprocity and USMLE for uniform testing of all medical graduates.

During the 1990 Annual convention in Chicago, the Governing Body created AAPI Board of Trustees (BOT) to safeguard the patron fund and have the fiduciary responsibility over the organization. Dr. Jagan Kakarala was appointed Chairman of BOT, while he continued his services to AAPI for several years to come.

# **Suvas Desai MD, MBA**

**5th President of AAPI**

**1988-89**



**Dr Suvas Desai MD, MBA, is a urologist from Lexington, Kentucky. He is an active participant during the formation of AAPI and later served as its President. He also served as Delegate to the AMA between 2007-14, as the member of the Board of Trustees of AAPI during 1991-93 and as Secretary of the AAPI-PAC during 1985-89.**

**During his tenure as President of AAPI 1988-89, Dr Desai was instrumental in starting the AAPI Medical Equipment Donation Scheme to India during August,1989 with the active support of the Indian government as well as enhancing the AAPI CME with India.**

**In 1988, Dr Desai gave written GAO Testimony before the U.S. Congress regarding the urgent need for a single-pathway Examination for International Medical Graduates -an effort initially opposed by powerful organizations like the American Medical Association and Federation of State Medical Boards. These efforts by AAPI, in collaboration with other Ethnic organizations under the umbrella of International Association of American Physicians IAAP eventually led to the historic achievement of the USMLE, a Single-Pathway Examination for all international medical graduates providing the level playing field in America for both domestic and international medical graduates.**

**Dr Desai coordinated several visits of the 11th President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam to several AAPI Events, including the Inauguration of AAPI Global Health Summits in Jaipur and Ahmedabad during the years 2011 and 2013 besides the inauguration of AAPI Annual Convention in New York during 2011.**

# **Navin C. Nanda. MD**

**6th President of AAPI**

**1989-90**



**Dr. Nanda is currently Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama. Considered as the Father of Echocardiography/Modern Echocardiography by many prestigious organizations throughout the world, Dr. Nanda is a distinguished author of over dozen medical books and over 500 original scientific publications,**

**During his term as the President of AAPI, the Constitution of AAPI was revised and adopted formally. AAPI Board of Trustees was constituted for the first time. AAPI CME Programs in both India and USA were further developed. The coronary artery disease awareness program among Asian Indians was initiated. The first AAPI PAC office was established in Washington, DC and there was a 150% increase in AAPI Patron membership.**

**Dr. Nanda also founded the American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin (AACIO) which with its much larger membership than AAPI at that time served to boost and strengthen the parent organization.**

**He was awarded Honorary DSc from two countries, has several medical institutes/echocardiography laboratories named after him in India and has received awards honoring him from many countries and organizations for his pioneering work in echocardiography and cardiology. These include Life Time Achievement Award from the American Society of Echocardiography, International Award from the American College of Cardiology and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Recently, he was honored by the Government of India as the "Icon of the Century in Cardiology and Echocardiography in the World," the only Non-Resident Indian to be ever honored with the title.**

**Sarjit Singh, MD**  
**7th President of AAPI**  
**1990-91**  
**(in memoriam)**



Dr Sarjit Singh, was a Graduate of Amritsar Medical College and practiced Neurology in Weirton, West Virginia. As Treasurer of AAPI, he was largely responsible for establishing a solid financial foundation for AAPI. He developed the Patron membership and led the creation of the AAPI Board of Trustees to safeguard the assets of the organization.

Dr. Singh was a bulwark that held the ship together during the challenging and stormy years of the organization. He organized the first AAPI-AMA Board of Trustee meetings and started cooperation with organized medicine. The term "Foreign Medical Graduates" (FMG) was abolished and replaced with International Medical Graduates (IMG). His contributions to the charitable foundation and free clinics in India are remarkable.

Dr. Sarjit Singh was an outstanding Neurologist who served the community with distinction and in turn received induction to the Weirton Hall of Fame. He was on the clinical faculty of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and had several scientific papers. On the political front, he was appointed as the member of the Board of Trustees of the National Democratic Committee in 1992.

In 1991 he was recognized by the Governor as a Most Distinguished West Virginian, one of the state's highest honors. Dr. Singh was awarded the Most Distinguished Service Award from AAPI and the "International Mother India Award" from the Non-Resident Indian Institute in New Delhi.

Dr. Sarjit Singh passed away on December 22, 2016 at his home.



**Vijay Kulkarni, MD**  
**8th President of AAPI**  
**1991-92**  
**(in memoriam)**



Dr. Kulkarni was a graduate of Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur, India. He practiced Orthopedic surgery in Glendale, Milwaukee, Wisconsin for many years and got involved in public life and many charitable activities. He was soft spoken, well-read liked by his peers and his patients alike.

Vijay had involved in AAPI from the beginning and served the organization in various capacities including the Presidency and the Board of Trustees. He was member of the AAPI bylaws committee many times and has become almost an authority. He was a prolific writer and contributed many articles and poems to the AAPI Journal. "IMG Victory at last", during the Presidency of Dr. Kulkarni, President George H. Bush signed the bill S199 ending the discrimination against the International Medical Graduates (IMG) in residency recruitment and license reciprocity. This achievement is monumental in the history of the AAPI for which the organization was formed.

Dr. Kulkarni passed away on September 21, 2013. He is survived by his beloved wife Saroj, his three children, Vandana, Sadhana and Sanjay and 5 beautiful grandchildren. Vijay was a gentleman and dedicated his time and expertise to the cause of the AAPI for many years.

**Mukkamala  
Appa Rao, MD  
9th President of AAPI  
1992-1993**



Dr. Mukkamala Appa Rao graduated from Guntur Medical College, Andhra Pradesh, India. He is the Chairman of the Department of Radiology and Chief of Staff at the Hurley Medical center in Flint, Michigan. He has been very active in his community and in organized medicine, serving as the President of the Michigan State Medical Society, the first International Medical Graduate to hold this prestigious position. He is actively involved in AMA. He has been serving as the overseas President of Chinmaya Mission in North America.

Dr. Mukkamala has been part of the AAPI from its inception and is one of the architects of the organization. He established the first AAPI head quarters office in Flint, Michigan and provided office space and secretarial services free of cost to the organization for the first decade of AAPI before it is moved to a permanent place in Chicago, Illinois in 1994. He chronicled the first ten years history of AAPI. He introduced the annual membership and recruited more than 5000 members in to AAPI during his Presidency.

Dr. Mukkamala organized a group of Indian-American Physicians to start a medical school and hospital, NRI Academy of Medical Sciences in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India to provide good medical education and much needed state of the art medical care. He and his wife, Dr. Sumathi Mukkamala, a pediatrician have started an orphanage called Chinmaya Vijaya Orphanage for young girls ages 4-12 in 2007. The Orphanage provides free education, boarding and lodging for more than 100 girls.

**George Thomas, MD**  
**10th President of AAPI**  
**1993-94**



Dr. Thomas is a graduate of Medical College Kottayam, Kerala and did Cardiology training at New Jersey College of Medicine. He is Board certified in Internal Medicine, with Sub-Specialty in Cardiovascular Diseases and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

Active in IMG movement and Organized Medicine, he was a consensus builder, who contributed much to the founding goals of AAPI. He served on the delegation which met AMA Board in 1990, creating productive relationship with AMA, quickly changing "FMG" to IMG, ending many discriminatory requirements for IMG.

Believing in the power of written words, Dr. Thomas initiated AAPI Journal, and as first Editor, making it an effective instrument to disseminate AAPI's goals, activities and issues, promoting it's growth and strength.

As Bylaws Committee Chair and President Elect, he had led the historic change in Springfield General Body meeting, establishing the policy of one member one vote. He organized the First Retreat for the Governing Body members of AAPI. With professional leadership, he helped finalize and implement AAPI's organizational structure during his presidency.

The annual convention under his leadership had with US House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Health Minister of India, US Surgeon General, Deepak Chopra, AMA president and Indian Ambassador, thus enhancing AAPI recognition globally.

Dr. Thomas served as the Chair of Florida Board of Medicine and IMG section of AMA, Director of Manatee Heart center, President and CEO of Bradenton Cardiology Center, President of Manatee County Medical Society and AMA Delegate from FMA. He served on the NHLBI Advisory Council of NIH, Florida State Board of Community Colleges, Manatee Hospital Board and Board of Directors Florida Medical Association, FMA.

# **Gopal Lalmalani, MD**

**11th President of AAPI**

**1994-1995**



A Board-Certified Cardiologist, Dr. Lalmalani has been practicing Medicine in Chicago since 1978. He was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia, and moved to Chicago in 1973. Dr. Lalmalani graduated from Seth GS Medical College, University of Bombay, in 1972. He also holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree from the prestigious Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago.

Dr. Lalmalani has served AAPI in various capacities including as its President. History was made when for the first time ever in the annals of organized Medicine, the sitting President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton presided over the AAPI Annual Convention's opening festivities, which was attended by more than 5000 delegates. In his address, President Clinton profusely recognized the contributions of physicians of Indian origin, and praised the oratory skills of AAPI President Dr. Lalmalani.

Several organizations have bestowed upon him prestigious awards including Outstanding Service Award from the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation, Community Service Award from Lion's Club International, Leadership Service Awards from IMA (Illinois), India Tribune, AACIO, AAPI, and many more.

For the past 10 years, Dr. Lalmalani has served as Mayor/Village President of Oak Brook, Illinois, where he was elected for a third 4-year term last year. Incidentally, as you are all aware, AAPI has been headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois since 1994, when Dr. Lalmalani with the consent of AAPI's Board and Executive Committee moved the headquarters from Lansing, Michigan to Oak Brook, Illinois.

## **C. Venkata S. Ram, MD**

**12th. President of AAPI**

**1995-96**



Dr. C. Venkata Ram graduated from Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad, India. After graduation, he did his residency in Internal Medicine at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital/ Providence, R.I and completed his Fellowship in Cardiology at University of Pennsylvania before joining the faculty at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, Texas, where he quickly rose to the rank of Professor of Internal Medicine.

For more than three decades, he did clinical, research, and teaching work at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, established the clinical hypertension services at the hospital. Author of over 350 articles and 4 books on hypertension, Dr. Ram is considered as one of the topmost hypertension experts in the world. Recognized as a superb communicator of scientific advances, he is a much sought-after speaker.

Well respected all over the world for his academic and clinical skills in Hypertension, he is very popular with medical students, residents, and fellows. He was given the Asclepius/Outstanding Clinician Teacher Award by the staff of St. Paul University Hospital. Dr. Ram along with others, founded the American Society of Hypertension where he served as the Chairman of its Board of Governors. The American Society of Hypertension bestowed on him the "Moser Life Time Achievement " Award for his exceptional services. Dr. Ram received numerous awards nationally and globally. He was given PADMA SHRI award in 2013 by Indian government for his "impressive and enduring contributions to Preventive Cardiology."

**Vinod Sawhney, MD**  
**13th President of AAPI**  
**1996-97**



Dr. Sawhney graduated from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi. He is a Board certified Gastroenterologist and has been serving the community of San Leandro, California for the last 40 years. In addition to his successful clinical practice, he has published many articles and abstracts in various scientific journals.

Dr. Sawhney, as a delegate, he represented AAPI for the first time in the American Medical Association and served the AMA in multiple capacities; House of Delegates, IMG Council, Membership task force, and several Reference committees. In addition to his national involvement with AMA, he has been a significant participant in the California Medical Association and its House of Delegates.

Dr. Sawhney has dedicated his time, energy and resources to promote several charitable projects. He led a delegation of doctors and health professionals to Bhopal, India after the Bhopal Cyanate Disaster at the Union Carbide plant. He was instrumental in raising more than \$ 100,000 to help the victims of the disaster through the Red Cross. He has served as the President and Chairman of the San Francisco Bay Area Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation. He also led substantial fundraising efforts for the victims of the Loma Prieta earthquake in California.

**Ranga Reddy. MD**  
**14th President of AAPI**  
**1997-98**



A Medical Graduate of Kurnool Medical College, where he had obtained MBBS and M.S Degrees, Dr. Ranga Reddy had his Training in Anesthesiology at SUNY in New York. Starting his career at St. Louis University School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, he later on, moved to Springfield, Illinois to join practice in Memorial Medical Center, where he served as the Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology.

Dr. Reddy served AAPI in various capacities including as its President and as a member of Board of Trustees. During his Presidency "One Member One Vote" policy was introduced for electing the leaders making the process truly democratic.

During his Presidency, in order to comply with AAPI's 501 (3) C status, AAPI's Political Action Committee was replaced with Legislative Affairs Committee. He led efforts to create AAPI's Patron Trustee Membership to support AAPI Charitable Foundation and raised over \$600,000 during his Presidency. The Annual Convention held in Dallas, highlighted participation of the second-generation physicians into AAPI for the first time.

In India, Dr. Reddy started an AAPI Charitable Clinic in a remote village called Ellayapalle to provide medical services to the indigenous people. He promoted "Adopt the Primary Health Care Center of Your Native Place" in Andhra Pradesh. He co-sponsored a water project with Nandi Foundation to supply clean water to the villagers.

Dr. Reddy was invited to the White House in 1995 by President Bill Clinton on behalf of AAPI Leadership. He is the recipient of the AAPI Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Public Service Award by American Telugu Association and Leadership Award by the Association of International College of Physicians.



