



# Association of Indian Pathologists in North America

[www.aipna.org](http://www.aipna.org)

## A Message From The President

Dear Friends:

I am honored by the trust you have bestowed upon me to serve as President of this very vibrant organization.

The organization is growing and gaining strength from rising support, which you provide by contributing at every level. Knowing the enthusiasm you all share and work with, I am confident that the state of our organization is great.

It was stated not too long ago in Nature as well as the cover issue of Science that boson is this century's best discovery. The concept has received nod from Nobel committee not once, but twice and continues to prove its value. Interestingly, boson is a concept that was initiated by physics Professor Satyendra Nath Bose of India and was crystallized in collaboration with none other than Albert Einstein. Their work together led to this century's concept changing knowledge about a particle that serves as "glue" for any matter to stay together. Our members have a solid understanding of practices in this country as well as understanding of working in India and around the globe. This unique organization and its membership also could be viewed as "bosons" which can serve to bring two worlds together for the betterment of the patients we serve. They bring a lot of positive ideas and ideals to develop beneficial interactions with colleagues in countries across the globe to promote a constructive change at every level.

At this annual AIPNA meeting some of this work was showcased, including our educational programs (International Academy of Pathology meet in South Africa, at American Society of Clinical pathology meeting, our flagship program with Indian College of Pathologists of International CME in India, Molecular pathology program in Raipur, International CME in hematopathology in India, to name a few). AIPNA with its member support has continued to strengthen our relations with the College of American Pathologists. This year, at our Annual meeting AIPNA had invited Dr. Stan Robboy (President CAP), Dr. Gene Herbek (President Elect of CAP), Richard C. Friedberg, MD, PhD and Bharati Jhaveri MD to meet and address our membership. Our membership has also helped initiate and facilitate programs of laboratory accreditation in India by College of American Pathologists. We also promote scholarship excellence from our colleagues in the making, by giving out Best Abstract

### **New Letter Editors**

*Parul Bhargava MD*

*Shivayogi Bhushnurmam MD*

### **Members**

*Bakul Dalal MD*

*Nirag Jhala MD*

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Award to trainees presenting at USCAP meeting. Our stalwarts have worked very hard to promote importance of research and educational excellence at every level in India. This year, our invited speaker Dr. Sukumar, from Johns Hopkins University, demonstrated the depth of research talent our members have, which can be tapped into. Presentations by Dr. Ravi Mehrotra (Director of the Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology – a subsidiary of Indian Council of Medical Research) and Rajan Dewar (Assistant Professor of Pathology, Harvard Group of Hospitals) very nicely highlighted a need for sustainable programs in the area of disease prevention. I would like everyone interested in such projects to communicate to me or any of the executive committee members. If we have power of members and ideas, we can help develop sustainable programs. While we talk about work, this opportunity is also a way to have a great time and agreeable food with our friends. It is more like being at a reunion and catching up on good times. This tradition has continued.

AIPNA is an APNA organization and I would like each and every member to come forward to tell us how they can help, so that we can link like minded people for sustainable positive outcomes for any program to find its roots. Our organization is nimble enough and has grown to provide a fertile ground for positive ideas to reach fruition. I also urge you to seek out like minded colleagues to become members of this organization. We do need to communicate, collaborate and coordinate.

Of course, to sustain as an organization and to provide varied activities, we have to make fiscally responsible decisions. In Vancouver, our organization placed a call to our membership to donate for programs that can provide meaningful work. Dr. Kumar's call was received by our members with open wallets. We collected enough in order to secure funding for sustainable projects. . This year, with call from Meenakshi our President – the executive committee members also responded and donated over \$6000.00 for our organization to further its vision. Each contribution from every member, given at any time, has been very valuable and has taken us a step forward towards our fiscal stability.

In the end, I would like to thank the work, passion and perseverance of Meenakshi, our past president, and her team. Her work has made a very positive impact on dealing with the fiscal stability of our organization and has opened doors to carry out sustainable projects that AIPNA can undertake. I also welcome Megha Joshi MD, who has agreed to serve as our executive Vice President. Anyone in this organization will know of her passion and dedication and her continued efforts to see that this organization moves forward.

