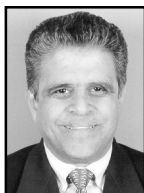


Indian Psychiatrist Contesting for APA President-Elect Dr. Van nominated to run against Dr. Sharfstein

In a historic first, a psychiatrist of Indian origin has been nominated to contest for the position of President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Jagannathan Srinivasaraghavan, popularly known as Dr. Ashok Van, immediate Past-President of IAPA, is running against Dr. Steven Sharfstein, current Vice-President of APA.



Dr. Srinivasaraghavan (Van) is currently the Professor and Chief, Division of Community and Public Psychiatry, Southern Illinois University and Medical Director of Choate Mental Health Center. He has served as President of the APA Caucus of Asian-American Psychiatrists between 1999 and 2002 and has been an Assembly Representative of the APA since 2002. He is

a member of the APA Council on Social Issues and Public Psychiatry and served on the APA Council on Psychiatry and Law, 1996-2002. Dr. Van has been active with the Indo-American Psychiatric Association for many years and served as its President between 2000 and 2003. More information about Dr. Van can be obtained at <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/38/23/31> and <http://www.siumed.edu/psych/main/Van/van.htm>



Opposing Dr. Van is Dr. Sharfstein, Vice President of the APA since 2001. Dr. Sharfstein is the President of Sheppard Pratt Health System and is a Clinical Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Maryland. He served the APA as the Vice Chairperson of APA's Joint Commission on Government Relations between 1998-2001 and as its Secretary between 1991 and 95. He has also chaired numerous committees and task forces of the APA, and served as its deputy medical director in the mid-1980s. More information about Dr. Sharfstein can be obtained at <http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/cgi/content/full/38/23/30> and <http://www.stevesharfstein.org/>.

Dr. Dube, President of IAPA, remarked that it is a great moment for IAPA to have a psychiatrist of Indian origin nominated for the highest office in the national psychiatric

professional organization. Coupled with the election of Dr. Prakash Desai as the speaker of APA Assembly, this nomination signifies the extent of integration of psychiatrists of Indian origin in the mainstream professional society. It is important that all psychiatrists of Indian origin participate actively in the APA both at the national and district level to promote the interests of the mentally ill people, particularly those from the minority communities. Dr. Dube noted that all the candidates running for various offices of the APA are well qualified and have a long history of service to the organization and urged the members of IAPA to carefully consider the position statements of the candidates and actively participate in the election process.

(Editor's note: APA guidelines for election campaigning prohibit third-party endorsements. As always, neither this news letter nor the IAPA are endorsing any candidates in the APA election. The information above regarding Drs. Sharfstein and Van are obtained from the APA election web site. More information about the candidates for various positions can be obtained from http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/content/vol38/issue23/#ELECTION_INFORMATION. Candidates' positions on issues relevant to IAPA are presented inside. We urge all IAPA members to inform themselves of the relevant issues and vote).

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Chapter Reports

TN Chapter Launches a Mental Health Educational Campaign

The Tennessee chapter of Indo American Psychiatric Association has launched an educational campaign in the Greater Nashville area on the mental health of second generation Asian Indian immigrants. This campaign has twin objectives: promotion of health, and prevention and alleviation of illness. Toward this end, the Chapter has engaged in the following activities:

First, the Chapter invited Miss Swati Mishra, a caring and courageous young woman, who had been actively and directly involved in counseling her second generation peers in the Greater Nashville area. She shared her perspective on mental health of her generation. Swati, a freshman at UCLA, made a very thought provoking presentation. After in depth discussion and deliberation, the Chapter developed an action plan which entails an ongoing collaboration with the regional Hindu Cultural Center of Tennessee (HCCT) and India Association of Nashville (IAN).

With tremendous support from the HCCT - which is the governing body of the Temple - and IAN, the Tennessee Chapter participated in a conference with the youth for further assessment of problems and solutions. At this stage, with critical input from the two generations, a multiphase plan was developed. In the first phase, an educational seminar was developed exclusively for the second generation. The first generation was intentionally excluded from this exercise for promoting openness and ease in communication. The seminar was presented by the Mental Health Association of Middle TN and arranged by our Chapter. The seminar was coordinated by Suresh Kasat, a bright high school student. Dr. Munjal Shroff, a second generation psychiatry resident, also facilitated the seminar. The latter was very well received. We had anticipated a

thin attendance, but were pleasantly surprised, and the community became more aware of, and interested in, our effort.