**Navin Shah addressing AAPI convention as President 1985,  
L-R: Dr. Ujamlal Kothari, Dr. Suvas Desai, Dr. Roshan Lal and Jagan Kakarala**



**Dr. R. Vijaynagar , Dr. Rangareddy Congress man, Frank Pauline, Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli  
Standing L-R Dr. Jay Sankar, Dr. Satya Ahuja, Dr. Surendra Purohit , Dr. Dayan Naik,  
Dr. Sharad Lakhanpal & Mr. Neil Parikh, AAPI legislative Director.**

**July 1998**





**Sitting : L-R: Dr. Roshan Lal, Dr. Jagan Kakarala, Dr. Suvas Desai  
Standing: L-R: Dr. Vijay Kulkarni, Dr. Navin Nanda, Dr. Sarjit Singh  
Pittsburgh AAPI Meeting 1987-88**



**First lady Hillary Clinton, Dr. Vinod Sawhney, Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli, Dr.  
Venkata Ram. Dr.Radhu Agarwal, Dr. Ranga Reddy ,Dr. Gopal Lalmalani,  
President Bill Clinton  
AAPI Annual convention June 1995 at Chicago**



**Sen Hartke with leaders of AAPI, Dr. Kishan Agarwal, Dr. Sureka Rao, Dr. Satya Ahuja, Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli, Dr. Vidyasagar Dharmapuri, Senator Hartke, Dr. Kiran Patel, Dr. Navin Shah, Dr. Suvas Desai**



**Past Presidents: L-R sitting: Roshan Lal, Surjit Singh, Kalpalatha Guntupalli, Jagan Kakarala, Suvas Desai, Navin Nanda, Navin Shah, Standing L-R : Jagan. Ailinani, Vinod Sawhnay,, Kiran Patel, Hemanth Patel, Bala Subramanyam, Ranga Reddy, Vijay Koli**



**L-R : Dr. George Thomas, Dr. Venkata Ram, Dr. Vinod Sawhney**

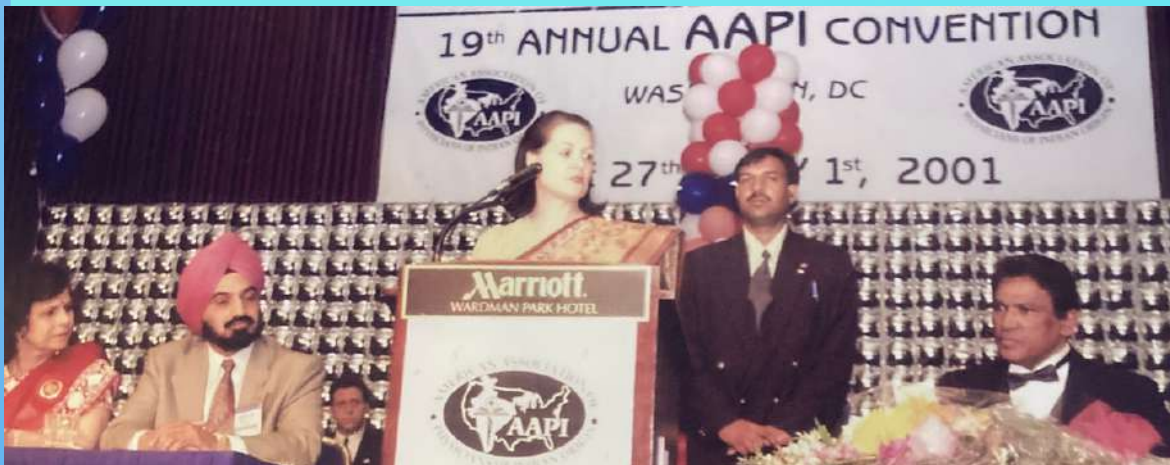


**L-R: Dr. Kishan Agarwal, Dr. Bhimsen Rao, Dr. Radhu Agrawal,  
Dr. Chander Kapasi, Dr. Navin Shah, Dr. Suvas Desai, Dr. Navin Nanda,  
Dr. Mukkamala Appa Rao, Dr. George Thomas, Dr. Gopal Lalmalani and  
Dr. Venkata Ram**

**Honoring the leaders is Dr. Ranga Reddy**



L-R: Dr. Jaya Sankar ,Dr. Kiran Patel,Dr. Ranga Reddy, Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli, Dr. Satya Ahuja, Dr. Dayan Naik and Dr. Surendra Purohit: July 1998



L-R: Surekha Rao, BOTC, Dr. Harbhajan Ajrawat, CC, Dr. Dayan Naik Annual Convention Washington DC, 2001

# **Kalpalatha K. Guntupalli. MD**

**FCCM, FCCP, MACP  
15th. President of AAPI  
1998-99**



**Dr. Kalpalatha (Kay) Guntupalli is an Endowed Professor in Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. After obtaining Medical Degree from Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad with three Gold medals, she started her career in the US serving on the Faculty at Pittsburgh and Emory Universities prior to moving to Baylor College of Medicine in Houston where, she has been serving for the past 30 years. She has more than 170 publications to her credit.**

**She has held several leadership positions in organized medicine. In 1999, she served as the 'first Woman President' in 25 years of the 50,000 strong American Association of Physicians of Indian origin.**

**She is the recipient of many awards including " Pravasi Bharatiya Samman " award by the President of India (2012) " Master FCCP" from ACCP, "Master Clinician life time achievement award" by the Baylor College of Medicine (2013) Oscar Friedman endowed professorship (2013) "Distinguished scholar in Critical Care Medicine" by the Chest Foundation (2006), "College Medalist" award by the American College of Chest Physicians (2012) the "World lung health award " by the American Thoracic Society(2004) "Lifetime achievement award" by the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine, (2010) "Parker Palmer - Courage to teach" award by the Accreditation Council for graduate medical education (2008) and Presidential award for "academic excellence" by the Baylor College of Medicine (2004) and "MACP" by the American College of Physicians (2008) to name a few.**

**Satya Ahuja, MD**  
**16th President of AAPI**  
**1999-2000**



**Dr. Ahuja graduated from Nagpur Medical College, India. Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology, he has been practicing Nephrology for the past 40 years in several hospitals in the Chicago area.**

**Dr. Ahuja's contributions to organized Medicine and community service are highly notable. He is one of the Presidents and architects of Indian Medical Association of Illinois (IMA-IL) which is one of the main pillars of the AAPI. He had served AAPI in various capacities including the Presidency and the Board of Trustees and made a difference at every step of the way.**

**He has initiated the "Golden Stethoscope Award" for Indian school children. He is responsible for starting a free clinic in Chicago suburbs. Dr. Ahuja and his wife, Dr. Jaya Ahuja visited the White House at the invitation of the then President, Bill Clinton on behalf of the AAPI in 1994 and also accompanied him to India for Gujarat Earthquake Relief. He also served as the Board of Directors of India Tribune Newspaper.**

**Dr. Ahuja is the recipient of several awards, Physician of the year award by Grant Hospital, Chicago, Hind Ratan award, AAPI Distinguished Service award, Excellence in Medical Leadership Award by American Medical Association (AMA), Life time Achievement Award by IMA Illinois and several others.**

**Dayan Naik, MD**  
**17th. President of AAPI**  
**2000-01**



Dr. Dayan Naik graduated from, Karnataka Medical college, Hubli, Karnataka state, India. After migrating to USA, he finished his training in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Cardiology at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and Board certified in both branches. He trained many residents and Fellows in Cardiology. After more than 40 years of Medical practice, he retired and moved to Tampa, Florida but still but continues to be a mentor and teacher to students and Residents.

Dr. Naik's contribution to Organized Medicine is very extensive and varied. He served as the President of Karnataka State Medical and Dental Alumni Association (KSMD) and made it a Patron Chapter of the AAPI. At every step of the way, Dr. Naik worked hard and left his mark. He was instrumental in activating the AAPI state Chapters of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He was instrumental in creating 12 new local Chapters of AAPI and thus bringing in more than 750 patron members into the organization.

The NY/NJ federation has hosted many AAPI Governing Body meetings and Annual conventions including one mammoth successful AAPI convention in 2000 yielding a profit of \$750,000 to AAPI. Under his leadership, the Federation raised one million dollars to help the victims of Gujarat earthquake in 2001.

Dr. Naik received many awards in recognition of his hard work and service; best teacher award from New York Medical college, Life time Achievement award by AAPI of Westchester, NY and over 25 awards from various organizations. Currently Dr. Naik is the Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Cardiology at. NSU-Dr. Kiran Patel College of Medicine.

**S. Jay Jayasankar, MD**  
**18th President of AAPI**  
**2001-02**



Dr. S. Jay Jayasankar, a Grant Medical College alumnus, trained further at Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital, practicing Medicine since 1971. He has been a Volunteer Consulting Orthopedic Surgeon to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and the Department of Corrections, Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, Fernald State School and Monson State School and Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, a state-run hospital for needy and indigents.

He had served as the President for 15 years and now Board Chair of the prestigious Boston Medical Library (world's richest History of Medicine Collections). He was a Delegation Chair of AMA; Training program for Leaders in Medicine, President-Forum for Medical Affairs; IMG Section Chair, Centralized credentialing and license parity for IMGs

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS): Chaired Orthopaedic Section Council and AAOS –AMA delegation; Ethics, Medical Liability Committees; Editor-Orthopedic Risk Manager Massachusetts Medical Society: Delegate; Board of Trustees, Charitable Foundation ; Committees/Chair: Publications (NEJM and group), Ethics, Quality Medical Practice, Professional Liability, Strategic Planning, Violence Prevention, History, Awards.

AAPI: President; AAPI induction into AMA; AAPI Book on Nutrition; DIA (Diabetes among Indian Americans) initiative; Develop in-house Journal publication and e-newsletter; IMANE: BOT Chair

US Congressional Award for Outstanding Service to the Community

"Pfizer House Call" honor for contribution to the Indian American community's public health: Indus Star 2002 Award

Massachusetts Medical Society's highest honor: "Distinguished Service Award"



**Kiran C. Patel, MD**  
**19th President of AAPI**  
**2002-03**



Born in Zambia, Dr. Patel graduated with a degree in Medicine from Gujarat University in India and completed Residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Cardiology in New Jersey USA. Dr. Patel moved to Tampa, Florida in 1982 and began medical practice.

Dr. Patel started a Medicaid Managed Care company which has become one of the largest Medicaid providers in the state of Florida. He helped to bring around the struggling HMO, WellCare of New York and Connecticut and acquired majority interest of the publicly held Well Care Management Group.

As the Chairman of Well Care between 1995 and 2002, Dr. Patel built it into a multi million-dollar company, providing services to more than 450,000 members, employing more than 1,200 employees and operating in Florida, New York and Connecticut and later sold it for \$200 million.

His enormous contributions during and after national calamities are very remarkable. He sponsored 25 orphans from India to come annually to the United States and participate in cross-cultural program. He also commissioned Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel Global Health University in India, a 120-acre institute under construction.

On New Year's Day in 2007, Dr. Patel was honored with the "Glory of Gujarat" award from the Chief Minister of his home State of Gujarat in India. In May 2007, Dr. Patel received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for Exceptional Immigrant Patriots. On January 23, 2019 Dr. Kiran Patel received 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman' Award in Varanasi by the President of India for his philanthropy and service.

# **Sharad Lakhanpal,MD**

**20th President of AAPI**

**2003-04**



**Dr. Lakhanpal graduated from King George's Medical College, Lucknow. He is a Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX.**

**He was Chair of the 1998 AAPI Convention in Dallas which is considered one of the most successful. As AAPI President, he organized a CME event at his Alma Mater in Lucknow which was graced by the then Prime Minister of India Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. A delegation of AAPI leaders was also invited to the Rashtrapati Bhavan by then President of India Hon. APJ Abdul Kalam.**

**Dr. Lakhanpal pioneered a series of dance ballets by Smt. Hema Malini in USA in 2003 and in 2004 which raised several hundred thousand dollars for the AAPI CF. At AAPI's 7th Annual Legislative event in Washington DC in March 2004, US Senator John Cornyn of Texas announced the formation of the first India caucus in the US Senate Co-chaired with then Senator Hillary Clinton.**

**Dr. Lakhanpal is the first and only Indian and non-American to become President of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) in its 85 years history. In 2019, he was made a Master of the ACR, the highest honor bestowed by ACR for lifetime achievement in Rheumatology. His many awards and honors include the Philip Schowalter Hench Scholarship Award for excellence in Rheumatology at Mayo Clinic and Senior Rheumatology Scholar Award of the American Rheumatism Association. He serves on the prestigious President's Council at the George Bush Presidential Center and Library in Dallas, TX.**

**Jagan Ailinani, MD**  
**21st President of AAPI**  
**2004-05**



**Dr. Jagan Ailinani, after graduated from Osmania Medical College, India, came to USA and did his Residency in Radiology at St. Louis University. Board Certified in Diagnostic Radiology with CAQ in Neuroradiology, he wserved as Clinical Professor of Radiology at Southern Illinois School of Medicine, Springfield. He is the co-author of CT & MRI pathology Pocket Atlas, and has organized and led several CME programs in the U.S and India.**

**Dr. Ailinani has adopted his native village Mothe and undertook various developing projects, safe drinking water, sanitation, individual toilets, cremation place with funeral shelter and establishment of primary health center in Mothe and AAPI Preventive Health Clinic in Jagtial. He successfully conducted many medical and surgical camps in several villages in partnership with Rotary Club and Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) in Karimnagar, where Dr. Ailinani serves as a founding board member.**

**Dr. Ailinani expanded the school, provided library, digital class rooms and sponsored English teachers and health checkups including vision, hearing and dental for all the students. Dr. Ailinani provided the first free ambulance to the Jagtial and surrounding villages 25 years ago.**

**While serving as the president of AAPI, raised \$55,000 to help Tsunami victims, helped newly arrived Indian physicians with J1 visa waiver, led clinical externship and practice management seminars, and provided legal advice and support for physicians who were discriminated. He has received numerous awards for his leadership and great contributions to humanity.**

**Vijay N. Koli, MD**  
**22nd President of AAPI**  
**2005-2006**



**Dr. Vijay N. Koli graduated Medical Degree from Moscow, Russia and did Residency in England & Scotland, joined practice as Family Physician in San Antonio, Texas.**

**He put his heart and soul in grass root medical organizations, founded the Texas Indo-American Physicians Society, and was elected as the President of Bexar County Medical Society. He is the first IMG to join the Texas delegation to AMA from San Antonio. He was instrumental in building the Indian Community Center in San Antonio and served on the Greater SA Chamber of Commerce & Medical Foundation.**

**In 1990, Dr. Koli ushered AAPI into internet world by for the first time using the email communications to reach AAPI members. During his presidency in 2006, AAPI acquired its new home in Chicago. He signed an MOU between AAPI and Ministry of Indian Overseas Indian Affairs for Rural Health Care in India. The national AAPI office had no employees when Donn Lesco, CEO of AAPI resigned and he was supported by 2 employees of Dr. Vinod Shah. His presidency successfully ended with annual convention in Atlanta in June 2006.**

**In 2014, Dr. Koli chaired the 32nd Annual Convention in San Antonio, which was one of the most profitable AAPI conventions.**

**Dr. Koli cherishes the Golden Aesculapius Award from Bexar County Medical Society, Outstanding Service Award from AAPI and AMA leadership Award.**

**Subramanian  
Balasubramaniam MD  
23rd President of AAPI  
2006-07**



**Dr. S. Balasubramaniam completed his medical education at Christian Medical College, Vellore, Madras University in India. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery, and has an FRCS from Canada. He went on to specialize in Emergency Medicine and Trauma.**

**Dr. Bala served as the Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine and Director of Life support Training at King Drew Medical Center, L.A from 1979-90. He was involved in setting up guidelines and training for BLS, ACLS and ATLS programs.**

**Dr. Balasubramaniam has been very active in many scientific and professional organizations. He has established fully operational Trauma/EMS systems similar to the USA in Pune, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad in India.**

**Dr. Bala was instrumental in developing a Master Disaster Management Preparedness Plan after the Bhuj Earthquake in 2002 and was involved in Leadership training in India in Command & Control of Disaster Preparedness with the US Fire Department, funded by a grant of \$750,000 from USAID. He also convinced the Government of India to allocate Rs. 500 crores for the establishment of Trauma Systems on the newly developed National Highways.**

**As the lead coordinator from the AAPI, Dr. Bala submitted a detailed Project report involving surveillance and treatment of Carcinoma Cervix, Carcinoma of Prostate, Deafness in Children, Diabetes and Heart Disease in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.**

**Dr. Balasubramaniam is very much appreciated for his work and service and received many awards, including the Dr. Nathan Davis International Physician of the year award by the AMA in 2008, Citizen award by city of Chicago in 1974,**

**Hemant Patel, MD**  
**24th President of AAPI**  
**2007-08**



**Dr. Hemant Kumar Patel graduated from Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum. He completed his Residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care in Newark, NJ. Since then he has been practicing Medicine for the last 38 years in Newark, NJ.**

**Under the Convention Chairmanship of Dr. Hemant Patel, the 25th (Silver Jubilee) Annual Convention was held in Philadelphia in May, 2007, which was very well attended and had raised a record profit of \$743,596 for the organization and a permanent headquarter was purchased for the AAPI in Oak Brook, Illinois from the proceeds.**

**Dr. Hemanth Patel started his Presidency after a very positive note from the successful Philadelphia convention. He tried to increase the membership involving the leadership at every level. He established alliances with other medical organizations, media and multicultural organizations and also developed partnership with many Pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Patel was invited to address the first-ever Pravas Bhartiya Divas meet organized by the Government of India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.**

**He met Indian President Mrs. Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Mr. Manmohan Singh and appraised them of AAPI and the health care issues that AAPI undertaking in India. They both were very appreciative of the work AAPI is doing. For the first time in the history of the AAPI the women's health care summit was conducted in Houston, TX. to address range of women's health care issues. Annual convention was taken place at the beautiful Venetian hotel in Las Vegas.**

**Sanku  
Surender Rao, MD  
25 th President of AAPI  
2008-09**



Dr. Sanku Surender Rao graduated from Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad in 1969. He did fellowship in Gastroenterology and was the first Gastroenterologist in the Northwest Oklahoma region, and he continues to have a thriving private practice for the last 40 years.

