



Indian Doctors Association

Greater Houston

March 2020 Edition

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President's Message

IDA's 2nd Annual CME Conference on Saturday February 8th, 2020 was a sold out event with over 140 guests at The Houstonian Hotel & Spa. The conference featured engaging sessions from accomplished speakers in the fields of medicine, healthcare administration, and wellness.

The conference consisted of 3 sessions led by expert panelists who posed through provoking questions to the speakers which allowed for an interactive and engaging learning experience for all attendees. The Competitive Trivia Punch Bowl session was hosted by Richard Cunningham and Dr. Rakesh Patel.

Session 1: Evolution of Medicine included senior corporate Counsel Divya Reddy of Houston Methodist Hospital & CEO and Senior Vice President Kyle Price of Memorial Hermann SE & Pearland Hospital. Panelists Dr. Charles P. Mouton, Executive Vice President, Provost, and Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch; Dr. Stephen Spann, Founding Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice-President for Medical Affairs at the University of Houston; Paul Smith of Physician Resources Services; and Jerald

Broussard, Managing Director and CEO of Growth Advisors Int. drove the discussion about the future and business of healthcare.



Session 2: Hot Topics included discussions on clinical practices with Dr. Rajan Kadakia, Interventional Cardiologist; Dr. Kriti Mohan, Plastic Surgeon; and Dr. Snehal Desai, Radiation Oncologist. Panelists consisted of academic professors from the University of Houston's College of Medicine; Dr. David S. Buck, Associate Dean for Community Health; Dr. Ruth Bush, Associate Dean for Medical Education; and Dr. Donald Briscoe, Director of the Longitudinal Primary Care Course.



Session 3: Learning from the experts included hands on session workshops from Dr. Ragini Miryala, Pediatrician and Dr. Radheshyam Miryala, Emergency Medicine which qualified for ethics CME credits from the Heartfulness Institute. Panel was led by Dr. Shehzad Merwat, Medical Director, Transplant Hepatology at The University of

Texas Medical Branch. Remaining panelists included IDA board members Dr. Prashant Gajwani, Psychiatrist; Dr. Nilesh Patel, Psychiatrist; & Dr. Neeta Shukla Anesthesiologist.



**Photograph credits courtesy of Danny Nguyen.*

*Jignesh Shah, MD
President*

Upcoming Events!

Mission Trip: March 6-14



Memorial Networking Mixer



IDA Spring Picnic: April 5th



IDA's Annual Gala: May 2nd

Tickets can be purchased at www.idahouston.org



MEMBERS CORNER

New Annual Member
Gulshan Sharma, MD, MPH, FCCP

Dr. Sharma completed his medical school training in India and came to the United States in 1995 to an externship at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) which allowed him to complete his medical degree. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan and stayed an additional year as a chief resident.

For his pulmonary and critical care medicine fellowship, he moved to the East Coast and joined Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut. Always interested in outcomes research, he was fortunate to benefit from good mentoring, which enabled him to hone his skills and ultimately earn a Master's degree in Public Health at Yale University while completing his fellowship training.

In 2004, he and his wife, along with two small children, decided to return to the Houston area where he joined UTMB's Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care as an assistant professor. During his tenure at UTMB, he has served as medical director of the MICU/CCU and the Texas Department of Correctional Justice's Hospital Galveston ICU; he is also the program director for the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program. Dr. Sharma is a Sealy and Smith Distinguished Chair in the Department of Internal Medicine and Professor & Director, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. In December 2016, he was appointed Vice President & Chief Medical and Clinical Innovation Officer at UTMB

Health. In this role, Dr. Sharma led UTMB's initiative to improve quality and patient safety as measured by Vizient, the largest member-driven, health care performance improvement company in the country.

IDA serves as a platform to support the local communities and partner with area academic institutions by providing assistance to underprivileged students.