As planned, the second phase entailed a seminar for the first generation. Again, the Mental Health Association of Middle TN participated. Another three second generation representatives, Drs. Munjal Shroff, Vatsal Thakkar, along with Druvi Kakkad, a clinical psychology doctoral candidate, extended their invaluable help in making it a very successful event. Dr. Vedavyasa Biliyar, a first generation child psychiatrist and community activist as well a founding member of the Tennessee Chapter, has played a key role in planning and participating in the event. Suresh Kasat, as a teen representative, shared his observations with the audience consisting primarily of first generation and some elders. The event provided various perspectives on mental health issues of the second generation and potential solutions. The intensity of some commentators underscored the need for such a dialogue. However, the real testimony for the success of seminar came from another second generation representative who made a self-disclosure about her receiving therapy while dealing with some issues in her life. She went to earn a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, and now works as a freelance journalist. Her father, a well-respected member of our community, who had supported her in her emotional journey went on to express his support this time in public for her and the needs of second generation.

We are ready to move on to the third phase of our campaign. In an upcoming session, the two generations will jointly explore mental health issues of second generation, and discuss potential remedial and preventive opportunities. We have planned to use some innovative educational strategies - such as role playing by mental health professionals of second generation - for highlighting intergenerational communication problems. There is a growing communication problems.

There is a growing interest in and support for this upcoming event.

We are also engaged in developing training modules for volunteers for early identification of and intervention for the problems related to mental health of second generation. Dr. Vedavyasa Biliyar is spearheading this training initiative.

Dr. Pramod Wasudev of the HCCT has played a pivotal role in supporting us as we continue to engage in multilateral partnership to serve our community. Our Chapter also appreciates the national IAPA for the support.

—Reported by: Rudra Prakash, M.D.

Indiana Inaugurates New IAPA Chapter

An inaugural meeting of the Indiana IAPA Chapter was held at the Skyline Club in Indianapolis on October 3, 2003. Approximately twelve psychiatrists and members in training at the Department of Psychiatry IU School of Medicine were present. Dr. Sanjay Dubé, President of the IAPA, discussed the mission of the IAPA and gave a brief historical account of the IAPA and the existing chapters. This was followed by talks by Drs. Amit Anand and Dr. Anantha Shekhar, both Professors of Psychiatry at the IU School of Medicine. A spirited discussion followed about the potential service activities that could be provided to the community and the APA by the local chapter. Dr. Sharada Sabesan, a life member of the IAPA, offered ideas for potential collaboration with the APA and the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Academy where she is extremely active. The following office bearers were elected:

President: Amit Anand

Treasurer: Anantha Shekhar

Executive Members for Training Issues: Deepti Rao, Raj Kalapatapu

Member at Large for Child and Adolescent Affairs: Sharda Sabesan

The group decided to start an active membership drive, with each member recruiting another member. The meeting, supported by Pfizer, concluded with a sumptuous dinner. The next meeting of the chapter is planned for early 2004.

—Reported by: Sanjay Dubé, MD

APA President-Elect Michelle Riba Meets IAPA Members in Chicago

For many years the IAPA has invited the President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association to New York to meet the IAPA leaders and members; this year, Chicago had the distinction of hosting this meeting. On July 15, 2003, Dr. Michelle Riba, the President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association, met with the IAPA members in Chicago.

Sixty people, including members of the IAPA and the Illinois Psychiatric Society, attended this meeting chaired by Dr. Sanjay Dubé, President, IAPA. Dr. Dubé welcomed Dr. Riba and other attendees and summarized the history of the IAPA. He highlighted the vision of the five founding members and the establishment of various chapters in states throughout the USA and Canada. Dr. Dubé recounted contributions made by the Indo-American Psychiatrists to the mainstream psychiatry and to the APA in the form of research, academia, community and public psychiatry and volunteer activities. He affirmed the ongoing commitment of the IAPA to strengthening the relationship between IAPA and the APA.

Dr. Riba presented a thought provoking and stimulating presentation entitled “Split Treatment – Problems and Opportunities,” which generated a lively discussion. When questioned how she envisioned APA and IAPA working together, she acknowledged the great strides made over the last several years between APA and IAPA i.e. participation of Indo-



Dr. Dube welcoming Dr. Riba



Drs. Riba and Dube

American psychiatrists on various committees of the APA; the Speaker (Prakash Desai) for the Assembly, APA, visits to India and participation in the Indian psychiatric meetings by the former APA Presidents (Drs. Paul Appelbaum and Richard Harding) etc. She said that she looked forward to an ongoing dialogue with the Indian psychiatrists.

Dr. Surinder Nand, Secretary, IAPA, extended a vote of thanks to Dr. Riba, the Midwest Chicago Chapter, especially Drs. Nutan Atre-Vaidya, Malini Patel and Deepak Kapoor (the President, President-Elect and Secretary of the Midwest Chicago Chapter respectively) for hosting this meeting and to Pfizer Pharmaceuticals for sponsoring this meeting.