Dr. Rao has been involved in numerous Medical Organizations at the local, national, and international levels. At the state level, he was a trustee of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) and a Delegate to the American Medical Association. He was also instrumental in setting up an observer ship program sponsored by his Alumni for international medical graduates .

In 2008 as Treasurer of AAPI, he streamlined AAPI's budget and implemented strict discipline and guidelines. By the end of his term, he improved the financial health of AAPI from deep negative balance to significant positive balance. Simultaneously he also served as Treasurer for the 2008 AAPI Annual convention in Houston, TX, and saved significant amount of profit fro AAPI

During his Presidency he had worked hard to implement AAPI agenda and to improve the overall delivery system in India.

After completing the AAPI presidency, he co-founded the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO) to bring together all the physicians of Indian Origin around the world to improve quality of healthcare and access in underserved areas in India. AAPI and GAPIO teamed up and continue to work together to make a bigger impact in the healthcare arena.

**Vinod K. Shah, MD**  
**26th President of AAPI**  
**2009-10**



Graduated from Seth GS Medical College, Bombay, Dr. Vinod K. Shah is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology.

Dr. Shah worked relentlessly to develop relationship with Indian Embassy and the Capitol Hill and conducted many events. One noteworthy event was during AAPI Convention in 2008, when 11 buses took more than 550 members of AAPI to Capitol Hill. The event was attended by 87 members of the Congress. Among the invited guests were Honorable Secretary of HHS Sebelius; Honorable Minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad; Honorable Ambassador, Meera Shankar; Honorable House Majority Leader, Steny Hoyer; Honorable Governor of Maryland Martin O'Malley; and Mr. Cecil Wilson, the President of AMA.

The AAPI Convention was also graced by presence of Shawn Penn a Hollywood actor, Margaret Hamburg the President of FDA and Rajiv Shah, the Secretary of USAID and many other dignitaries.

Two of Dr. Shah's noted publications have been the Letter to the President, Barack Obama to encourage his understanding to increase quota for Residency Position and support Conrad 30 Program for J1 visa waiver. His most recent publication was prepared for Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, titled "Antarnaad, The Nectar for Soul – India past, present, and future".

By commissioning private artist, over 300 drawings were prepared by pencil sketch and excellent narrative was presented to Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi. Dr. Shah, through his private foundation, provided support to over 60 medical students, for medical education at Pramukh Swami Medical College, Vidyanagar.



**Ajeet Singhvi, MD**  
**27th President of AAPI**  
**2010-11**



A graduate of Sawaii Mann Singh Medical College in Jaipur, Dr. Singhvi is a practicing Gastroenterologist from Hemet, CA.

During his AAPI Presidency, he added over 1800 new members with significant number of young physicians to AAPI membership. Leadership seminars were held in Newport Beach CA, Long Island NY, Dallas TX, Chicago IL and Detroit MI which were very much appreciated. His internship program helped these young physicians to learn about health care policy and legislation.

His honest hope was that the young physicians will be better leaders not only in the medical field but will be our representatives in the US Congress and Senate in near future.

For the first time in history of AAPI, AAPI has become ACCME accredited and has provided CME on its own. ACCME accreditation was provided to the educational events of the local AAPI Chapters. This turned out to be a great outreach effort and was very much appreciated not only by our members, but also by physicians of other ethnicity as well.

AAPI Charitable Foundation has been a flagship of AAPI. The first automatic external defibrillator was presented to be installed at the Indian Consulate in New York.

The 4th GHS in Jaipur was a great success. Six projects that were stressed upon were prevention, early detection and management of cervical cancer, prevention of oral cancer, prevention of blindness in young children, Sevak project, India-Specific Guidelines for Medical Tourism and Organ Transplant Guidelines.

**Sunita Kanumury, MD**  
**28th President of AAPI**  
**2011-12**



Dr. Sunita Kanumury graduated from V.S.S. Medical College and completed her residency at the Medical College of Ohio, and her fellowship at the UMDNJ. She is Board Certified in Allergy and Immunology, and has been in Private Practice since then. She has a passion for an integrative approach to medicine and is Certified in Integrative Medicine .

As the second Woman President of AAPI, Dr. Kanumury continued the initiatives she had started several years ago called "AAPI Connects! Enhance your profession, advance your career and enrich your community"

Dr. Kanumury made a commitment to strengthen and empower the local Chapters, raising their status, supporting their activities and highlighting their accomplishments. She worked with AMA and along with the Legislative Affairs Committee met several congressional officers to lobby on three pressing issues affecting our members: Medical Liability Reform, Permanently fixing the Medicare SGR and Increasing Residency slots. She connected with other organizations like GOPIO, NFIA, AAHOA to work for the common good of the community.

During her presidential tenure, she announced AAPI's Health Smart Initiative, with the goal to "Promote Prevention, Education and Healthy Lifestyles", with focus on Fitness and Nutrition. AAPI is seeking to help reduce or eliminate shared risk factors through its Health Smart Initiative. Dr. Kanumury promoted prevention and healthy lifestyles organizing events such as Walkathons and health fairs and organised CPR for citizens in USA and India through NTR universities .

**Narendra Kumar, MD**  
**29th President of AAPI**  
**2012-13**



Dr. Narendra R. Kumar completed MBBS from University of Kerala, Trivandrum and MS (ENT) from BHU, Varanasi. He did residency in Otolaryngology at Case Western Reserve University Hospitals, Cleveland. He is Board certified in Otolaryngology & Sleep Medicine. Dr. Kumar has been practicing Otolaryngology for over 30 years in Saginaw, Michigan. He is now the Medical Director of Sound Asleep Sleep Diagnostic labs in mid-Michigan.

He served leadership roles in many civic and professional organizations: Association of Kerala Medical Graduates, AAPIOs, Indo-Pak friendship society, Michigan Governor's Asia -Pacific Advisory Council, Tri City Hindu Temple, to name a few.

Dr. Kumar has been involved in the AAPI in various capacities and rose to become President. He helped raise funds for various causes both in India and in US including a record 1.6 million for AAPI during his Presidency and 4.5 million for Hindu Temple, in Saginaw.

The Annual AAPI convention was held in Chicago with lot of pomp and show. Senate Majority leader Harry Reid and Senator Richard Durbin, Indian Union Minister Vayalar Ravi graced the occasion.

Dr. Kumar is recipient of many honors and awards; Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, Kerala Ratna, Distinguished Leadership awards from American Medical Association, Michigan State Medical Society, AKMG and several others.

Dr. Kumar established Dr. Ramesh Kumar Foundation in loving memory of his beloved son, to help the underprivileged in USA & India.

**Jayesh Shah, MD**  
**30th President of AAPI**  
**2013-14**



**Dr. Jayesh B. Shah is the President of South Texas Wound Associates, where he provides clinical wound care services in San Antonio for past 22 years; President of TIMEO2 Healing Concepts, LLC, which provides consulting and education services in wound care and hyperbaric medicine; Medical Director of Wound Healing Center at Northeast Baptist Hospital; Co-Medical Director of Mission Trail Baptist Wound Healing Center in San Antonio, Texas; current President of American College of Hyperbaric Medicine; current Board of Trustees Member of Texas Medical Association and AMA Delegate from TX; past and youngest President of AAPI(2013-2014).**

**He has published "Wound Care Certification Study Guide" in 2011, its second edition in 2016; Textbook of Chronic Wound Care: An Evidence-Based Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment in 2018, and created "WoundDoctor" App, a comprehensive woundcare resource tool for physicians, nurses and physical therapists for iPhone, Android and iPad. He has authored over 40 chapters on wound topics in 4 books and 30+ scientific articles in wound care and hyperbaric medicine. As Assistant Editor of Journal of ACCWS, he writes a column on certification exam in wound care.**

**To his credit, Dr Shah is the recipient of the Life Time Achievement Award by TIPS SW Chapter(2020), First Diabetic Foot Research Award- India (2019), Paul James Sheffield Education Award for Lifetime Dedication to Education in the field of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine (2014); Jefferson C. Davis Memorial Award for Excellence in Clinical Hyperbaric Medicine (2007 and 2011); Carolyn Sue Award (2009); Young Scientist/Medical Doctor Award (2008).**



**Dr. Jayesh Shah receiving the gavel from Dr. Narendra Kumar**



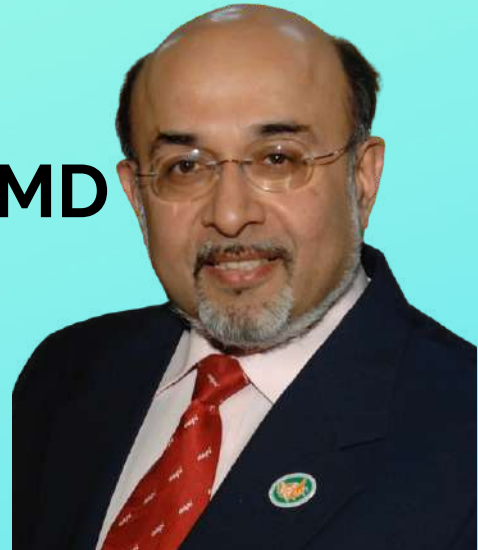
**Dr. Jayesh Shah presenting the AAPI Plaque to the PM. Modi**



**President to President  
President of AAPI Dr. Jayesh Shah  
explaining to the then  
President of India A. P. Abdul Kalam,  
the mission and goals of AAPI.**

# **Ravindra Jahagirdar, MD**

**MBBS, MS (Gen Sur)  
31st President of AAPI  
2014-15**



Graduated from the prestigious Seth G.S. Medical College in Mumbai in 1980, Dr. Jahagirdar completed Urology Residency at the Tulane University, and subsequently moved to Orlando Florida, where he is currently on the Clinical Faculty at the University of Central Florida, and in private practice, specializing in Robotic Urological Surgery.

Dr. Jahagirdar joined AAPI in the late 80's, drawn by the promise of an organization that would address the prevailing discrimination against Foreign Medical Graduates. He has been in every Committee in AAPI, and Chaired the Ethics and Grievance Committee for three years, trying to assist distressed doctors. He was Chairman of the Orlando Annual Convention.

Highlights of his Presidency - Leadership Training at Yale, including YPS and MSRF leaders, led AAPI to show solid support for the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at Madison square. At Mumbai Global Summit, a massive effort for Trauma Brain Injury in India supported by megastar Shri Amitabh Bachchan. A rural police training project for First Responder in Jharkhand became a template for the future - saving countless lives. An international "think tank" to address Innovation, Healthcare Credentialing, Infection Control, Medical Tourism, and Educational Standardization. In USA, AAPI led the drive on Capitol Hill to confirm Dr. Vivek Murthy , AAPI Member, as US Surgeon General, and care challenges of US Veterans.

The Annual Convention in Orlando showcased top notch speakers - Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, US Surgeon General Dr.Vivek Murthy, US Attorney General Preet Bharara and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar of the "Art of Living".

**Seema Jain, MD**  
**32nd President of AAPI**  
**2015-16**



**Dr. Seema Jain is a board certified psychiatrist from New Jersey,**

**Her accomplishments include :**

- 1. The launch of a new Scientific journal**
- 2. Launch of AAPI & Your Health, a community outreach on TV Asia**
- 3. Nine City Regional Educational Program there by raising hundreds of thousands of dollars in sponsorship.**
- 4. Led AAPI delegation in meeting with Bill Clinton which discussed ways to collaborate on AAPI initiatives on TB and obesity.**
- 5. Launch of the India Corporate Internship Program was announced by the Government of India during the PBD in 2015 in LA**
- 6. First ever CEO Forum with theme of Healthcare 2020 and Beyond.**

**Highlights of the Global Health Summit in Delhi 2016.**

**-First ever Women's Leadership Forum at GHS 2016.**

**-First ever a new alliance between AIIMS and AAPI to take the Research Competition to new heights.**

**-Signing of a MOU between the TB Union, DMA and AAPI to address resistant TB and improve adherence.**

**The 34th annual AAPI Convention in New York City featured several prominent leaders including CNN's GPS host Fareed Zakaria. CMEs and Seminars were provided with futuristic insights on treatment and management with interactive presentations. Guest speakers spanning from academia to top industry leaders spoke about addressing healthcare through innovating technologies.**



**Ajay Lodha, MD**  
**33rd President of AAPI**  
**2016-17**



Dr. Ajay Lodha is a dynamic, enthusiastic, and visionary leader with endless energy who commanded as President of National AAPI, AAPI QLI, RANA and RAJMAAI. He always strives for excellence. His convention and Global Health Summit had a touch of brilliance with engaging educational and riveting entertainment events with delicious delicacies, creating life long memories to cherish.

He made our organizations vibrant, strong and politically powerful and provided significant gains. He received numerous awards, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Dr. Lodha, a former Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Caritas Health Care System representing St. John's and Mary Immaculate Hospitals, is an Internist by profession. A graduate of RNT Medical College, Udaipur, Rajasthan, he completed his residency at Flushing Hospital, NY and has a primary care practice serving Queens, NY, since 1995.

He is a successful entrepreneur with partnerships in Nursing homes and ACO. Philanthropically, he was part of a coalition that built a state-of-the-art 11-bed Surgical Intensive Care Unit for Government Hospital located in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India where free care is given to the needy patients.

As commitment to the health of the community he organized numerous Health Fairs, Blood Pressure Screenings, and Medical Awareness programs and delivery of educational materials to churches, temples, and senior centers. He was appointed a member of the Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos's Advisory Council in 2015.

Currently, he is fighting bravely with COVID and has overcome adversity with a smile and exceptional resilience.

# **Gautam Samadder, MD**

**34th President of AAPI**

**2017-18**



After completing his MBBS, Dr. Samadder immigrated to United States in 1985 and completed his Residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowships in Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine and then settled in Columbus, Ohio.