MEMBERS CORNER

New Annual Member
Vishalakshmi Batchu, MD

Dr. Vishalakshmi Batchu is a Board Certified Internist in the Pearland Area. Dr. Batchu has been in practice for more than 10 years. Dr. Batchu is originally from Vijayawada, India. She finished her MBBS at Siddhartha Medical College in 2001. She got married in 2004 and moved to the United States. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine in 2009 at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY and then started off as a hospitalist at East Houston Regional Medical Center in Houston. In 2012, she joined a private practice and worked mostly inpatient at several hospitals. In 2014 she started her own private practice. In addition to practicing medicine, she is very actively involved in the local community. She was the founder of Pearland's biggest health fair "Wobble before you Gobble" 2015 and as of today, it stands as Pearland's biggest health fair. Dr. Batchu is excited to be a part of IDA as the organization is involved in a lot of community work and offers many opportunities to network, participate in

events, workshops, community and educational programs. Dr. Batchu lives in Pearland with her husband Chandrakanth, 12 year old daughter Prakruti and their little miniature Schnauzer Oreo. To learn more about Dr. Batchu and her practice visit her website at www.internalmedhouston.com.

UH College of Medicine Receives First Scholarship Endowment

The University of Houston College of Medicine has received a \$25,000 gift from The Indian Doctors Association (IDA) of Houston to establish its first scholarship endowment. Administered by the University of Houston Foundation, The Indian Doctors Association of Houston Endowed Scholarship will be given to students of Indian descent or who are members of an active student South Asian organization.

Founded in 1986, IDA is a non-profit, networking forum for physicians of Indian origin to provide support for charity health care in the greater Houston area, raise funds to support college and medical school scholarships for local high school and medical students, and provide health education for residents throughout the community. With a growing membership, IDA provides its members with opportunities to attend free educational seminars, mentoring programs, volunteer within and outside the United States as well as participate in social, networking mixers.

IDA President, Dr. Jignesh Shah hopes their gift will foster the growth of caring and compassionate physicians among the

prevalent Indian physician community in Houston. “We want our scholarship to attract students of strong, ethical character who will go on to become future leaders in medicine,” said Dr. Shah. We value the diversity at the University of Houston and look forward to future collaborations with the College of Medicine.”

Dr. Shah has been with IDA for six years and values the education, mentoring and philosophy of giving back that is inherent in the organization’s mission. “In working with our members and various student groups, I want to pass on the importance of paying it forward,” said Dr. Shah. That is my wish for the UH medical students who receive our scholarship.”

“We are delighted that The Indian Doctors Association wants to play a role in the College of Medicine and provide our students with the financial means to become caring, ethical physicians,” said Dr. Stephen Spann, founding dean of the UH College of Medicine.



BLN Scholarship

IDA of Greater Houston continues to establish Scholarships

This scholarship is named after Mr. B.L. Narasimhulu and is given by Dr. Arvind Bhimaraj. Dr. Bhimaraj is the interim Chief of Division of Heart Failure at Houston Methodist Hospital Medical Center & IDA Board Officer.

BLN Scholarship was instituted by Dr. Bhimaraj in 2017 as an annual scholarship to commemorate the memory of his late grandfather. Mr. Narasimulu was an avid supporter of education and instilled a culture of learning in his family. He worked as the secretary to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and served many well known Chief Ministers including the first Chief Minister of the state Mr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy. His eldest son Mr. Ramakrishna Bhimaraju resides in Richmond.

Recipient of BLN Scholarship will be invited to attend The Indian Doctors Association's annual gala on May 2, 2020.



BLN SCHOLARSHIP

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**INDIAN DOCTORS ASSOCIATION
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Update from a 2019 IDA Scholarship Recipient

Stephanie Zuniga

Hello my name is Stephanie Zuniga, and I applied to this scholarship when I was looking for a glimpse of hope. In May of 2018 my house was destroyed by a fire and my family could not possibly contribute to the cost of college. As I learned about this organization, I believed I had a chance to acquire help from IDA, considering they value education and look for success as much as I do. Receiving the acceptance email was life changing; I regained my hope of attending college. I currently attend the University of Houston where I study Computer Science, without IDA's contribution this wouldn't be possible, I am in my second's semester and I'm very grateful for the opportunity of getting a higher education.



IDA Speakers Bureau

Please update your membership profile on idahouston.org if you would be interested in becoming a motivational speaker for IDA at our future events.

Pictures from IDA's 2nd Annual CME Conference can be found on the IDA website.



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