Dr. Nada Stotland, Secretary APA, Dr. Donald Langsley, Past President APA, Dr. Sidney Weissman Area 4 Trustee, Dr. Anil Godbole, Member, President's Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Dr. Kenneth Busch, Past President, Illinois Psychiatric Society, Dr. Margaret Robling, Secretary, IPS, Nelda Scott, MIT, and Dr. Shastri Swaminathan, were in attendance. Other IAPA officers in attendance included Dr. Shiv Hatti, Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Rudra Prakash, Councilor, and Dr. J. Srinivasaraghavan (Van), Immediate Past President.

—Reported by: Surinder Nand

Chicago Chapter Focuses on Suicide Prevention

The Midwest Chicago chapter of the IAPA hosted a dinner meeting at the Gaylord India Restaurant in Schaumburg on Saturday, November 15, 2003. The meeting focused on the issue of depression and suicide among people of Indian origin, especially adolescents and youth.

Dr. Nutan Atre-Vaidya, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Chicago Medical School and President of the IAPA Midwest Chicago chapter, welcomed the attendees and introduced the issue of suicide among the Indian community in USA. Dr. Ravindra

Chand, a senior resident at Chicago Medical School, discussed the epidemiology and characteristics of the suicide attempters of Indian origin and compared them with the other groups in US. Dr. Surinder Nand, Secretary of IAPA, Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago and Director of Mental Health Service Line, VA Chicago Health Care System, followed with a presentation, "From Sadness to Suicide". Drs. Malini Patel and Chandra Vedak discussed their experiences and the resistance among the older generation of Indian community to seeking mental health care. A serious discussion ensued and the chapter resolved to make efforts at community education and prevention of suicide among the Indian community.

Dinner was followed by the exhibition of a short film, "Off Camera", produced and directed by Nikhil Jayaram, a student at Northwestern University and the son of IAPA member Dr. Geeta Jayaram. The film, set at a family reunion, explores the overt and subtle attitudes towards racism. The screening of the film was followed by a dialogue with the film maker.

Connecticut IAPA Chapter receives Award from CPS



Dr. Velandy Manohar, past-president of IAPA, was honored with the "Service Award" by the Connecticut Psychiatric Society, for providing free mental health services to those in the community who are uninsured.

Dr. Velandy Manohar, past-president of IAPA, was honored with the "Service Award" by the Connecticut Psychiatric Society, for providing free mental health services to those in the community who are uninsured. He has also received the "Public Service Award" by the State of Connecticut for his dedicated service to the state. Also, Dr. Velandy was re-appointed to the Connecticut Medical Examining Board.

—Reported by: Rekha Ranade-Kapur, MD

New Members

Last year the following new members were added to the Midwest Chicago chapter:

Life Members:

Deepak Kapoor
Sudhir Gokhale

Associate Members:

Nada Stotland
Joan Anzia
Nelda Scott
Ghanshyam Pandey

Member-in-Training:

Navid Rashid

IAPA Web Site

Please visit <http://www.myiapa.org> for the latest information about IAPA.

Please contact Sudha Prathikanti at sudhap@itsa.ucsf.edu for web site related issues.

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President's Message

Friends:

It is indeed a great privilege and honor to wish you all a Happy New Year as your new President. I have been fortunate to have met several of you during the IAP Annual Scientific Symposia and banquets at the APA, but that is only a small fraction of our membership. I will therefore make every effort to get to know the rest of you at your local chapter meetings. I thank you all for entrusting this important office upon my shoulders which I have humbly accepted, however with an understanding that you will assist me in making the IAPA a bigger, stronger and more effective organization that provides a unified voice that ensures the best care for our patients. Like myself, our executive body (Dr. Asha Misra, President Elect; Dr. Surinder Nand, Secretary; Dr. Shiv Hatti, Treasurer and Dr. V. Chowdary Jampala, Editor) is relatively new to the organization and am sure will appreciate your active partnership with us in accomplishing the goals of the society in the next two years.

This year lets us focus on our patients and on becoming an active and effective partner of the mainstream efforts (APA's) to improve mental health care. Not only are our patients the sickest of the sick, but also amongst the most needy of them all, and are at particular risk of being sidelined by the current economic and health environment that appears to value revenue generation than what's best for the patient. Amongst all psychiatric patients, those that belong to ethnic minorities are at particular risk of being underserved and hence we will need to protect their interests and speak a strong voice that prevents them from being further marginalized from our society. We will need to ensure that they are able to access treatments in the least restrictive setting and in the framework of a culturally sensitive environment in order to accomplish these goals. I therefore strongly encourage you to become involved not only with your local and national IAPA, but also the local (district) APA chapters. The conduit to influencing policy change is through the grass roots and your local chapters will be most effective and influential in making that happen. Contribution through service, research into the etiologies for psychiatric illness, new and more effective treatments, effective models for delivery of health care, education about illness, eliminating stigma, parity for coverage are all important objectives that will help our patients and move us towards our goals.