His long association with AAPI began at grassroots level, first as the President of local Central Ohio Chapter and then moving to be President of all Ohio AAPI Chapter, Regional Director and finally elected as Secretary of AAPI. Dr. Samadder was instrumental in the formation of AAPI Indian Sleep Society.

AAPI Global Healthcare Summit in Kolkata during his term was a huge success with opening of first Charitable Foundation Clinic in West Bengal. The Summit was inaugurated by then Vice President of India, Honorable Mr. Venkaiah Naidu who acknowledged AAPI initiatives of traumatic brain injury guidelines, training of first responders and engaging local authorities to address major causes of road fatalities.

During his tenure as President he promoted academia among medical students, residents and fellows. During his presidency, AAPI raised \$ 100K to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey and also raised \$ 100K to support the Lymphoma and Leukemia foundation. He promoted a new phase in AAPI's relationship and collaboration with the AMA and also supported the nomination of Dr. Jerome Adams for United States Surgeon General of United States. He owes his success to his beloved wife Anjana Samadder a practicing Gastroenterologist who also served AAPI as Treasurer (2018-19).

**Naresh Parikh MD.**  
**35th President of AAPI**  
**2018-19**



**Dr. Naresh Parikh graduated from Government Medical college, Nagpur, India in 1971 and moved to UK for training in medicine and later to USA. He finished his residency in Internal Medicine at St. Joseph Hospital, Patterson, New Jersey and completed cardiology Fellowship later.**

**Dr. Parikh has been actively involved in AAPI for over two decades in various capacities. He was the Chairman of AAPI Annual Convention in 2007. He was a Member of AAPI Board of Trustees, Chair of Ethics and Grievance committee and Awards committee.**

**Some of the major achievements during his Presidency are: signing MOU with USAID for ten city pilot projects for TB-Free India. Dr. Parikh was also involved with Thalassemia Major project. He has collaborated with Associations of Pakistani Physicians and Bangladesh Physicians in North America to work collectively with the Legislators to promote membership interests.**

**The 2018 GHS in Mumbai was a joint exercise with GAPIO and the highlight was inauguration by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.**

**Other community service projects undertaken are Coronary Atherosclerosis Project in Atlanta. He has been serving as Medical Director of BAPS clinic for 10 years in Atlanta.**

# **Suresh Reddy, MD**

**36th President of AAPI**

**2019-20**

**“Unconventional year  
during unconventional times”**

**The year of 5 Ps**

**Petra, Punjagutta, Penguins**

**Pandemic, Prime Minister**



With Corona Virus impacting every aspect of life around the world, posing several challenges in carrying out with numerous plans and programs for AAPI in 2020, Dr. Suresh Reddy, the 36th President of AAPI, has been right on task and has devoted the past one year leading AAPI to stability and greater heights.

“As the year ends, my three promises for the year of working in unison with the other arms of AAPI, long- term planning and financial stability have been achieved,” Dr. Reddy told AAPI members as he passed on the gavel to his successor, Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda during a Virtual Change of Guard Ceremony on July 11th, 2020. “My term as president of AAPI will be noted as an “unconventional year during unconventional times,” Dr. Reddy said.

Never in the history of AAPI had so many educational programs been organized. Never had so many specialists shared knowledge so actively with the participation of thousands of Doctors from across the nation, during the GHS in Hyderabad in July 2019, and during the Pandemic in 2020.

Dr. Reddy recruited more than 10 Sub-Chapters into AAPI as Patron Members. He streamlined AAPI Bylaws with some historic changes. Dr. Reddy and his Team have been successful in making AAPI financially robust; He helped create 'AAPI Endowment Fund', by raising and donating \$300,000 with a view to enable his successors to be able to focus on the mission of: Education, Mentoring, Research, Charity, and Service.

Under Dr. Reddy's leadership, AAPI has been actively involved in community awareness programs like Obesity prevention, sharing medical knowledge at the Global Health Summit, team building activities such as the Share a Blanket program, medical education programs such as CPR training, social networking programs including 3 trips to the continent of Antarctica, morale building programs like mentoring a future medical students, India heritage programs like Independence Day celebrations.

His foresight and leadership was appreciated as AAPI became the first major organization to call for 'universal masking'. AAPI provided free masks to thousands of health care workers. AAPI members have honored more than 10,000 nurses in over 100 hospitals across more than 40 states by sponsoring lunches for them during the Nurses Week. AAPI has also stood against racial discrimination.

Vice President of India Sri Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister of Health Dr. Harshvardhan addressed the highly successful GHS. It was the first time ever, a sitting Prime Minister of India addressed an AAPI event, when Shri Narendra Modi spoke at the Summer Summit organized by AAPI. Others who addressed the AAPI Summer Summit included, Dr. Susan Bailey, Dr. Patricia Harris, US Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Soumya Swaminathan, from WHO.

AAPI joined hands with Indian Resuscitation Council to train 500,000 lay people in CPR during the month of October to celebrate the World Restart A Heart (WRAH) Day. AAPI has been in the forefront condemning Gun Violence, and has offered support to AMA's Stance, calling upon the US and state governments to make common-sense reforms, supported by the American public to protect innocent lives. Collaborating with the Indian Embassy in DC, under his leadership more than 1000 prescriptions were written for Indian visitors who were stranded in the USA due to Covid Pandemic.

Dr. Suresh Reddy underwent medical education at Kakatiya / Osmania Medical Colleges, Telangana. He completed his Fellowship in Interventional Neuro-Radiology at Harvard Program in Boston. He served on the Harvard Faculty as Chief of interventional Neuro-Radiology for a decade until he moved to Chicago to become Chief of Radiology at Hines Medical Center and an Associate Professor of Radiology at Loyola University.

# Presidential Inauguration of Dr. Jayesh Shah: May 2013



L-R: Sitting: Dr. Narendra Kumar, Dr. Seema Jain, Dr. Jayesh Shah, Dr. Kavita Gupta, Dr. Ravi Jahagirdar  
L-R Standing: Dr. V. Ranga, Dr. Ashok Choitani, Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Dr. Suresh Reddy, Dr. Vikas Khurana, Dr. Bhishan Pandya, Dr. Manoj Shah



L-R: Dr. Rajam Ramamurthy, Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Dr. Sunita Kanumury, Dr. Jayesh Shah, Dr. Vijay Koli



**L-R: Dr. Samadder, Dr. Reddy, Dr Jain, Dr. Lodha,  
Dr. Parikh and Dr. Jahagirdar  
Pittsburgh, Oct 2015**



**L-R: Dr. Samadder, Dr. Lodha, Dr. Jahagirdar, Dr. Reddy, Dr. Seema Jain  
Long Island, Dec 2015**



**L-R: Dr. Ranga Reddy, Dr. Jagan Kakarala,  
Dr. Vinod Shah, Dr. Naresh Parikh  
Annual Convention Columbus July 2018**



**L-R: Dr. Jagan Ailinani, Dr. Sharad Lakhanpal, Dr. Ranga Reddy, Dr. Sanku  
Rao, Dr. Naresh Parikh, Dr. Gautam Sammader, Dr. Vinod Shah, Dr. Ravi  
Jahagirdar, Dallas, Nov 2019**



# Change of Gavel Ceremony



**Dr. Gautham Samaddar handing over the Gavel to  
Dr. Naresh Parikh**

**Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Dr. Naresh Parikh,  
Dr. Gautam Samadder, Dr. Suresh Reddy, Dr. Ajay Lodha  
July 2018**



**Dr. Naresh Parikh handing over the Gavel to Dr. Suresh Reddy**

**L-R: Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Dr. Naresh Parikh, Dr. Suresh Reddy,  
Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Dr. Vinod Shah, Dr. Ravi Kolli  
July 2019**

# Commissioning Ceremony of the Presidential Jacket July 2019



L-R: Dr. Suresh Reddy presenting the jacket to Dr. Naresh Parikh,

# Commissioning Ceremony of the Chair of BOT Jacket July 2020



L-R: Dr. Seema Arora presenting the jacket to Dr. Sajani Shah,

July 2019



L-R: Dr. Naveen Shah, Dr. Roshan Lal, Dr. Naveen Nanda, Dr. Ranga Reddy,  
Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli, Dr. Kiran Patel, Dr. Sharad Lakhnopal,  
Dr. Sanku Surender Rao, Dr. Vinod Shah, Dr. Ajeet Singhvi

L-R: Dr. Vinod Shah, Dr. Ajeet Singhvii, Dr. Sunita Kanumury, Dr. Narendra Kumar,  
Dr. Jayesh Shah, Dr. Ravi Jahagirdar, Dr. Ajay Lodha, Dr. Naresh Parikh,  
Dr. Asha parikh, Dr. Srinu Gangasani, Dr. Suresh Reddy

# Presidential Reception July 2019



L-R: Dr. Suresh Reddy, DR. Seema Arora (BOT Chair), Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Dr, Sanku Rao



L-R: Dr. Naresh Parikh, Dr. Ajay Lodha,  
Dr. Suresh Reddy, Dr. Vinod Shah

# *Genesis and the Success story of AAPI*

## **Dr. Naveen Shah**

**2nd President of AAPI**

**President 1985-86**

**Co-Founder of AAPI**



In 1980, as the President of the "Indian Medical Association of America, Inc." (IMAAI) in Washington, DC, I had communicated my intention with various presidents and the leaders of the existing city, state and national specialty associations of Indian physicians in the U.S., for creating a federation of all associations under one umbrella body-"The Indian Medical Association of America."

The objective was to help unite all the physicians of Indian origin so as to address common concerns to the national and state medical, political, and government bodies, especially to rectify discrimination against the Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG). In addition, it would also help us to serve our motherland in improving health care and medical education.

In response to my appeal to all Indian medical associations to come together to organize a convention in Washington, DC in 1981, over a dozen association leaders enthusiastically responded towards forming a central body of all Indian medical associations. Dr. Ujamlal Kothari, President of the Physicians of India Association in Detroit, concurred with the concept and suggested that the leaders from all across the U.S. meet at their scheduled annual convention in Detroit in August 1982. And several others preferred Detroit as it was found to be a more favorable, central place.

In 1981, I had obtained a list of the physicians of Indian origin in the U.S from AMA and I reached out to multiple association leaders from New England, Ohio, Iowa, Michigan, Alabama, Kentucky, Washington, DC, Cleveland, Chicago, Flint, Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, and also the national associations of psychiatry, radiology, surgeons and urology for their participation in this creative task via multiple meetings and discussions..

Many of these leaders, on behalf of their associations, met in Detroit in August 19 82 and formed "The American Association of Physicians from India." I proposed Dr. Ujamlal Kothari, a senior person and the host of the meeting, for the President's post, and Dr. Kothari proposed my name for the post of Vice President. We both were elected unanimously. Dr. Kothari proposed the name of Dr. Jagan Kakarala of Detroit for the position of Secretary-Treasurer so as to run the office effectively from Detroit. The body accepted Dr. Kothari's proposal.

On September 9, 1982, I issued the first report of the formation of the AAPI to all the associations. On August 17, 1982, India Abroad reported the formation of the national association. In October 1982, Dr. Kothari and I issued an appeal in India News to all existing associations to join AAPI.

I feel very fortunate to be part of this historical event. My sincere thanks to all the involved leaders who put in enormous time, energy and efforts in creating AAPI. Fortunately a few of the original participants are still actively involved in AAPI's activities. AAPI, in its early period played an important role in two vital areas: International Medical Graduates (IMGs) from discrimination and obtaining equality with American Medical Graduates (AMGs); and, Providing service to our Motherland in the field of health care and medical education.

#### I. International Medical Graduates (IMGs):

In the 1990s, 32,000 Indian physicians made up a significant portion of the 179,000 physicians who had graduated from schools in over 100 different countries. Up to 1988, these physicians were labeled "Foreign Medical Graduates" (FMGs). It is only after strong lobbying efforts by the International Association of American Physicians (IAAP) that the name was changed to "International Medical Graduates" (IMGs). In the early 1980s, FMGs in practice and in residency began to experience discrimination in several areas, including residency positions, jobs, promotions, hospital privileges, licensing, reciprocities, and other areas related to medical practice. Hospital authorities, county and state medical societies, and the AMA did not take any significant steps to ensure that FMGs were treated justly.

As the Vice President of the American Association of Physicians from India (AAPI), I met with the President of AMA and other officials to present the problems facing FMGs. The discrimination was basically due to a dual standard, one for the U.S. Medical Graduates (USMGs) and another for the FMGs. In addition to changing requirements favoring the USMGs, those from abroad had to comply with several state and local requirements for Residency and Jobs. For reciprocity, many state licensing boards would not utilize already existing documents with the residency training program and the licensing body of the state where the FMG practiced. Many states required additional years of training, ranging anywhere from one to three years above and beyond that required of USMGs. Some federal agencies and medical institutions routinely announced job positions only for USMGs, thus openly denying opportunities to qualified FMGs.

In 1982 the AMA passed Resolution 56, which put the responsibility on qualified FMGs to prove that their medical school was as good as American medical schools. In my capacity as the President of AAPI, along with other FMGs, I testified before the AMA committee about existing problems and potential solutions to the issues facing FMGs in practice and residency. I stressed that once an FMG is qualified, such FMG should be treated on par with USMGs. In addition, I requested the AMA to create a special office to address the concerns of FMGs and to take action to rectify discriminatory practices. In 1985, I met with the then-President of the AMA, Dr. Harrison Rogers to reacquaint him with the problems FMGs were facing. In the same year, four Bills were introduced in the U.S. Congress with a central theme of deleting Medicare funding to medical residency programs that had over 25% of total residents made up of FMGs. I met with officials of HHS and registered a strong protest against the bills.

Due to failure to achieve justice from AMA, in 1986, a common platform, "Alliance of FMGs," was created to jointly struggle for justice against discrimination. This group represented the combined efforts of physicians from India, Philippines, Pakistan, the American College of International Physicians, and the Islamic Medical Association. It was for the first time FMGs "played ball" by American rules by acquiring the help of a lobbying firm, Keefe & Co. As a Chairman of the Alliance, I visited many Congressmen and Senators and their staff, to educate them about FMG issues. In 1986, along with other FMGs, I once again testified strongly in favor of forming a section in the AMA for FMGs to address their special problems. The AMA's House of Delegates did not take any action, and the resolution was referred back to the Board of Trustees. On July 4, 1986, the Alliance membership (representing almost 50%) of all FMGs met in Washington, DC where I presented a list of the injustices against FMGs to the President of AMA, Dr. John Coury. In spite of repeated representations, the AMA's House of Delegates rejected the FMGs' plea for a separate section.

Disillusioned, disappointed and awakened, FMGs lost their faith and trust in the AMA. In July 1987, the Alliance acquired the services of a retired Senator Vance Hartke (a three-term senator) and Mr. Kern Smith (formerly with the Kennedy administration) as lobbyists to represent FMG interests in the Congress. The Alliance submitted a draft legislation to prohibit discrimination against FMGs (AS 1868-Sen. Moynihan, HR 3773-Rep. Solarz, and HR 3241-Rep. Bates). This legislation not only prohibited discrimination against FMGs in licensing, reciprocities, jobs, promotions, residencies, hospital privileges, and other aspects of medical practice, but also contained built-in penalties against states and institutions that practiced discrimination against FMGs. The AMA opposed the bills.