Sincerely,  
Nirag Jhala, MD  
President AIPNA

# AIPNA Office Bearers

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Nirag Jhala, MD  
Philadelphia, PA

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Anand Lagoo, MD  
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Past President AIPNA  
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Parul Bhargava, MD  
Boston, MA

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## Chair, Membership Committee

Poonam Sharma MD  
Omaha, Nebraska

# Introducing Dr. Nirag Jhala



The president of AIPNA, Dr. Nirag C. Jhala, probably was destined to be a distinguished pathologist even when he was at the stage of a small embryo. He has inherited great genes from his father, late Professor C.I. Jhala who had dominated the academic field of pathology in India for several decades, being based in Ahmedabad. Nirag was sprucing up his pathology talent through medical school and post graduate residency in pathology at Gujarat University in Ahmedabad when his “pathology” genes got a booster dose in the form of a fellow pathology resident, Dr. Darshana Jhala, who consented to be his life partner. Under her benevolent guidance (behind the success of every great man there is a great woman!) and company, he keeps rising to greater heights.

Dr. Nirag is excellent in GI pathology and cytology, bagging the board certifications and fellowships from the American Board of Pathology. After his initial training in Philadelphia (1994-97), he contributed a lot to the academic discipline and taught at the University of Alabama, Birmingham (1999-2010). In between, he consolidated his training as a fellow at AFIP and Baylor College of Medicine. He moved to Ruth and Raymond Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania in 2010 and soon became a full professor, the position he currently holds. During his sojourn in the sea of pathology from 1986 till now, he has won innumerable academic distinctions and merit awards. He is a regular faculty and office bearer in several societies including ASC, CAP, ASCP, etc. and is on the editorial board of several leading journals including Archives of Path and Lab Medicine, Journal of Cytology, Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry, etc. His publications and CMEs are too many to be listed here and are better left to Google and Pubmed, for anyone interested.

His love affair with AIPNA started in 1996 and he has been an office bearer in several capacities since then, the latest being his second stint as the President from this year.

On a personal level, he is one of the most humble persons I have known. He keeps his enormous achievements well under the wraps. He is a great store house of jokes. His well relaxed nature and sense of humor are a result of his companionship with Darshana, who must be continually entertaining him with her professional excellence in music apart from her own academic excellence in pathology. It is very difficult to upset Nirag with anything because he is a “cool cat”.

I have known Nirag personally since 1996 after having been associated with his father when he was the president of IAPM and I was the secretary in my previous life in India. We had together with the late Dr. S.J. Nagalottimath conceived and brought to life the Indian College of Pathology which has been the main partner for AIPNA CMEs. It is a pleasure and honor to write this brief introduction for Nirag for the AIPNA newsletter.

S.R. Bhusnurmath MD

Executive Director

Newsletter Editor

AIPNA

## Message from Treasurer Rajal B. Shah, M.D. 2013 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Membership and Financial Report

Dear Colleagues;

Please find below the summary of 2013 1<sup>st</sup> quarter membership and financial report.

- 78 Life members (7 new life members for 2013)
- 27 active annual subscription members
  
- **Income:** \$ 16883
  - Membership: \$ 5253
  - Sponsorships: (Leica-\$1500 and Neogenomics-\$500) \$ 2000
  - Donations: \$ 6516
  - Dinner collection \$ 3210
  
- **Expenses:** \$ 8185
  - Annual GBM (includes molecular path lunch) \$ 7128
  - Miscellaneous \$ 357
  
- **Current Fund Reserve (Includes funds from previous years):** \$ 35750

AIPNA files tax return as non-profit organization. Please contact me at [rajalbshah@gmail.com](mailto:rajalbshah@gmail.com) if you have not received 2013 donation or membership receipt. I will be happy to provide you one.

On behalf of president and AIPNA executive board, I would like to personally thank you for embracing the change and contributing towards financial well being of our organization. Your contributions have helped offset the rising expenses.

Thank you for your continued support of AIPNA!

Rajal B. Shah, M.D.

Treasurer

AIPNA

# A PRODS Update - by Dr. Anand Lagoo

Most of the members of AIPNA are graduates of medical colleges in India and then completed a residency in pathology in the United States. The evolving trends in residency training in the U.S. would be of interest, directly or indirectly, to many of us. I will discuss two aspects of residency training of particular interest to foreign medical graduates wishing to enter a residency position in the U.S. Both are changes instituted recently in the residency “match”. As is well known, the most common path to enter a U.S. residency program is through the “Match” administered by the NRMP. The National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®) is a private, non-profit organization established in 1952 at the request of medical students to provide an orderly and fair mechanism for matching the preferences of applicants for U.S. residency positions with the preferences of residency program directors. This program has been generally very successful and thus embraced by most U.S. medical students and program directors. Gradually, this voluntary mechanism has evolved into a mandatory and exclusive mechanism. Last year, all the recent U.S. Medical graduates were required to enter the match, while those U.S. graduates who had graduated earlier could choose to enter the match or seek positions outside the match. Similarly, international medical graduates had the option to either enter the match or not. Conversely, the residency programs could offer some positions through the match and some positions outside the match. Starting this year, NRMP has instituted an “All in” policy. A residency program offering PGY1 residency positions must offer all its positions through the match with rare exceptions (see <http://www.nrmp.org/allinpolicyexceptionsstatement.pdf> for details of the policy).