The New Year provides another landmark year for American Psychiatry, particularly for those of Indian origin. While our members have accomplished themselves over the past few decades in many areas of service, research and education, this year has also witnessed several political accomplishments. Foremost was Dr. Prakash Desai's election as the speaker of the APA Assembly and next but not less so, our immediate Past-President, Dr. Jaggannathan Srinivasaraghavan (Van) has been nominated to run against Dr. Steven Sharfstein for the Presidency of the APA. Irrespective of the outcome of this election, it is indeed a great moment in American Psychiatry that a psychiatrist of Indian origin has been nominated for the contesting the highest office of our professional society. Please exercise your vote if you wish to have a voice in the outcome of this election. *The Forum* will give you a flavor of the candidates and their position statements that can help you make that choice.

I am also pleased to report that this year we have had several new IAPA chapters inaugurated. These include: San Francisco, St. Louis and Indiana (Indianapolis). Our goal is to start more chapters in other states as there will be strength in numbers and I ask all members to get on a recruitment drive so that we all bring at least one new member to the organization. We also celebrate in New York next May the Silver Jubilee of the IAPA which humbly began with a few members and grew to our current membership and will showcase the accomplishments of our members. Please plan to attend the IAPA symposium and the Annual banquet if you plan to be in New York for the APA. I once again thank you for placing your trust in me. I will try my utmost to live up to your expectations and uphold the principles of this society.

Wish you all a Happy New Year!

Sanjay Dubé, M.D.

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IAPA Annual Meeting Highlights

San Francisco, May 18-19, 2003

Scientific Session

IAPA held its 24th annual scientific meeting on Sunday May 18 at the Marriott hotel in San Francisco. After opening remarks by the President, Dr. Van, the President-Elect, Dr. Sanjay Dube introduced the speakers. The winner of the 2003 IAPA Outstanding Academician Award, Dr. Vishwajit L. Nimgaonkar, Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Graduate School of Public Health, Pittsburgh presented his research under the title, Indo-US collaboration in schizophrenia genetics.

Dr. Nimgaonkar reviewed his current collaborative genetic research in the context of past studies demonstrating a genetic etiology for schizophrenia and related disorders. His work, which involves tandem analyses of family based samples in the Northeastern USA, as well as India was described using a current example.

The rest of the scientific session was devoted to the exploration of the issue of Complementary Medicine. Dr. Ramaswamy Viswnathan chaired this session. Drs. Madhukar Trivedi, Ravinder Reddy, and Kedar Chellakere presented the state of the art regarding various aspects of complementary medicine. There was an enthusiastic response from the audience with a vigorous exchange of ideas.

Business Meeting

The 24th annual business meeting of the IAPA was held on the evening of May 19 at the Crowne Plaza hotel at Union Square. The meeting room overflowed with the attendees which included a good number of office-bearers of the APA including the President, President-Elect and Speaker.

Dr. Anil Sharma of the host chapter (San Francisco) welcomed the audience. Dr. Jagannathan Srinivasraghavan, completing an unprecedented third year as President of IAPA,

reported on the remarkable progress made by the association in terms of increased membership, formation of new chapters, increasing participation of IAPA members within the APA, and improving relationships with British-Indian Psychiatric Society and the Indian Psychiatric Society.

Dr. Van's address was followed by the presentation of the annual awards. Dr. Vishwajit Nimgaonkar of University of Pittsburgh was honored as the Outstanding Academician. The IAPA Service Award was presented to Dr. V. Raghuraman, President of the Toronto Chapter of IAPA. Dr. Harsh Trivedi of Long Island Jewish Hospital received the Outstanding Resident Award.

Dr. Nalini Juthani, Past President and Chair of the nominations and election committee conducted the biannual elections and the following were elected as Officers of IAPA for 2003-2005:

President: Dr. Sanjay Dube
President-Elect: Dr. Asha Mishra
Secretary: Dr. Surinder Nand
Treasurer: Dr. Shiv Hatti

Dr. Sanjay Dube was then inaugurated as the new President of IAPA. Dr. Dube thanked the members for the honor and responsibility bestowed on him and promised to work hard to meet the objectives of the IAPA and the expectations of the members.

The meeting ended with a sumptuous dinner, organized by Sudha Prathikanti and the San Francisco chapter of the IAPA.

IAPA gratefully acknowledges the support of Astra-Zeneca, Eli-Lilly, Janssen and Pfizer pharmaceuticals towards the publishing of *The Forum* and the annual meeting.