As our title of "Alliance of FMGs" was misunderstood, we changed our name to "International Association of American Physicians" (IAAP) in 1988. Soon thereafter, as the Chairman of IAAP, I, along with other FMG leaders and Rep. Solarz, testified in favor of the Bills in the House. The AMA boycotted the hearings. I presented 50 documented cases of discrimination against FMGs in training and in practice and also listed the mighty role played by IMGs in the U.S. health care system to the committee.

We suggested creation of a central repository of IMGs' documentation that should be used for licensing, reciprocities, hospital privileges, and all other areas of medical practice. We also suggested uniformity in licensing and reciprocity laws. For residents in training, we suggested similar qualifying examinations for both IMGs and USMGs to eliminate the two-tier system. There were 46 lawmakers who co-sponsored the three Bills in the Congress.

In December 1988, Rep. Bates introduced legislation to have a GAO study. This bill was passed and a GAO study was undertaken. I provided the GAO with all the cases (by then 78 in number) and details of discrimination. By 1989, we had four bills-two in the House and two in the Senate-HR 1134-Rep. S. Solarz, HR 6140-Rep. J. Bates, S 8790-Sen. Lieberman, and S 304-Sen. Moynihan. A total of 91 lawmakers from both parties wanted to prohibit the prevailing discrimination against FMGs.

On April 29, 1989, as the sole spokesperson for IMGs, I was invited to participate in a "round table" conference that was chaired by GAO officials. Amongst the invited were representatives of HHS, Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), AAMC, AMA, NBME, ECFMG, and Sen. Vance Hartke. It was the first time that the IMGs got to actually meet with the leaders of organized medicine. During the day-long deliberations, mainly three areas were discussed: education, examination, and experiences of FMGs. The representatives went to great lengths, mostly under the guise of safety for Americans, to belittle the FMGs' initial medical education. They harped on FMGs' basic medical education with suggestions that it is the only pillar on which the quality of care provided by the FMGs depended. They conveniently ignored FMGs' passing American exams, successfully completing residency training in the U.S., and passing the licensing exam. I reminded them that all practicing physicians, including FMGs, must have continuing medical education to keep up with the state-of-the-art medical practice in order to maintain their license. Due to overwhelming support in the U.S. Congress for FMGs' plight, in 1989, the AMA for the first time created an office to address the issues and complaints of FMGs.

In 1990, Sen. Paul Simon introduced the legislation, "International Medical Graduate Antidiscrimination Act." Later, Sen. Joe Lieberman and Sen. Daniel Moynihan introduced similar legislation to prohibit discrimination against IMGs. In May 1990, a historic event took place for IMGs: the publication of a GAO report titled, "Requirements Different for Graduates of Foreign and U.S. Medical Schools in Medical Licensing by Endorsement." The report cited the two-tier exam and licensing system and revealed that IMGs had to undergo more years of training and had to produce more documents related to their medical education. The study observed that some of the requirements by state licensing boards were of questionable value. The GAO supported a single exam for both FMGs and USMGs and a central repository for FMGs' documents. Additional medical and English language tests for FMGs as required by some states for licensing and reciprocity were found unnecessary. The study noted that the number of years of training should be equal for FMGs and USMGs. The GAO observed that there were no uniform standards and requirements by different licensing boards. In September 1992, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed legislation to prohibit discrimination against FMGs.

Later, in 1992, President Bush signed the legislation into law. Congress provided some justice to FMGs. Since 1992, all IMGs are offered similar examinations to those of the USMGs. Later on, AMA did create an IMG Section. FMG leadership, in general, and Indian leadership, in particular, in the following years failed to take advantage of the tremendous effort of almost 100 lawmakers and the positive GAO report towards realizing the pending legislations in Congress. The momentum was lost as FMGs were hampered by their loose coalition, infighting, and lack of effective and dedicated leadership. The detailed history of the IMGs' struggle is well documented in the book, *Fight for Equality*, by Shawn McMahon (2005).

## II. Service to Our Motherland:

AAPI had actively pursued three different projects in India: Providing Continuing Medical Education (CME) to Doctors; Providing medical equipment to teaching hospitals; and, Providing primary medical care through charitable dispensaries. Indian doctors from the U.S. conducted over one 150 seminars and "hands-on" courses in over 20 specialties in different institutions spread all over India. Thousands of doctors attended these conferences and benefited tremendously. Over 100 major medical equipment pieces, which included CT scan, dialysis machines, x-ray units, mammography, operating microscopes, etc., were donated to various government hospitals in India. A dozen charitable dispensaries were established in India with MPI's financial assistance.



As Vice President and President of the American Association of Physicians from India (MPI) 1982-1986, I met and discussed the said projects with our late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi; Ambassador K. R. Narayanan; Advisor to the Prime Minister, L. K. Jha; Health Secretary, Sarala Grewal; and, the President of Medical Council of India (MCI) Dr. A. K. Sinha. After multiple meetings and detailed planning, the project was launched. The scheme created two offices, one in New Delhi with MCI, headed by Dr. P. S. Rugmini and the other in the Embassy of India in Washington, DC, headed by Dr. S. S. Mathur. Both of these offices were funded by the Government of India. These two offices coordinated with MPI to execute the plan.

For CMEs, the subjects and sites were chosen by the MCI, and the American doctors provided the best available faculty. The selected faculty travelled to India at their own expense. Each seminar was subsidized by the government with 100,000 rupees, which were spent by the host for the conference and for publication of the proceedings. For the equipment donation, both Air India and Shipping Corporation of India provided free transportation. The custom duties on this donated equipment were waived by the government. The equipment was essential for training doctors in the newer technologies. Moreover, the equipment also aided in the treatment of the poor patients attending the government hospitals. The growth of the project in subsequent years was mainly due to the support of Prime Ministers Shree Rajiv Gandhi and Shree Narasimha Rao. During his tenure as the Health Minister, Shree Narasimha Rao actively participated and helped to further the projects.

Encouraged by the USA experience in 1990, I met with then-Prime Minister Shree Narasimha Rao and Health Minister Shree Fotadar with a plan to extend the scheme to UK and Canada. Both of them gave me permission to go forward and assured me of their full cooperation. I visited London, Ottawa and Toronto during 1991-1992. The Indian physicians and both the High Commissioners, Dr. Singhvi of UK and Mr. Mehra of Canada, enthusiastically supported and promptly launched the project..

Many of the over 17,000 physician members of MPI have participated in one or more of these activities. It is due to members' active and aggressive involvement that we could accomplish these achievements. We have a long way to go. We still have to achieve total equality with USMGs. We can do much more to help India in its endeavors to provide modern health care to its citizens and improve its medical education. All this and more can be realized if over 100,000 Physicians of Indian Origin enthusiastically participate in MPI's activities.



**Commissioning ceremony of Dr. Vivek Murthy, the First Indian to be the Surgeon General of USA in December 2014  
Dr. Ravi Jahagirdar, Dr, Jayesh Shah,  
Dr. Suresh Reddy and several other AAPI leaders attended**

# *History of AAPI*

**Ranga Reddy, MD**  
**14th President of AAPI 1997-98**  
**Chair,**  
**AAPI History Task Force**



## **Introduction:**

The journey to the land of opportunities by Physicians of Indian Origin began in the early 1960s and the 1970s and began establishing themselves across the United States. It was tough and challenging for the pioneers to establish practice and find suitable job opportunities in the US. Faced with instances of overt as well as subtle discrimination in Residency recruitment and License Reciprocity, physicians of Indian Origin organized themselves in several states to fight the unfair treatment.

It was first in the State of Michigan that physicians from India formed an association called Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (MAPI) in 1976. Various other organizations such as Indian Medical Association of America Inc., (AMAI) of Washington D.C, India Medical Association of Illinois (IMA, IL), Chicago and Indian Medical Association of New England (IMANE), Boston were founded around the same time.

In 1981, Dr. Ujamlal Kothari, President of MAPI in Detroit, Dr. Navin Shah, President of IMAI in Washington D.C, and several other leaders spearheaded the movement for the creation of a federation of all state level medical associations under one umbrella organization. They all had one aim: helping all the Indian Physicians in the United State to come together under one umbrella for the purpose of addressing and bringing to the attention of state and national bodies in organized Medicine and with the federal Government, the concerns and challenges faced by the Indian American Physicians.

Several leaders of the local Medical Associations from various states met at Dr. Kothari's residence and unanimously agreed to form a National Association comprising of all the State, Specialty, and Alumni Associations. A steering committee was set up to organize a national meeting in August 1982, with Dr. Kothari as chairman, and Dr. Jagan Kakarala, Dr. Ratnakar Kini, Dr. Bhimsen Rao and Dr. Bhanu Shah as members. As those few dedicated leaders from various parts of the country struggled together to form an alliance, little did they realize that their efforts would lead to a great success story!

## **AAPI is Born:**

Organized by the Steering Committee, the first ever national meeting was held in 1983 at Dearborn, Michigan, and hosted by MAPI. Dr. Jagan Kakarala and Dr. Bhimsen Rao drafted the constitution and bylaws for the new association. The other organizations that were present were Alabama Association of Indian Physicians, Association of Indian Urologists, IMA of New England and Indian Physician's Club of Houston. This historic meeting led to the formation of the American Association of Physicians from India (AAPI). Dr. Kothari was elected as the President, Dr. Navin Shah, as vice president, and Dr. Kakarala as the Secretary.

The fledgling organization spent the next few months recruiting members and co-opting other organizations. The second annual convention was held in Boston in June 1984. Thirteen other organizations had joined AAPI by this time. IMA of Illinois was the host for the third annual convention in Chicago in May of 1985. The President of AMA, Dr. Harrison L. Rogers was the chief guest and thus AAPI was introduced to organized medicine. Dr. Navin Shah was elected as the second president. By this time, the number of Foreign Medical Graduates has grown steadily comprising of one-fifth (120,000) of the total physician force in the U.S.

### **Collaboration With Physician Groups From Other Nations:**

Physicians from other countries to the US experienced similar discriminatory issues, and they all found a common ground and a model in AAPI. The fourth annual convention of AAPI was held in Washington, D.C., in June 1986. Dr. Roshan Lal took over as the president. This was co-hosted by the AAPI, the American College of International Physicians (ACIP), Association of Pakistan and Islamic Physicians, Filipino Medical Association and South American Physician Association. A political action committee (PAC) was created on behalf of all the ethnic medical associations to advance the cause of all the FMG's. Keef & Co. was selected as the full-time lobbyist for the group. CME programs were conducted for the first time in India on behalf of AAPI.

The fifth annual convention was held in Atlantic City in June of 1987 under the chairmanship of Dr. Sunder Mansukhani. Thirty-two associations had joined the AAPI by this time. Patron membership was initiated to improve the long-term financial stability of the organization. Dr. Jagan Kakarala was inducted as president and permanent headquarters was established in Flint, Michigan.

### **Growing Steadily and AAPI-PAC:**

With AAPI's efforts, lobbying and collaboration with similar organizations, a Bill was introduced in the U.S. Congress to eliminate discrimination in licensing reciprocity. Fifty local associations had joined AAPI by this time. AAPI was able to raise \$100,000 as part of its Patron Trust Fund.

The sixth annual convention was held in June 1988 in San Francisco and Dr. Suvas Desai became the President. There was some infighting and polarization among the leadership, but AAPI soon overcame these growing pains. The PAC worked successfully addressing the Bills in the Congress.

### **AAPI Charitable Foundation & CMEs:**

The seventh annual convention took place in Orlando, Florida in June, 1989 under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijayanagar. The AAPI Charitable Foundation was established with Dr. Gautham Shah as its first chairman. With the help of the Indian Embassy, medical equipments and technology transfer to India was initiated. Dr. Navin Nanda took over as the President.

AAPI started getting recognition for its activities in continuing medical education (CME) Charitable Foundation and PAC. AAPI's Patron Fund grew to \$200,000. A comprehensive membership directory was published for the first time. There were about 15,000 potential members and more than 50 member organizations. Communication with the membership started to improve through the Newsletter, The General Accounting Office's report, favorably addressing some of the grievances of FMGs, was released.

## **AAPI Board of Trustees:**

The eighth national conference held in Chicago in June 1990, resulted in the formation of the AAPI Board of Trustees (BOT) with the objective of safeguarding the Patron Fund and to maintain fiscal welfare and stability. Dr. Jagan Kakarala was elected as its first chairman of BOT. Dr. Sarjit Singh took over as AAPI President. Dr. Singh traveled around the nation to spread AAPI's message. Seventy associations joined the AAPI and the Patron Fund grew to \$750,000.

The Charitable Foundation, under the chairmanship of Dr. R. Vijayanagar, established free clinics in India in Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The ninth annual convention was held in June 1991. Dr. Vijay Kulkarni was elected as the President and Dr. Enas Enas as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The 10th annual conference was held at AAPI's birthplace, Detroit in July 1992. Vice President of the United States, Dan Quayle was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function. Sen. Glenn and Dr. James Todd of AMA were the guest speakers at the gala banquet. Eighty member organizations now came under the fold of AAPI. The convention was very successful. Dr. Mukkamala chronicled a brief history of AAPI and the book was released during the convention. MAPI donated funds to Rotary International polio project in India through AAPI Charitable Foundation. Dr. Mukkamala Appa Rao was installed as the President and Dr. Nuthi Krishna as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

## **AAPI's New Election System:**

Until then, there was a 'Delegates System' for the election process in AAPI. One delegate was allotted per 10 members of any member organization. As a result, bigger organizations had a major say in the election process. In addition, each patron member also carried one vote. This arrangement resulted in duplication, confusion and room for manipulation. In a historic meeting held in Springfield, Illinois, in October of 1992 General Body adopted a resolution to reduce the number of delegates allotted to each member organization from one to ten, one-to-twenty five, thereby reducing undue influence of big member organizations. Direct individual membership was created and 4,500 members joined AAPI by the end of the year.

The 11th annual convention was held in June 1993 in New Orleans. Dr. George Thomas was installed as the President and Dr. Chander Kapasi as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

During Dr. Thomas's Presidency, a study on Coronary Artery Disease in Indians (CADI) was commissioned by AAPI under the leadership of Dr. Enas Enas, a cardiologist from Chicago by funding \$30,000. Dr. Enas did a great job by bringing awareness among Indians about the increased risk of coronary artery disease.

## **Collaboration With AMA:**

Dr. Thomas met with the AMA Board in 1990 creating productive relationship, and facilitating the name change from "FMG" to International Medical Graduates (IMG) designation. He initiated the AAPI Journal, and served as its first editor. . During the Governing Body meeting in Cincinnati, a decision was made to hire a full time Executive Director.