The second change instituted by NRMP is the supplemental match week (“SOAP”), which follows immediately after the main match results are released. This weeklong process has replaced the “scramble” for unfilled positions. The scramble had furnished opportunities for many FMGs to obtain a residency position. Whether the supplemental match will reduce these opportunities is largely dependent on a more fundamental change in graduate medical education in the U.S. Some statistics are in order. This year, the NRMP match successfully filled an unprecedented 99.4% of all the offered positions, and only sixty one positions were unfilled, including a single unfilled position in pathology. While the overall match rate has increased this year, there were more U.S. medical school seniors who did not match anywhere (528) than were unmatched last year (262). This increase is bound to attract the attention of U.S. medical school deans and administrators. What impact it will have on internal policies for recruiting PGY1 residents from a pool of U.S. and international medical graduates in the years to come needs to be watched closely.

In the next newsletter I will discuss the latest report of 2013 match results and the impact of shrinking health care dollars on graduate medical education.

## Upcoming AIPNA Activities

1. October 19 2013. AIPNA has put together a fabulous companion meeting program at ASCP Annual Meeting. This year the theme is Lung Cancer Update in 2013 and is led by Dr. Jaishree Jagirdar. The fantastic slate of speakers include: Jaishree Jagirdar MD (Professor and Director of Anatomic Pathology – University of Texas- San Antonio), Anthony A. Gal, M.D Professor of Pathology, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine Emory University Hospital, Alain Borczuk MD, Vice Chairman for Anatomic Pathology, Professor of Clinical Pathology, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons and Fernando Schmitt, MD, PhD, FIAC IPATIMUP & Medical Faculty of Porto University. These are the speakers who have shaped our field so please encourage everyone to attend this very informative CME session at ASCP meeting in Chicago this year
2. FEBRUARY 2014: The AIPNA International CME in the first weekend of February 2014, in PGI Chandigarh. Please contact : Dr. S Mandavelli for the program ([Smandav@harthosp.org](mailto:Smandav@harthosp.org))
3. FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2014: Molecular pathology CME meeting in India. Venue: Mumbai. For more information please contact Dr. Prithish Bhattacharya. This CME is undertaken in coordination with Molecular Pathology Association of India with leadership of Dr. B. R. Das
4. SEPTEMBER 2014: There is an AIPNA session at the IAP in Bangkok from September 21 - 26, 2014. Interested members may email the CME co-chairs : [Nirag.jhala@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Nirag.jhala@uphs.upenn.edu) and [Smandav@harthosp.org](mailto:Smandav@harthosp.org)

### Additional CME Opportunities

1. JUNE 2013: The First Basic Molecular Pathology Workshop is going to be arranged in the month of June, 2013 at Kolkata. Organizer is Dr. (Col) Deepak K. Mishra, Senior Consultant & Professor (Lab Hematology), Head, Department of Laboratory Hematology, Head, Department of Laboratory Sciences, TATA Medical Center, Kolkata. This is being organized in association with Molecular Pathology Association of India (MPAI) from 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 (Monday to Saturday) at Department of Lab Hematology & Molecular Genetics, TATA Medical Centre, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. Last date for Application / Registration is 4<sup>th</sup> May , 2013
2. An International CME in Surgical pathology is being arranged at KIMS, Karad on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2013. The speakers are Vikram Deshpande ( Initiated this educational activity) along with Megha Joshi ( Executive Director of AIPNA) , Parul Bhargava MD and Eugene Mark MD.

# Report of AIPNA CME Activities

The **First AIPNA – IAPM – APCON companion CME** took place in Jamnagar, on 16 December 2012. Dr. Nirag Jhala and Dr. Bakul Dalal presented three Cytology and Hematology talks each, to an audience of approximately 300 delegates. This seminar was extremely well received with a request to hold similar companion meetings in the future. In addition, the delegates also received CME credits by the Gujarat Medical Council {Report courtesy Dr. B. Dalal}



The **Hematopathology Half Day of the AIPNA-JIPMER Indo-US CME** (3 February 2013) was attended by Dr. Brigitte Schlegelberger (Hannover, Germany), Anand Shree Ram Lagoo (Duke), Pritish Bhattacharyya Hackensack, NJ) and Bakul Dalal (Vancouver, BC) for the faculty, and by approx 200 delegates. {Report courtesy Dr. B. Dalal}