Nominations sought for IAPA Annual Awards

IAPA invites nominations for the annual awards to be presented to psychiatrists of Indian origin at the annual meeting at New York during the first week of May. Please submit your nominations with supporting information to the chairperson of the respective committee before February 15, 2004.

Dr. Dube announced the formation of the selection committees for the four categories as follows:

Outstanding Academician Award

Rohan Ganguli, MD, Chairman
(gangulir@msx.upmc.edu;
tel: 412-624-1103)

Vishwajit Nimgaonkar, MD
V Chowdary Jampala, MD

Outstanding Service to IAPA Award

Seeth Vivek, MD, Chairperson
(seethvivek@aol.com;
tel: 718-206-7165)

Rudra Prakash, MD
Geetha Jayaram, MD

Outstanding Resident Award

Iqbal Ahmed, MD, Chairperson
(ahmedi@dop.hawaii.edu;
tel: 808-586-7444)

Nalini Juthani, MD
Surinder Nand, MD

Outstanding Service to Public Psychiatry Award

Asha Mishra, MD, Chairperson
(mishraa@co.chesterfield.va.us;
tel: 804-768-7610)

Sudha Prathikanti, MD
Shiv Hatti, MD

Support for HR 2256

Dr. Velandy Manohar, Past President of IAPA, is requesting all members to support the legislation introduced by US Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN) and Senator Norm Coleman (R-MN), titled "Help Access to Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Act of 2003" to expand access to chemical dependency treatment. The HEART Act, HR 2256, would prohibit health insurers from erecting discriminatory barriers to chemical dependency treatment, such as co-payments, deductibles or limited treatment stays that are different from other medical or surgical services. Dr. Manohar has been actively working with Rep. Ramstad and Sen. Coleman as well as building a coalition with other psychiatrist and physician colleagues in Connecticut to support this legislation. For more information on HR 2256, please contact Dr. Manohar at velandym@worldnet.att.net.

The Adventures & Misadventures of Dr. Sonjee

Congratulations to Dr. Prasanna Pati, a retired psychiatrist of Indian origin and a Distinguished Life Fellow of the APA, whose collection of short stories, *The Adventures and Misadventures of Dr. Sonjee* received an excellent review in JAMA. Readers may recall Dr. Sonjee as one of the psychiatrists in the movie, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; Dr. Pati actually played Dr. Sonjee in that movie. The book can be obtained from Snehathala Press, 1353 Heather Lane SE, Salem, OR, 97302 for \$14.95.

Dr. Juthani to Retire

Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Nalini Juthani, Past President of IAPA, who is retiring on January 1 2004, after 25 years as the Residency Training Director at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital, NY. Dr. Juthani plans to work with the spiritual group *Veerayatan* in Bhuj where the orphan children of the Earthquake disaster reside and work part time with ACGME as an Accreditation Representative (site visitor). Dr. Juthani will, of course, continue to be involved with the IAPA.

Indian Psychiatric Society Meeting

The Annual National Congress of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) is being held on January 8-11, 2004 at Mysore, India. More information can be obtained from www.ancips2004.com. A delegation from IAPA led by Dr. Shiv Hatti, Treasurer, will be attending the ANCIPS. Dr. Prakash Desai, Speaker of the APA, will be representing the American Psychiatric Association.

IPS Awards Fellowship to Dr. Van

Dr. K. Roy Abraham, General Secretary of Indian Psychiatric Society, announced that the IPS will be awarding Honorary Corresponding Fellowships to Dr. Jagannathan Srinivasaraghavan (Dr. Van), Past President of the IAPA and to Dr. Mohan George of the British Indian Psychiatric Association, at the annual meeting of IPS to be held at Mysore in January.

25th Anniversary of IAPA

This is a special year for the Indo American Psychiatric Association as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. The New York chapter, the founding chapter of the IAPA (initially named the American Association of Psychiatrists from India – AAPI), is busily organizing an outstanding meeting on this occasion. The celebrations will be held at the time of the IAPA annual meeting on Sunday, May 2, 2004 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the APA in New York. The venue for the IAPA Silver Jubilee celebration will be the Crystal Ball Room at the New Yorker Hotel. For more information, please contact Dr. Manoj Shah, Chairman, Board of Trustees, IAPA at mshah@ij.edu.

On this occasion, IAPA plans to honor the contributions of the many mental health professionals of Indian origin who have made outstanding contributions to the field of mental health in US. Please send your nominations to Dr. Asha Mishra, President-Elect of the IAPA, at mishraa@co.chesterfield.va.us or tel: 804-768-7610.