The 12th annual convention was held in Atlanta in July, 1994. House Speaker Newt Gingrich was the Chief Guest. Dr. Deepak Chopra attracted a large crowd for his inspirational talk. Dr. Gopal Lalmalani assumed the presidency, and Dr. Radhu Agrawal became the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Radhu Agrawal organized a retreat for the members of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee in the fall of 1994 to redefine the role of AAPI leadership and to explore

investment strategy for the Patron Fund, which had reached \$1 million. The Charitable Foundation organized successful music concerts by hosting S. P. Balasubramaniam and raised more than \$100,000. AAPI headquarters of AAPI was shifted to Chicago from Flint, MI

### **A Presidential Gala:**

It was proud moment for AAPI at the 13th annual convention in Chicago in June, 1995 when President Bill Clinton addressed the gathering of 5,000 people. Dr. Lonnie Bristow and Sen. Bill Frist were the guest speakers. The Foundation raised \$200,000 with the help of Lata Mangeshkar music concerts. On behalf of AAPI, Dr. Ranga Reddy and Dr. Satya Ahuja were invited to the White House to meet President Clinton in December 1995. Dr. Venkata S. Ram took over as the President and Dr. Bhimsen Rao as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

With the growth of AAPI also came some misperception about the election process, which created a big ruckus in the general body during the 14th annual convention took place in Boston in July, 1996. AAPI got a lot of negative publicity and AAPI had to endure some more growing pains during this period. AAPI withstood all these troubles and bounced back even stronger. A PAC office was opened in Washington, D. C., with a full-time Director. Dr. Vinod Sawhney was installed as the President and Dr. Krishan Agarwal as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Sawhney started a quarterly AAPI journal to improve the communication with the AAPI membership. Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli, vice president of AAPI appeared before the AMA House of Delegates and spoke about the physician work force and graduate medical education issues. AAPI played a major role in creating the AMA's IMG section. The whole election process was streamlined. The delegate system was abolished and replaced with a one-member-one-vote in the election process.

### **Attracting Large Corporations/AAPI's Legislative Day Begins:**

The 15th annual convention was held in Orlando in June, 1997. Sen. Tom Harkin was the chief guest and Bollywood icon, Sunil Dutt was the guest of honor. The convention was a huge success and helped raise more than \$250,000. This was the starting point for large corporations to take note of AAPI and its growing clout. Dr. Ranga Reddy of Springfield, IL took over as the President and Dr. Vijayanagar as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Under Dr. Ranga Reddy's leadership AAPI Political Action Committee (PAC) was dissolved in order to comply with the regulations under 501-3(C). PAC was replaced with a Legislative Affairs Committee with an office and appointing a full-time Legislative Director, Neil Parekh. AAPI 'Legislative Day' on the Capitol was initiated. The first legislative conference in conjunction with the governing body was a huge success with more than 65 Lawmakers in attendance. A monthly "Presidential Diary" was started to improve communication with the AAPI Membership about the Presidential activities and to offer accountability.

Rep. Frank Pallone introduced the Patient's Bill of Rights based on AAPI's position paper and commended AAPI on the Floor of the US Congress for the first time ever. An IT Committee was created under the chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kolli to make AAPI and its communication online with the modern social media.

An AAPI Patron Trust was created for the Charitable Foundation for long-term financial freedom and AAPI raised \$600,000 under the AAPI-CF Chairman, Dr. Indhra Pandit.

The 16th annual convention was held in the beautiful Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Rep. Pallone, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Nancy Dickey, the first woman president of the AMA, were guest speakers. This convention was a great success and set the standard for future meetings and also brought in profits of more than \$200,000.

## **A Woman President to Lead AAPI:**

Dr. Kalpalatha Guntupalli became the first woman president of the AAPI and Dr. Surendar Purohit was elected as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Guntupalli made several efforts to partner with other mainstream medical organizations. Provisions were made in the bylaws for Medical Students and Residents to have a representation on the AAPI's executive committee. Dr. Guntupalli promoted anti-tobacco smoking campaign in India and elsewhere.

The 17th Annual Convention took place in Los Angeles in June 1999. Indian Member of Parliament, Sushma Swaraj was a special guest. Dr. Satya Ahuja took over as the President and Dr. Dharmapuri Vidyasagar as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Ahuja worked hard to improve patient care in India in collaboration with the Hinduja Foundation. Centralized verification for license reciprocity and for selection of residency positions were initiated.

The 18th annual convention was held in New York in June 2000. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was a special guest at the event. Dr. Dayan Naik was inducted as the President and Dr. Surekha Rao as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. More than 1,500 new members joined AAPI during this year and the Patron Fund reached the two-million-dollar mark. A permanent partnership was initiated between the AAPI and the Pharmaceutical industry. More than \$700,000 was raised for the Gujarat earthquake relief fund.

## **AAPI Given Delegate Status By AMA:**

AAPI received a delegate status with the AMA in 2000. Dr. Ron Virmani won a landmark anti discrimination case against the hospital with the help and advocacy of AAPI. A diabetes study among Indians in America (AAPI-DIA) was undertaken. AAPI came to be recognized around the world for its organizational capacity and service to the motherland. The Indian Counsel General in Durban, South Africa, said: "We (the diplomatic community) hold our AAPI as the standard for all the Indian Diaspora to follow." Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has complemented the AAPI for its contributions to India.

The 20th Annual conference took place in Chicago in June 2002. Sri Sri Ravisankar of the Art of Living Foundation inaugurated the event. US Senator Richard Durbin was the chief guest. For the first time AAPI managed the convention under the leadership of Dr. Kiran Patel without the participation of the local association. The convention did not go well and incurred a huge loss. Dr. Kiran Patel took over the Presidency and Dr. Vijaya Appareddy assumed the Chair of the BOT.

Dr. Kiran Patel and the executive committee promised to balance the budget, and worked hard to cut down the expenses and raise additional revenues. Dr. Appareddy made diligent efforts to streamline the infrastructure and bring accountability to the organization. She created a working manual for the AAPI. Two ten-bed hospitals, sponsored by AAPI were inaugurated in the state of Gujarat in earthquake-stricken areas by Dr. Patel and two more were under construction.

### **AAPI At Pravasi Bharathiya Divas:**

AAPI delegation attended Pravasi Bharathiya Divas held in New Delhi in January 2003. US Congress in its landmark action directed the Center for Disease Control to allot \$500,000 to the AAPI-DIA. The US Congress declared March 29th as "AAPI DAY".

The 21st Annual convention was held in Orlando in June, 2003. Governor Jeb Bush was the chief guest. Dr. Sharad Lakhanpal became President and Dr. Haranath Reddy was elected as the Chair, Board of Trustees. Dr. Lakhanpal organized several CME programs both in US and in India. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated the Lucknow CME program. AAPI charitable clinic was started in Rajasthan. During Parvas Bharathi Divas, AAPI delegation conducted health care seminars and met with several Ministers and President Abdul Kalam and apprised them of various projects undertaken by the AAPI. Financial stability of the organization is increasingly being restored. AAPI membership directory was updated.

The 22nd Annual convention took place at San Diego in July, 2004. Dr. Jagan Ailinani was sworn in as the President and Dr. Anand Sahu as the Chair, Board of Trustees. Dr. Ailinani and the team were faced with problems--pending lawsuit, financial instability, mismanagement of funds and dysfunctional office. They reorganized the office and recovered most of the stolen money from an ex-employee. The lawsuit was dismissed in favor of the AAPI. Several CME programs were conducted both in US and India.

AAPI leadership met Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India and donated \$55,000 to Tsunami disaster relief. On the legislative front, AAPI lobbied the US Congress successfully to extend the J1 visa waiver for the International Medical Graduates. The election of the President-elect was very confusing and ugly. There were three candidates, Dr. Akshay Desai, Dr. Sampath Shivangi and Dr. Bala Subramanyam. Dr. Desai withdrew after the ballots were mailed. There were some allegations about Dr. Shivangi's candidature since he did not have a valid Medical License. Meanwhile the election process was completed and Dr. Shivangi won the election. After further deliberations, arguments and counter arguments Dr. Shivangi withdrew and Dr. Bala Subramanyam was declared elected.

The 23rd Annual convention held in June 2005 in Houston, TX, was very productive and successful. Dr. Ailinani and Dr. Mathur worked hard to put AAPI again on a solid financial footing, raising over \$300,000 in profit for AAPI. Dr. Vijay Koli of San Antonio took over as the President and Dr. Sarala Rao as the Chair of Board of Trustees.

### **AAPI Has Own Office In Oak Brook, Chicago:**

AAPI got its own place and office at Oak Brook, Chicago by purchasing an office space. Dr. Koli and Dr. Sarala Rao worked hard to keep the momentum going in spite of the lawsuits and staff problems at the office. Dr. Vijay Koli traveled extensively to spread the message of AAPI. For the first time AMA admitted the first delegate from AAPI, Dr. Rajam Ramamurthy to its House of Delegates. AAPI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of India for Rural Health Care Initiative. The 24th Annual Convention was celebrated in Atlanta, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Naresh Parikh in July, 2006. Several dignitaries from India and USA graced the occasion. Dr. Bala Subramanyam was installed as the President and Dr. Ram Upadhyay as the Chair Board of Trustees.

Dr. Bala Subramanyam and his team streamlined the expenses and stabilized the office with full time employees. Details of the India Rural Health Initiatives were worked out with Government of India and funding was secured. Many Indian industries joined hands with AAPI for this initiative. The entire State of Andhra Pradesh was covered by a state-of-the-art Ambulances with the grants from the Government of India through the MOU between EMRI and AAPI.

## **Silver Jubilee Of AAPI And Indo-US Global Summit:**

The 25th. (Silver Jubilee) Annual Convention was held in Philadelphia in May, 2007 under the convention Chairmanship of Dr. Hemant Patel. The meeting was very well attended and raised a record profit of \$743,596/- for the organization. Dr. Hemant Patel was installed as the President of AAPI and Dr. Arun Pramanik as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Hemanth Patel established alliances with other medical organizations, media and multicultural organizations and also developed partnership with many Pharmaceutical companies for mutual benefit. The first Indo-US Global Summit was held in New Delhi from December 14-15, 2007. The summit was a huge success with participation of more than 300 delegates from the US. Dr. Patel signed a MOU with Nandi Foundation, a philanthropic organization based in Hyderabad, India to supply clean drinking water to millions of villagers in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan. One of the notable achievements during his term as President was buying a permanent office space in Oak Brook, Illinois with a cost of \$290,000/ from the convention income.

Dr. Patel was invited to address the first-ever Pravasi Bharatiya Divas meet organized by the Government of India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. He met Indian President Mrs. Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and appraised them of AAPI and the health care issues that AAPI has been undertaking in India. They both were very appreciative of the work AAPI has been doing. Women's Healthcare Summit was organized in Houston to address their health care issues. The 26th. Annual convention was held at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas in July 2008. Dr. Surender Sanku Rao was installed as the President and Dr. Rajendra Gupta as the Chair, Board of Trustees.

Dr. Sanku Rao during his Presidency streamlined AAPI's budget and implemented strict discipline and guidelines. By the end of his term, he improved the financial status of AAPI from deep negative balance to significant positive balance. Thanks to Dr. Rajendra Gupta, Chair of BOT for safeguarding the Patron Funds during 2008 stock market meltdown by the timely liquidating of the Stocks.

## **Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin Launched:**

After completing the AAPI presidency, Dr. Sanku Rao co-founded the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO) to bring together all the physicians of Indian Origin around the world together to improve the quality of healthcare and to offer access to healthcare in underserved areas in India. AAPI and GAPIO teamed up and continue to work together to make a bigger impact in the healthcare arena.

During the Annual convention in Orlando, Dr. Vinod Shah became the President and Dr. Sanath Gandhi as the Chair of Board of Trustees in 2008. Dr. Vinod Shah has been an active member of AAPI since its formation and served as the President during 2008-09 and facilitated the Research Grant of \$500,000 from Federal Budget. In 2004 AAPI office lost all the employees. Dr. Shah maintained the Office for a period of six months utilizing the services of his own office staff. Later Ms. Vijaya Kodali was recruited to run the office.



## **AAPI Gets ACCME Accreditation**

Dr. Ajeeth Sanghvi helped a significant number of young physicians to become members of AAPI. Leadership seminars were held in many places across the nation. His internship program helped the young physicians to learn about health care policy and legislation. For the first time in history of AAPI, AAPI has become ACCME accredited and has provided CME on its own. ACCME accreditation was provided to the educational events of the local chapters. This turned out to be a great outreach effort and was very much appreciated by the members. The first automatic external defibrillator was installed at the Indian Consulate in New York. The 4th GHS in Jaipur was a great success. Projects for early detection and management of cervical cancer, prevention of oral cancer, prevention of blindness in young children were established. India specific guidelines for medical tourism and organ transplants were created.

The annual convention took place in New York in June, 2010 and Dr. Sunitha Kanumury was installed as the President and Dr. Satish Anand as the Chair of the Board of the Trustees. As President, Dr. Kanumury continued her initiatives she had started several years ago, known as "AAPI Connects! Enhance your profession, advance your career and enrich your community" She made a commitment to strengthen and empower the local Chapters raising their status, supporting their activities and highlighting their accomplishments. Dr. Kanumury collaborated with AMA (American Medical Association) to lobby the Congress on behalf of the medical fraternity.

During the annual Convention held at Long Beach, California in June, 2011, Dr. Narendra Kumar took over the Presidency and Dr. Durgesh Mankikar as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. With zeal to overcome the financial burdens on AAPI, Dr. Kumar organized a Ten-City Musical program to raise funds for the organization. He also collaborated with many pharmaceutical companies for mutual benefit. He raised funds for various causes both in India and in US including a record 1.6 million for AAPI and 1.4 million for the Hindu temple of Saginaw.

At the annual convention in Chicago in 2012 with lot of pomp and show, where Senate Majority leader Harry Reid and Senator Richard Durbin and Indian Union Minister Vayalar Ravi graced the occasion, Dr. Jayesh Shah was inducted as the President and Dr. Surendra Purohit as the Chair of BOT temporarily until Dr. Matha Arun and Dr. Sashi Shah shared that position for the rest of the term.

Dr. Jayesh Shah initiated Adopt a School - "Be fit- Be Cool" AAPI childhood obesity awareness program in 100 schools all over the USA. A strategic planning (Vision 2020) meeting was held in New York City on August 17, 2013. AAPI's Health Care Symposium took place on September 18, 2013 in Washington, DC during which immigration reform and healthcare policy were discussed. Nearly two dozen US lawmakers addressed the meeting, pledging support to AAPI's legislative agenda: Clearing the backlog of Green Cards for skilled workers; Reforming the H-1B, J-1, and F-1 visas; and, Expansion of STEM (Science Technology Math Engineering) to include Physicians. The Global Healthcare Summit (GHS 2014) was held at Ahmedabad. The occasion was graced by prominent dignitaries including: Hon. Dr. Abdul J Kalam, Hon. Narendra Modi, Hon. Vayalar Ravi, Hon Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

## **AAPI's Young Physician Winter Convention:**

AAPI's first ever Young physician winter convention was organized in Miami which is being continued annually. During AAPI convention in San Antonio Dr. Ravi Jahagirdhar was inducted as the President and Dr. Ajit Singhvi as the Chair of BOT.

Dr. Ravi Jahagirdhar initiated the Training and Mentorship at the Yale University, with the goal of bringing the AAPI Leadership into mainstream Medical organizations. AAPI attended Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's Reception at the Madison Square Garden, New York. AAPI was made an advisor for the Licensing Reciprocity given to Indian Doctors' Diaspora.