**The International Symposium on Molecular Pathology (ISMP)** was held on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2013, in Raipur CG, India. It was organized by Professor PK Patra, MD, From JNM Medical College, Raipur, India in collaboration by Dr. BR Das from MPAAI, in association with Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), USA and Association of Indian Pathologists in North America (AIPNA). The two-day event was inaugurated by Mr Shekhar Dutt, Governor of Chhattisgarh (CG), India. There were two main sessions in the symposium; Genetics Disorders and Molecular Diagnostics. Special guests included Prof David Chiu from Harvard Medical School and Dr. Steven Day from Hologic. Invited speakers were from mostly for US and India. Eminent experts from some of the best medical institutes in the world including Harvard Medical School, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Pennsylvania Medical School, UMD/New Jersey Medical School in USA, Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, AIIMS in New Delhi, MAMC, Delhi etc. Around 150+ delegates registered for the event including many AMP and AIPNA members. The symposium also received warm response from students and faculties from pioneering institutes in India with 20 abstract submissions. There was an excellent session on oral presentation were by junior scientists on day 2. The news on the Symposium was flashed state-wide by national and state TV channels and Local News paper. Accommodation & Food were excellent. 2014 Molecular meeting will be held in February in India. (Report courtesy Dr. Pritish Bhattacharya)

# AIPNA General Body Meeting Report

The **AIPNA General Body Meeting at USCAP** was held on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hilton Baltimore Hotel, in Baltimore, MD. The keynote speakers included Dr Saraswati Sukumar, PhD, Barbara B. Rubenstein, Professor of Oncology, at the Sidney Kimmeel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins; she gave a talk entitled “Curcumin in breast cancer chemoprevention.” Dr Vinay Kumar, Chairman Department of Pathology at University of Chicago, gave a thought-provoking keynote address on AIPNA current and future. The invited speakers were Dr. Rajan Dewar, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, who spoke on “A cervical cancer prevention project in India,” and Dr. Ravi Malhotra, Director Institute of Cytology and Preventive Oncology, who spoke on “The role of ICPO in the practice of cytology in India and the potential for AIPNA to interface with it.” Following this, a summary of AIPNA CME activities was presented by Dr Ashraf Khan, AIPNA educational activities by Dr. S Bhusnurmath, Treasurer’s reports by Dr Rajal Shah, incoming president’s address by Dr Nirag Jhala.

Dr. Nirag Jhala and Dr. Vinay Kumar presented an award to the best resident’s abstract which was awarded to Dr. Graham Rondell FROM Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN for their abstract titled, “Identification of Novel *PAX3-MAML3* Fusion Gene in Low Grade Sinonasal Sarcoma with Neural and Myogenic Features by Transcriptome Analysis”. Other two prizes were awarded to Gonzalo Carrasco MD for their work titled, Detailed Histological Assessment of Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis: Confirmation Utilizing Significance Analysis” and Renee Frank MD from University of Pennsylvania for her work titled, “Multifocal Fibrosing Thyroiditis and Its Association With Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Using BRAF Pyrosequencing” Thanks to the members of the jury including Megha Joshi MD, Bakul Dalal MD, and Anil Prasad MD.



Vinay Kumar, MD, addressing AIPNA at the Hilton Hotel, Baltimore, MD



Stan Robboy, MD, addressing AIPNA at the Hilton Baltimore Hotel.



AIPNA dinner meeting at USCAP, Baltimore March 2013

From Left to right: Sudarshan Bhagat, Parul Bhargava, Kirtee Raparia, Abha Rana, Raj Dewar, Dhanpat Jain, Sanjay Kakkar, Ashraf Khan, Poonam Sharma, Meenakshi Singh, Vijay Joshi, S. Bhushnurmath, Vinay Kumar, Ravi Mehrotra, Rajal Shah, Srinivas Mandavilli, Pritish Bhattacharya



Dr. Rajal Shah, recipient of the Excellence in Service Award at the AIPNA general body meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

This year, the Executive Body of AIPNA, unanimously decided to give Excellence in Service Award to Rajal Shah, M.D. Rajal joined our organization in 2001, since that time, he has worked tirelessly and with dedication for our organization. He not only has served as our treasurer, but has also helped others in the same position as and when his help was sought. His insightful work and timely interventions have kept our organization in a stable financial position that it is today. He is an outstanding pathologist who has contributed fundamental work in the area of genitourinary pathology. Also, when called upon, Rajal has contributed much toward the educational mission of AIPNA.

Please contact our Newsletter Editors Dr. P. Bhargava ( [pbhargav@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:pbhargav@bidmc.harvard.edu)) or Dr. S. Bhushnurmath ( [sbhushnurmath@sgu.edu](mailto:sbhushnurmath@sgu.edu)) for any news item you want to send for AIPNA newsletter.