American Psychiatric Association Elections

Candidate Statements to IAPA

The election for the office bearers of American Psychiatric Association will be held shortly. In order to help IAPA members make an informed decision about the candidates, we asked via-e-mail each candidate to answer the question - *What would you like to communicate to the members of Indo American Psychiatric Association?* – in 150 words or less. We are publishing the answers received from the candidates. Where we did not receive a response from a candidate within our deadline, we are only identifying the candidates and the position they are contesting for. More information about the candidates can be obtained from the web site:

http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/content/vol38/issue23/#INFORMATION_ON_THE_CANDIDATES.

We urge all IAPA members to inform themselves of the relevant issues and vote.

Candidates for President-Elect

Steven S. Sharfstein



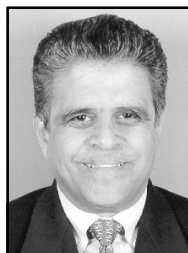
It is a great honor and privilege to be nominated for President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association. My opponent, Jagannathan Srinivasaraghavan, is a former president of the IAPA,

and I have had the opportunity and pleasure in campaigning with him around the country. Our campaigns have been full of mutual respect, and I believe we have learned from each other during this process. Regardless of the election results, I consider Ashok my good friend.

I am currently Vice President of the APA and have also served as Secretary for two terms. I have been chair of numerous councils, committees, and components of the APA over my 20 years of active involvement. I am also President of the nonprofit Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore - the largest psychiatric care system in the state of Maryland. We have a clinical staff of more than 50 psychiatrists with a number of Indo American psychiatrists as leaders in our academic and clinical programs.

APA must be committed to access to quality care for all Americans. Our capacity for expert psychiatric diagnosis and treatment are underscored in the APA Vision Statement (which I chaired last year). My goal as APA President-Elect is the implementation of the Vision Statement.

Jagannathan Srinivasaraghavan (Dr. Van)



It is an honor and privilege to address you as candidate for President Elect of the American Psychiatric Association. You provided me the opportunity to serve you on the Executive Council of the IAPA over the last nine

years. Together, we expanded the organization from coast to coast with multiple chapters and significant increase in membership. During my Presidency, I facilitated the historic participation and presentation by two Presidents of APA on successive years at the Annual National Congress of the Indian Psychiatric Society.

As the first ever Asian-American to be nominated for the highest office in the APA, you can be assured of my sensitivity to issues concerning minorities and under-represented groups and my dedication and commitment to add prestige and value to the APA. This nomination is recognition of our collective talent and outstanding service. This is our best opportunity and I will be highly honored to be your choice for President Elect of APA.

Candidates for Treasurer

Albert C. Gaw

Thank you for inviting to share my thoughts with you in my candidacy as APA Treasurer.

I have devoted 28 years of service to the APA, including 18 continuous years in the APA Assembly. I maintain a strong connection to our membership. I have successfully worked for the inclusion and representation of minority and underrepresented groups, including IMGs, in the Assembly and APA components



In the past three years, as Recorder, Speaker-elect and Speaker of the Assembly, I have had the privilege of working with the Board and the Assembly in turning the APA finances from deficit to a projected \$4.6 million dollars surplus this year. We have elevated the care of the seriously mentally ill as an APA priority. And I have strengthened tie between the APA and VA.

I have done my homework, brought people together, and produced results.

I thank you for supporting me for APA Treasurer.

Patrice A. Harris

The American Psychiatric Association is only a strong, viable, relevant organization if there is a basic and core appreciation of a diversity of its membership and ideals. The key question of course is, "Are we there



yet?" The answer of course is, "We are on our way, but we have not reached our destination." An appreciation of diversity must be a before thought and not just an afterthought. In order to get there, APA must

forge strong relationships with professional organizations that represent minority and underrepresented groups, but must not stop there. Two way communication is key to understanding the needs of members of MUR groups, but APA must not stop there. We must take ACTION from what we learn. Then and only then will APA be relevant for the 21st century and be able to adequately serve the needs of a diverse membership and a diverse patient population.

Carolyn B. Robinowitz

I am a highly experienced administrator with strong, effective leadership in psychiatric organizations. Committed to diversity, I offer my Indian colleagues: *Respect, recognition and representation.*



Respect for your marvelous cultural traditions and for your role in providing mental health services to some of our most challenging patient populations;

Recognition of the difficulties you have surmounted in adapting to new environments, mastering language and mores, while maintaining connections with your culture and birthplace. I will advocate for your success by supporting your work in the public (and private) sector, eliminating disparities; and developing educational programs to assist in achieving certification and maintaining professional development, while enhancing all psychiatrists' awareness of cultural diversity.

I support your *representation* and participation on APA components and other leadership roles, as I have in other organizations (e.g., I developed a highly diverse examining team at ABPN with our colleague Prakash Desai as a Senior Examiner; I supported the initiation of APA minority/under-represented groups).