At the Global Health Summit in Mumbai, AAPI initiated a program for Traumatic Brain Injury, witnessed by the superstar Shri Amitabh Bachchan, who donned a helmet to lead by example for preventive action. A rural project in Jharkhand for the First Responder training of Police personnel became a template for the future, saving countless lives. Union Health Minister, Shri. Jagdish Nadda, Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Vidyasagar Rao and the Chief Minister, Shri Devendra Fadnavis participated at the event. The CEO Forum was enthusiastically attended by captains of Industry, Pharmaceuticals and Hospital Systems.

### **Indian American Is the US Surgeon General:**

The AAPI leadership worked hard lobbying with Lawmakers for the confirmation of Dr. Vivek Murthy, an AAPI member, as the Surgeon General of the United States. At the Annual Convention in Orlando in June 2016, Shri Kailash Satyarthi, India's Nobel Prize Winner for his "Bachpan Bacho Andolan" ("Save the Children") movement, Dr. Vivek Murthy, the new US Surgeon General, and Shri Preet Bharara, Esq., the Attorney General from Southern District of New York and the mystic Sri Sri Ravi Shankar of the "Art of Living" participated. Dr. Seema Jain was inducted as the President and Dr. Aravind Pillai as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Seema Jain organized the Global Health Care Summit in Delhi. Notable achievements during her Presidency included: First ever Women's Leadership Forum at GHS 2016, new alliance between AIIMS and AAPI for the Research Competition, signing of MOU between the TB Union, DMA and AAPI to address resistant TB and launching of the new Scientific journal. She started AAPI & Your Health, a community outreach on TV Asia. She also initiated Nine City Regional Educational Program and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in sponsorship. She held discussions with President Bill Clinton to collaborate on AAPI initiatives on TB and obesity. India Corporate Internship Program was announced by the Government of India.

The 34th annual AAPI Convention in New York City featured several prominent leaders including CNN's Fareed Zakaria. For the first time in the history of the AAPI, Vice President of AAPI was appointed as the President, as there was no eligible candidate as per the Bylaws. Dr. Ajay Lodha moved up to become the President and Dr. Madhu Agrawal as the Chair of Board of Trustees.

### **Continuing Healthcare Initiatives in India:**

The Global Health Summit under the leadership of Dr. Lodha, was held in Udaipur. He made the organization vibrant, strong and politically powerful and provided significant profits for the organization. Dr. Lodha was part of a coalition that built a state-of-the-art 11-bed Surgical Intensive Care Unit for the Government Hospital in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India where free care is given. He helped organize numerous Health Fairs, Blood Pressure Screenings, and Medical Awareness programs and delivery of educational materials to churches, temples, and senior centers. He was appointed a member of the Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos's Advisory Council in 2015. Currently, he is fighting bravely with COVID and has overcome adversity with a smile and exceptional resilience.

AAPI's Annual convention in Atlantic City had a touch of brilliance with engaging educational and riveting entertainment events with delicious delicacies, creating life long memories to cherish. Dr. Gautam Samaddar took over the Presidency and Dr. Ashok Jain as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Samaddar was instrumental in the formation of AAPI Indian Sleep Society. AAPI Global Healthcare Summit in Kolkata during his term was a huge success with opening of the first Charitable Foundation Clinic in West Bengal. The Summit was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, Hon.Mr. Venkaiah Naidu who acknowledged AAPI's initiatives of traumatic brain injury guidelines, training of first responders and engaging local authorities to address major causes of road fatalities. During his tenure as President he promoted academia among medical students, residents and fellows. AAPI raised \$ 100K to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey and another \$ 100K to support the Lymphoma and Leukemia societies.

The 2018 Annual Convention took place in Columbus Ohio with lots of fun and fanfare. Dr. Naresh Parikh was sworn in as the President and Dr. Ajith Kothari as the Chair of Board of Trustees. Dr. Parikh had served as the Chairman of AAPI Annual Convention in 2007, Member of AAPI Board of Trustees, Chair of Ethics and Grievance Committee and Awards Committee. To his credit Dr. Parikh is the only AAPI leader elected unanimously at every level to become President in 2018. He organized several musical programs raising large sums of money for AAPI. Some of the major achievements during his Presidency are: signing of MOU with USAID for Ten City pilot projects for TB free India. Dr. Parikh is also involved with Thalassemia Major Project. He has collaborated with Associations of Pakistani Physicians and Bangladesh Physicians in North America to work collectively with the Legislators to promote membership interests.

### **AAPI Has Special Guests: President & Vice President of India:**

The 2018 GHS in Mumbai was a joint exercise with GAPIO and was inaugurated by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. During the Annual Convention in Atlanta in July, 2019, Dr. Suresh Reddy was installed as the President and Dr. Seema Arora as the Chair Board of Trustees.

Dr. Suresh Reddy organized several CME programs and many family tours to Alaska, Hawaii, Israel, Jordan and Antarctica. He recruited many subchapters of AAPI as patron members. He streamlined entire AAPI Bylaws and made necessary changes. He also established an endowment fund of \$300,000, to run the AAPI office. Global Health Summit was conducted in Hyderabad in July, 2019 which was a huge success, attracting many delegates from USA and India.

Several Hours of CME programs were conducted by world renowned faculty. Main focus was on prevention of childhood obesity and saving lives by proper CPR training and techniques. Vice President of India Hon. Venkaiah Naidu and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

### **Overcoming Challenges of COVID:**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Reddy helped raise funds to provide facemasks and other PPEs on behalf of AAPI. Under his leadership, AAPI honored more than 10,000 nurses all over America for their selfless services on the front line. He conducted 60 webinars with more than 250 world renowned speakers. AAPI provided more than 1,000 prescriptions for stranded Indian visitors due to Covid -19. During the Virtual Covid-19 summit AMA presidents, Susan Bailey and Patricia Harris, US Surgeon General Jerome Adams, Congressman Raja Krishna Moorthy, Soumya Swaminathan from World Health Organization and Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi addressed the AAPI members virtually. At the virtual transfer of gavel which happened for the first time in the history of AAPI, Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda was installed as the President and Dr. Sajani Shah as the Chair of Board of Trustees.

## The Future:

Over the past 37 years, AAPI has evolved into a pioneer National Organization to advocate and promote the interests of Physicians of Indian Origin. Today it is the premier ethnic Medical organization in the United States with a potential membership of 100,000 Doctors and 40,000 Medical Students, Residents and Young Physicians. The future of this organization is in the hands of our young Physicians. Building the nexus between the slowing down seniors and energetic young physicians should be the priority now. Much is expected from the AAPI's MSR/YPS Section and its visionary leaders to carry out the legacy of their parents. Hope the current leadership will seize the opportunity and facilitate the transition!!

## *Future leaders of AAPI*



# Presidential Reception July 2019



**Incoming President Dr. Suresh Reddy congratulating  
the outgoing President Dr. Naresh Parikh  
on his successful completion of his Presidency**



**Incoming BOT Chair Dr. Seema Arora and  
Incoming President Dr. Suresh Reddy**

# **Global Health Summit Dec 2018 With President Ram Nath Kovind**



**Sitting L-R: Dr. Ravi Jahagirdar, Dr. Naresh Parikh, President Ram Nath Kovind, Governor of MH Vidyasagar Rao, CM Devendra Fadnavis, Dr. Ramesh Mehta (BAPIO), Dr. Sampat Shivangi  
Standing L-R: Dr. Raj Bhayani, Dr. Asha Parikh, Dr. Udaya Shivangi, Dr. Surendra Purohit, Dr. Suresh Reddy**

## **Fall Governing Body meeting Oct 2019, St Louis**



**Sitting L-R: Dr. Ravi Kolli, Dr. Seema Arora, Dr. Surendra Purohit, Dr. Ranga Reddy, Dr. Gautam Samadder, Dr. Ravi Jahagirdar, Dr. Sanku Surender Rao  
Standing L-R: Dr. Ajay Lodha, Dr. Jadish Gupta, Dr. Raj Bhayani, Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Dr. Suresh Reddy, Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Dr. Amit Chakrabarty**

# Global Health Summit July 2019, Hyderabad



**Sitting L-R: Dr. Suresh Reddy, Dr. Jagan Ailinani, Dr. Ajay Lodha, Hon. Vice President Sri Venkaiah Naidu, Dr. Pratap Reddy, Dr. Ranga Reddy, Dr. Ravi Jahagirdar, Dr. Surendra Purohit, Dr. Sanku Surender Rao  
Standing L-R: Dr. Raj Bhayani, Dr. Ravi Kolli, Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, Dr. Dwaraknatha Reddy**



**Sitting L-R: Dr. Seema Arora, Dr. Jagan Ailinani, Dr. Ranga Reddy, Dr. Ravi Jahagirdar, Dr. Suresh Reddy, Union Health Minister: Dr. Harshavardhan, Telangana State Health Minister: Etela Rajender, Dr. Sanku Surender Rao, Dr. Ajay Lodha, Dr. Surendra Purohit  
Standing L-R: Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, Dr. Dwarakantah Reddy (Convenor, GHS)**

# **AAPI PAST CHAIRS**

## **Board of Trustees**



**Jagan R. Kakarala, MD**  
**1990-91**



**Enas Enas, MD**  
**1991-92**



**Srikrishna Nuthi, MD**  
**1992-93**



**Chander Kapasi, MD**  
**1993-94**



**Radhu Agrawal, MD**  
**1994-95**



**Bhimsen S. Rao, MD**  
**1995-96**



**Krishan Aggarwal, MD**  
**1996-97**



**R. Vijayanagar, MD**  
**1997-98**



**Surendra K. Purohit, MD**  
**1998-99**



# AAPI PAST CHAIRS

## Board of Trustees



**D. Vidyasagar, MD**  
1999-2000



**Surekha Rao, MD**  
2000-01



**Rajam Ramamurthy, MD**  
2001-02



**Vijaya Appareddy, MD**  
2002-03



**Haranatha Reddy, MD**  
2003-04



**Anand Sahu, MD**  
2004-05



**Sarala Rao, MD**  
2005-06



**Ram S. Upadhyay, MD**  
2006-07



**Arun K. Pramanik, MD**  
2007-08

# AAPI PAST CHAIRS

## Board of Trustees



**Rajendra Gupta, MD**  
2008-09



**Sanat Gandhi, MD**  
2009-10



**Ashok Fulambarker, MD**  
2010-11



**Satish Anand, MD**  
2011-12



**Durgesh Mankikar, MD**  
2012-13



**M.S. Arun, MD**  
2013-14 (AUG'13  
-JAN'14)



**Shashi Shah, MD**  
JAN 15 2014  
- JUNE 2014



**Ajeet Singhvi, MD**  
2014-15



**Arvind Pillai, MD**  
2015-16

# AAPI PAST CHAIRS

## Board of Trustees



**Madhu Aggarwal, MD**  
2016-17



**Ashok Jain, MD**  
2017-18



**Ajeet Kothari, MD**  
2018-19



## **Seema Arora, MD**

**31st Chair of BOT**

**2019-20**

Dr. Arora is a board certified Internist specialized in Addiction Medicine and Medical Aesthetics practicing in Massachusetts. She graduated from Lady Harding Medical College and did her residency from Harvard North Shore Medical Center and Mass General Hospitals in MA.

During her term as Chair Board of Trustees of AAPI in 2019-20, BOT worked as an efficient team with the Executive Committee, Charitable Foundation, YPS and MSRF and overachieved every goal of the organization in spite of the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. BOT were actively involved in all AAPI events and promoted the Obesity Awareness and CPR Training term goals. They helped increase membership by visiting various local chapters. Trustees actively participated in conducting virtual educational webinars and CME lectures during the pandemic, collaborating with national and global organizations like AMA, GAPIO, BAPIO and IMA.

Trustees also played a crucial role in the first ever 'AAPI Virtual Global Summit' conducted in June 2020! BOT contributed and raised large funds in COVID-19 fundraiser. In spite of adversity, the BOT investment portfolio had positive income and a new \$ 300,000 endowment fund was established during this term. AAPI office expenses were reduced tremendously. BOT loans to EC were returned. Thus AAPI not only achieved financial stability but also laid financial foundation to build on for future years. BOT efficiently carried out its fiduciary responsibility and actively mediated various internal disputes.

# *History of AAPI BOT*

## **Dr. Krishan Aggarwal** **7th Chair of BOT of AAPI**



The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) was founded in 1982 by a group of Physicians of Indian Origin, under the visionary leadership of Drs. Ujamlal Kothari, Dr. Navin Shah, Jagan Kakarala, Ratnakar Kini, Bhimsen Rao & Bhanu Shah. Dr. Kakarala & Dr. Rao drafted the original Constitution & Bylaws of AAPI. Dr. Kothari became the first President, while Dr. Navin Shah was the first Vice President, and Dr. Kakarala was the first Secretary of AAPI.

The organization grew rapidly, offering the physicians of Indian Origin with a platform to voice their concerns by coming together for the noble causes that had led to the formation of AAPI.

With growth and expansion, AAPI began to experience some growing pains, and members had concerns. The AAPI Board of Trustees (BOT) was created in 1990 during the 8th annual convention in Chicago. A thousand Dollar (\$1000) AAPI Lifetime membership was created. Dr. Kakarala was elected as the first Chair of BOT. He along with Dr. Surjit Singh, AAPI President at the time, traveled across the nation to spread AAPI's message & and to encourage many to become life members of AAPI, and thus helping AAPI's Life Membership Fund to grow to \$750,000.

BOT was constituted with the main goals of safe keeping the Patron Fund, to advise the AAPI Executive Committee on long range planning and to act as the ultimate authority in case of dissolution of the organization. BOT continues to pay an advisory role regarding the physical welfare and the operations of the AAPI. The Board of Trustees also acts as mediators in case of a dispute among officers and members, seeking to resolve the issues in the best interest of the organization.

The BOT's main role is to safeguard the Patron Fund and advise the Executive committee. The BOT works in collaboration with the AAPI President and other members of the Executive Committee. The fiduciary responsibility of AAPI lies with the Board of Trustees, and thus, the Trustees are required to interfere in case the organization is deviating from its main objective. Also, the past Chair of Board of Trustees will become Chair of the Election Committee for the upcoming year and will oversee the AAPI Election process along with other members of the Election Committee.