I ask for your vote.

Candidates for Trustee-at-Large

Renée L. Binder

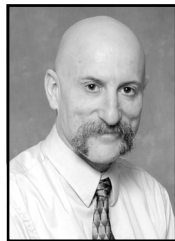
It would be a great honor for me to be able to serve the members of the Indo American Psychiatric Association as trustee-at-large.

I have worked with outstanding Indo American psychiatrists in my University and at the APA. I love sharing stories with my Indo American colleagues about my visits to India after my college graduation and the generosity and hospitality of families that I lived with in Calcutta, New Delhi, Bangalore, and Bombay. All of these families had sons or daughters whom I knew from my studies at Columbia University in New York.



I believe that the job of the trustee-at-large is to represent all of our members. This includes advocating for women, minorities, underrepresented groups, international medical graduates, allied organizations, and our younger and retired members. If elected, I will devote my efforts toward ensuring that all of these voices will be heard by the Board of Trustees.

Jeffrey L. Geller

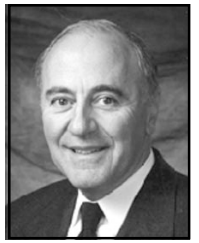


Once, traveling across northern India through Amritsar, Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra, I was struck by what great needs there are for human services. Since employing in my role as Director of Public Sector Psychiatry, over 20 psychiatrists of Indian origin, I have come to know these individuals as goal-directed, hardworking clinicians, academicians and administrators who have made significant contributions to American psychiatry. Putting these two observations together, it became clear that the latter attributes are not enough by themselves to overcome the former needs. One goal of mine on the Board: a better system of care and treatment so that all psychiatrists, in public (with its over-representation of Indian psychiatrists) and private settings can accomplish more effective outcomes; be freed from stigma along with our patients; and for those in the public sector, not be regarded as working there because "You couldn't get another job." *Aapke sahar ke lei dhanyavad.*

Michael J. Vergare

How can APA best respond to the needs of our patients and our members? I believe this question must remain central to all our

deliberations within APA at this critical time in our history. The demo-graphics of membership and the populations we serve have changed drama-tically in recent years. IAPA reflects some of our diversity. We must focus now on how to embrace this diversity to strengthen our profession and the care we provide.



Much of my experience within APA has been centered on building a better organization. This has included chairing the Membership Committee, the Committee on Administrative Psychiatry, the Ad Hoc Committee for Membership and Fiscal Planning, and now the Council on Member and District Branch Relations.

Our membership is our strength. I would be honored to serve at your Trustee.

Candidates for Member-in-Training Trustee Elect

John M. Kuzma



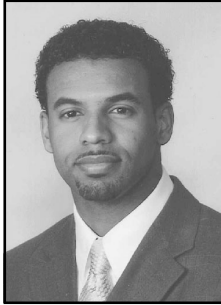
My name is John Kuzma and I am running for the Member-in-Training Trustee elect position. I am currently the Chief Resident for Psychiatry at the University of Iowa and the MIT representative for the Iowa Psychiatric Society Executive Council. In the past, I served in the AMA-MSS and the Minnesota Medical Association. I have also served as an officer in the US Army and I continue to serve in the Minnesota National Guard.

The focus of my time on the board would be to foster an on-going dialogue between the board and the general membership. I have established an online Blog, or web-based journal, and an associated message board to facilitate communication between myself and not only other members-in-training, but practicing psychiatrists as well.

If you have any questions regarding my background or candidacy, please check out my website at <http://www.kuzma.org> or email me at john@kuzma.org.

Daniel T. Mamah

Being of Hungarian and Nigerian descent, I am aware of some of the challenges facing those of different cultures. As the resident representative of our APA district branch, I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to improvements in our field. In the United States, the problems facing psychiatry are several. Consistent cuts in psychiatric services and lack of parity in insurance coverage of mental illness adversely affect the well being of our patients. The stigma of mental illness remains a significant problem in the society, including the Indo-American community, and psychiatric training often lacks adequate emphasis on psychotherapy and cross-cultural issues. As Member-in-Training Trustee I would strongly advocate for improved mental health services, psychiatric training, and public education. I ask for your support and hope to continue my efforts to serve our interests.



Candidate for Area 3 Trustee

Roger Peele



It is important for the APA that the Indo-American psychiatric community [IAPA] has a major voice within the APA. While Dr. Prakash Desai's election as Speaker and Dr. Jagannathan Srinivasaraghavan's nomination for President-elect are positive signs that the APA's breadth is growing, more is needed.

I was involved in the move to have the Asian-American caucus be given a voice in the Assembly, but it is time to take the next step and have the IAPA have their own voice in the Assembly. Why? Because that

membership now exceed most "minorities" represented in the Assembly, and the APA should not assume that psychiatrists from all the Asian countries have the same issues.

To obtain a caucus seat in the Assembly will take time. Pending that, the Indo American Psychiatric Association might want to be recognized in the Assembly among the "Allied Organizations," for which I think IAPA is fully eligible.

Candidates for Area 6 Trustee

Thomas K. Ciesla

(No response available at press time).

Barry F. Chaitin

If elected as Area 6 Trustee, I hope that I can assist in the reorganization of the California Psychiatric Association to better represent the needs and aspirations of all of our members and to empower members who currently live and practice far from the current centers of organized psychiatry. Frequently, many of these disenfranchised members are International Medical Graduates with a high proportion of Indo-American psychiatrists.



On the national APA level, I feel that I can represent the needs of all of our members but I understand that some may feel excluded. Our task is to reach out so as to utilize the talents and energies of every member who wants to be involved what unites us is greater than our differences.

I am from a District-Branch that is extremely open and egalitarian. We have always looked for the best individuals to assume positions of leadership and have had a variety of IMG Presidents and Assembly Reps. As the Chair of the APA Council on Healthcare Systems and Financing, I have encouraged

diversity in appointments and this has resulted in Indo-Americans serving on this Council. As the Co-Chair of an academic department, I have recruited a very diverse faculty and resident group and am pleased to say that Indo-Americans are extremely well-represented.

I offer the above statements hesitantly as they sound like pandering to this audience. However, they are consistent with my open, accessible, welcoming and straight-forward demeanor.



Join the IAPA Today!

The Indo-American Psychiatric Association is celebrating its 25th year. Throughout its history, the association has stood for the promotion of the interests of psychiatrists of Indian origin and has many successes to its credit.

If you are not already a member of IAPA, please complete the application form on the facing page and send it to the IAPA office at: 855 Bruce Drive, East Meadow, NY 11554.

Membership Application & Information for Directory

1. Name: _____
2. Gender: _____
3. Languages spoken _____
4. Home Address: _____
5. Office Address: _____
6. Email: _____
7. Telephone: (H) _____ (O) _____
8. Fax: (H) _____ (O) _____
9. Date & Place of Birth: _____
10. Medical School, State/Year of graduation _____
11. Residency _____
12. Fellowship: _____
13. Board Certification: _____ Specialty: _____
Subspecialty: _____
14. Membership in Organizations (circle all applicable): IAPA AAPI APA FAPA
Other: _____
15. Present Position: (circle all applicable): Private Practice Administration Research
Teaching Public Institution Clinical
Private Institution Clinical
16. Academic Titles: _____
17. Interests: (circle yes or no for all applicable):

a) Developing IAPA Chapters:	Yes	No
b) Treating patients of South Asian Origin:	Yes	No
c) Developing culturally-sensitive programs for south Asian community	Yes	No
18. Honors/Awards: _____
19. Membership in IAPA:
Life member (\$250) General member (\$50)
Member-in-training (\$25) Associate/ Corresponding member (\$25)

Please make me _____ member. Enclosed is my check for _____.

Please include my name, gender, address, telephone, email, fax number, and languages spoken in the IAPA Directory: Yes No

I give consent to include all of the above information in the IAPA Database, which can be used for research and sharing with members: Yes No

This information will not be used or shared for marketing purposes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail this application with your check to:
Indo-American Psychiatric Association
 855 Bruce Drive
 East Meadow, NY 11554-5148

Indo-American Psychiatric Association
Membership Categories and Dues

- General Member : Annual dues of \$50 per calendar year.
Eligibility : Psychiatrists of Indian origin who have completed their required training in psychiatry and who live in the United States or Canada.
- Member-in-Training : Annual dues of \$25 per calendar year.
Eligibility : Post-graduate physicians of Indian origin who are in an approved psychiatric residency training program in the United States or Canada.
- Associate Member : Annual dues of \$25 per calendar year.
Eligibility : Psychiatrists of non-Indian ethnic origin, non-psychiatric physicians, and non-physician mental health professionals who live in the United States or Canada.
- Corresponding Member : Annual dues of \$25 per calendar year.
Eligibility : Psychiatrists and mental health professionals who live outside the United States or Canada.
- Life Member : One-time dues payment of \$250.
Eligibility : Same criteria as for categories 1 or 2 above.
- Honorary Member : No dues.
Eligibility : Elected by IAPA council members for outstanding contributions to the field of mental health and / or for promoting the goals and objectives of the association.

General Members, Members-in-Training and Life Members will be the only categories of membership having voting rights in the association.



855 Bruce Drive
East Meadow, NY 11554