**AAPI's Board of Trustees has a total of Nine Members and are elected by the General Body Members for a period of three years on a rotation basis. The Chair of the Board of Trustees is elected by the Board Members for a One Year term. The Chair of the BOT is an Ex-Officio of the AAPI Executive Committee and President of AAPI is Ex-Officio of the Board of Trustees as nonvoting members.**

**The members of the Board of Trustees are expected to be knowledgeable, mature, experienced with organizational skills, and always have the best interest of AAPI at heart.**



**Sitting L-R: Dr. Sapna agarwal, Dr. Sajani Shah, Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan, Dr. Chander Kapasi, Standing L-R: Dr. Krishan Kumar, Dr. Raj Bhayani, Dr. Ashok Jain, Dr. Ram Upadhyay, Dr. Seema Arora, Dr. Surendra Purohit, Dr. Radhu Agarwal, Dr. Shashi Shah, Dr Durgesh Mankikar**



**Standing L-R: Dr. Ashok Jain, Dr. Ram Upadhyay, Dr. Seema Arora, Dr. Chander Kapasi, Dr. Surendra Purohit, Dr. Radhu Agarwal, Dr. Shashi Shah, Dr Durgesh Mankikar**

# *History of AAPI Charitable Foundation*

**Dr. Chander M. Kapasi**

**Chair of AAPI-CF**

**2018-20**



AAPI was established in August, 1982 when Dr. Ujamlal Kothari was appointed as the President and Drs. Jagan Kakarala, Ratnakar Kini, Bhimsen Rao & Bhanu Shah as its members of the Executive Committee. Dr. Kakarala & Dr. Rao helped draft the first constitution and bylaws for AAPI.

The AAPI Charitable Foundation was conceived in 1989 by a group of far thinking and well-meaning AAPI physicians in collaboration with the governing and general body membership. AAPI-CF is a registered 501(c) (3) charitable arm of the Association in the state of Arizona to keep the Foundation's contributions separate from the operational accounts of the AAPI. Dr. Gautam Shah of Phoenix, Arizona served as the first Chair of the Foundation.

The prime objective of all the Foundation has been to raise funds to support the Foundation's Charitable Projects. By the time Dr. Vijayanagar became the Chair, the Charitable Foundation offered support to two clinics, one in Punjab and the other in Ammanpatti village, near Bangalore. Subsequently, AAPI Charitable Foundation opened a third charitable clinic in Bombay on December 02, 1991. Since these early days, AAPI-CF is now supporting seventeen clinics across India.

In 1997, when Dr. Ranga Reddy was the AAPI President and Dr. Indra Pandit was the Chair of the Charitable Foundation, a Patron Trustee Membership was launched for AAPI-CF. With each Trustee paying \$10,000.00, the Foundation received an additional \$600,000 for its charitable programs.

In the early days, the Foundation assisted with the transfer of technology and much needed medical equipment to India. From these small beginnings, AAPI-CF expanded its charitable goals. Currently, AAPI-CF is supporting charitable causes and relief activities both in the US and in India. It is also providing much needed medical and preventive care to the local communities across the US through its regional associations and in India where it is supporting 17 clinics: Gurgaon, Jammu, Kabir Nagar, Hospet, Jagtial, Kartarpur, Visnagar, Mandi, Jagani, Ammapettai, Ellayapalle, Rozda, Kochi, Van Bantzu, Ponta and Kolkata.

Several AAPI members have visited these AAPI-CF charitable clinics and regularly run health camps in clinics in India. They also conduct educational programs on health, hygiene, nutrition, and life support trainings. Groups of Medical Students and Residents spent time serving the local communities and offer healthcare to the needy. The experiences of these visiting physicians have been most gratifying to both the care giver and the receiver.

Over the past three decades, Dr. Indra Pandit, Dr. Bhimsen Rao, Dr. Sukhdev Sharma, Dr. Radhu Agarwal, Krishan Aggarwal, Dr. Sashi Shah, Dr. Brahma Sharma, Dr. Nick Shroff, Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Dr. Madhu Aggarwal and Dr. Chander Kapasi have served the Foundation with distinction.

During her term as Chair, Dr. Chander Kapasi published a perpetual calendar on "Women's Health" to commemorate and honor a magnanimous donation made by Dr. Hansa Topiwala. She helped raise significant funds for AAPI COVID-19 Relief Fund. She has been instrumental in making four of her physician family members as Patron Trustees of the Foundation. Dr. Surendra Purohit will assume charge as the Chairman of the Foundation in July 2020.



Standing L-R: Dr. Sajani Shah, Dr. Chander Kapasi, Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan, Dr. Radhu Agarwal, Dr. Sapna Agarwal, Dr. Surendra Purohit, Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, Dr. Ajith Kothari, Dr. Vijaya Appareddy, Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, Dr. Kusum Punjabi, Dr. Ashok Fulambarker, Dr. Seema Arora, Dr. Durgesh Mankikar, Dr. Sanath Gandhi, Dr. Ajeeth Singhvi, Dr. Pooja Kinkhabwala, Dr. Shobha Gupta, Dr. Roshan Shah

# **AAPI Endowment Fund**

## **Anupama Gotimukula, MD**

**Pediatric Anesthesiology  
San Antonio  
President- Elect, 2020-21  
President 2021-22**



Over the years, AAPI activities have grown significantly. But the financial growth of AAPI has been slow and it's been challenging to meet the daily needs to run the office and support its ancillary staff.

The basic office/operational expenses range from \$ 250 K to \$350 K annually. The current Patron Funds of \$2.5 Million are able to support our Office only 50% and the remaining comes from sponsorships and other fund raising activities and events.

For safe and efficient functioning of AAPI operations, an Endowment Fund of at least \$5 million is needed to self-sufficiently support and run the office!

Attaining the financial stability would thereby help the leadership to focus on many more productive activities and help achieve the vision , mission and goals of AAPI and not merely divert the leadership focus in raising funds to meet the operational costs.

Hence the Membership Committee, Executive Committee and Governing Body have jointly decided to introduce this year an Exclusive Endowment Benefactor Fund to support the smooth functioning of AAPI's daily operations. No future President should be left behind" to struggle to raise funds to run the AAPI office.

We proudly announce for first time in the history of AAPI under the presidency of Dr. Suresh Reddy, the AAPI "Operations" Endowment Fund is established with an initial investment of \$ 300,000 with Raymond James.



Our goal is to generate 2.5 million in Endowment Fund in next 5 years and add this to the 2.5 million current Patron Fund to make a 5 million Patron funds which would help support AAPI office expenses

AAPI truly appreciates the generous donations from the following Premium benefactor donor members and thank you for your generosity, support and patriotism to AAPI.

### **Premium Benefactor Endowment Award**

**MOST VALUED PATRON PLUS DONOR NAMED AWARDS**

**\$250,000 DONOR: LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**\$200,000 DONOR: DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN AWARD**

**\$200,000 DONOR: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

**\$150,000 DONOR: DISTINGUISHED YOUNG PHYSICIAN AWARD**

**\$150,000 DONOR: DISTINGUISHED MSRF AWARD (MSRF: Medical Students, Residents, Fellows)**

**“DONOR NAMED AWARD”:** The donor gives the award personally to the recipient during the Annual Convention every year along with other special privileges provided to the Donor as mentioned in the Diamond Benefactor level (MVP)

Donor Benefactors can be Individual members/ Organizations Donor Benefactor Level can be upgraded to higher levels anytime by paying the difference for the next level.

### **DIAMOND Donor Benefactor/ Most Valued Patron (MVP):**

#### **\$100,000 Donation**

- Name on the Wall of Fame in AAPI Headquarters, Chicago
- Special Jacket engraved as “AAPI Diamond Benefactor (Most Valued Patron – MVP)”
- Name Recognition on AAPI Website, Journals/Souvenir for Life
- Complimentary Full-page Advertisement in the Convention Souvenir for Life
- Complimentary Free Registration for 2 (spouse or designated other) at the Annual Convention for Life
- Exclusive Designated Prime Seating for 2 (Spouse or designated other) at every AAPI Annual Convention at reserved MVP Table in the Front Row/President row (Stage Width)
- Name Recognition Announcement at every Annual AAPI Convention as Diamond Donor Benefactor on Friday Dinner Gala.

### **PLATINUM Donor Benefactor (VVVIP): \$50,000 Donation**

- Name on the Wall of Fame at AAPI Headquarters, Chicago
- Special Rosette Badge with designation as "Platinum Donor Benefactor"
- Name Recognition on AAPI website, Journals/ Souvenir for Life
- Complimentary Half Page Advertisement in the Souvenir for Life
- Exclusive designated seating for 2 (couple or designated other) at every Annual AAPI Convention at reserved VVVIP Table in 2nd row/ President-Elect row (Stage width)
- Convention Registration for 2 (spouse or designated other) at 50% discount every Annual Convention
  - Name announced at every Annual AAPI convention as Platinum Donor Benefactor at Friday Lunch Event

### **GOLD Donor Benefactor (VVIP): \$25,000 Donation**

- Name on the Wall of Fame at AAPI Headquarters, Chicago
- Special Rosette Badge with designation as "Gold Donor Benefactor"
- Name Recognition on AAPI website/ Journals/ Souvenir for Life
- Complimentary Quarter Page Advertisement in the Convention Souvenir for Life
- Exclusive designated seating for 2 (Spouse or designated other) at every Annual Convention at reserved VVIP Table- 3rd row/ Vice-President row (Stage width)
  - Convention Registration for 2 (spouse or designated other) at 25% discount at every Annual Convention for Life
  - Payment may be extended over three years with first year payment above \$10,000
  - Name mentioned at Thursday Dinner Gala during Convention

### **SILVER Donor Benefactor (VIP): \$10,000 Donation**

- Name on the Wall of Fame at AAPI Headquarters, Chicago
- Special Rosette Badge with designation as "Silver Donor Benefactor"
- Exclusive designated seating for 2 (Spouse or designated other) at every annual Convention at reserved VIP table- BOT/ RD/ Past BOT chairs/ Past Presidents/4th row
- Honorable mention in the convention souvenir, website and AAPI Journal for Life
- Registration for 2 (couple or designated other) with 10% Discount for life
- Payable over 2 years with first year payment of over \$5,000
  - Name announced at every Annual AAPI convention as Silver Donor Benefactor at Thursday Lunch Event

# Virtual Summit June 2020

## Guest Speakers

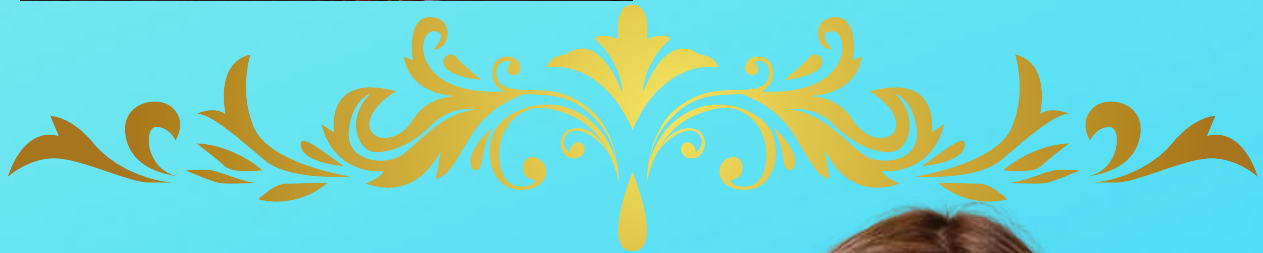
**Dr. Susan Bailey, President, AMA**  
**Dr. Jerome Adams, Surgeon General, USA**  
**Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist WHO**



**Best wishes from the  
President and Chair BOT  
2020-2021**



**Sudhakar  
Jonnalagadda, MD  
37th President of AAPI  
2020-21**



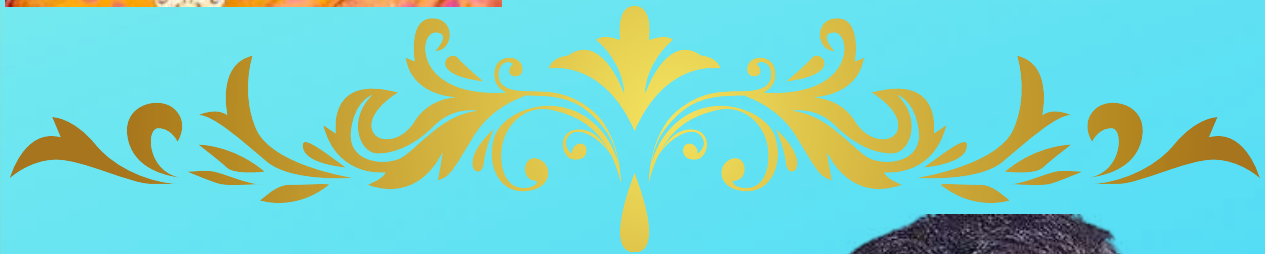
**Sajani Shah , MD  
32nd Chair of BOT of AAPI  
2020-21**



**Best wishes from the  
CONFIRMED PRESIDENTS**



**Anupama  
Gotimukula, MD  
38th President of AAPI  
2021-22**



**Ravi Kolli, MD  
39th President of AAPI  
2022-23**





*Thakar Financial, LLC is built on principles of strong work ethics, integrity and placing client's interest first. We strive to provide exceptional service to our clients and never forget that our success lies in the success of our clients.*

We are pleased to announce the opening of our new office in Clearwater, Florida. Since our inception 26 years ago in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, we have been proud to serve many Non-Profit organizations, Physicians, and High-Net-Worth individuals like you.

We look forward to many more years of working together.

*For all your "Financial Health and Wealth" check-ups, please contact us at 727-677-9700 or [girish.thakar@raymondjames.com](mailto:girish.thakar@raymondjames.com).*



Left to right: Girish Thakar, M.S, MBA, AWMA®, President, Registered Principal - RJFS;  
Sonia Chowdhry, MBA, Associate;

### **Thakar Financial, LLC**

611 Druid Rd E, Suite 403  
Clearwater, FL - 33756  
Tel: 727-677-9700  
Fax: 727-677-9705

Email: [girish.thakar@raymondjames.com](mailto:girish.thakar@raymondjames.com)  
[www.raymondjames.com/ThakarFinancial](http://www.raymondjames.com/ThakarFinancial)

## Here to help protect what matters most



### **Specialized working with IT/Healthcare professionals and Business owners:**

- Life insurance
- Tax\*advantaged retirement savings
- Fixed immediate and deferred annuities
- Long term care insurance
- Disability income insurance<sup>^</sup>
- Mortgage protection using Life insurance

### **Satya Radha Rangaraju**

**Licensed Agent, New York Life Insurance Company**

CA Insurance License #OM76547

Arkansas Insurance License # 17403251

20 North Martingale Road, Suite 400 Schaumburg, IL 60173

**Virtual office @**

[nylife.zoom.us/my/satyaradha](https://nylife.zoom.us/my/satyaradha)

**Prepare today so you can enjoy tomorrow even more.**

**I'm here to help you @ (847) 660-9241**

<sup>^</sup>Products available through one or more carriers not affiliated with New York Life; dependent on carrier authorization and product availability in your state or locality

\*Neither New York Life Insurance Company, nor its agents, provides tax, legal, or accounting advice. Please consult your own tax, legal, or accounting professional before making any decisions.

---

Dr. Prem Reddy is  
pleased to be a  
**Platinum Sponsor**  
of the

American Association of Physicians  
of Indian Origin



**Prem Reddy**, MD, FACC, FCCP  
Chairman, President & CEO  
Prime Healthcare



Prime Healthcare

Learn more at  
[www.primehealthcare.com](http://www.primehealthcare.com)



*Best wishes from Dr. Prem Reddy to all the  
Past Presidents and  
Past Chairs of BOT of AAP!*



*Best wishes from ATG Tours to all the  
Past Presidents and  
Past Chairs of BOT of AAPI*

