



Association of Indian Pathologists in North America

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

www.aipna.net



November 2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As your President, I am happy to inform you that AIPNA is going strong. We have had successful and houseful events at CAP '25 in Orlando and ASC in St. Louis in 2025 (see photos below).

We congratulate Sinchita Roy-Chowdhury for being elected as the Vice-President of ASC and Swati Mehrotra as an Executive Board Medical Member.

Our members continue to achieve great things: Dr. Ravi Kolhe had an impressive presence at AMP in Boston this week. Furthermore, Dr. Bharat Rekhi, TMH, was honored with the award for the best paper in 2024 by Virchows. Separately, Dr. Srinivas Mandavilli presented his poems in New York at a function graced by none other than Sadhguru.

As we approach Thanksgiving, let's pledge our monetary support to AIPNA and give our thanks wholeheartedly to the organization that cherishes us, applauds us, and connects us all.

Warm Regards,

Megha Joshi, MD
President, AIPNA

AIPNA COMPANION MEETING AT CAP'25 IN ORLANDO

The Companion meeting proved to be an outstanding success! The session featured several highly informative presentations, including Dr. Romil Saxena's practical talk on fatty liver, which offered valuable tips for accurate diagnosis, and Dr. Pooja Navale's detailed elaboration on critical findings not to miss in GI biopsies. Additionally, Dr. Rahul Jawale educated attendees on the process behind the development of emerging guidelines.

The definitive highlight was Dr. Kolhe's insightful presentation on AI. Chaired by Dr. Rajendra Singh, the session was so popular that it was "Houseful," with many attendees standing at the back of the room and others unfortunately having to be turned away. The meeting concluded with Dr. Lagoo announcing the Best Abstract winners and Dr. Mishra distributing the certificates and prizes. We were also honored by the presence of Dr. Manoj Gadara, founder of Bright Pathologist, who graciously thanked AIPNA for fostering community among us.

Due to this successful track record, we are proud to have been chosen alongside CAPA for the inaugural Companion Meeting by CAP, and we have already requested a larger room for the CAP 2026 companion meeting to accommodate the growing interest.



Dr. Rahul Jawale educated attendees on the process behind the development of emerging guidelines.





Dr. Pooja Navale elaborated the critical findings not to miss in GI biopsies



Dr. Gaurav Sharma and Dr. Vaishali Pansare



"Standing room only" at AIPNA's companion meeting



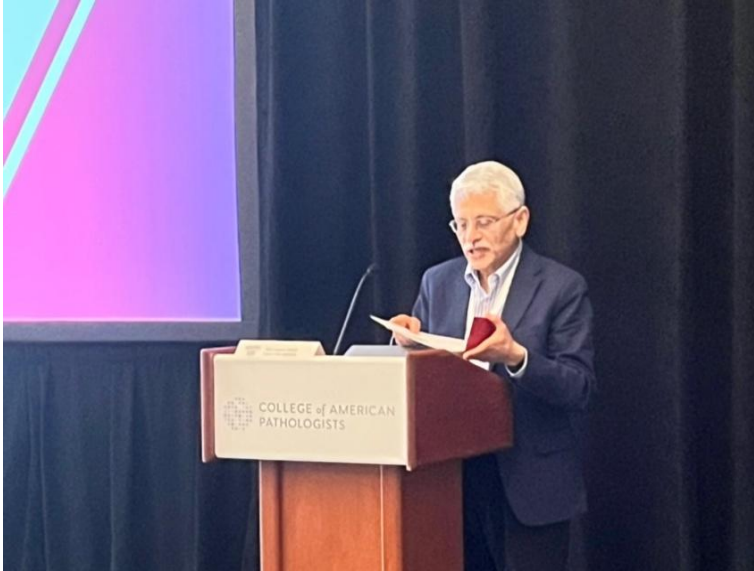
Dr. Manoj Gadara, founder of Bright Pathologists group, thanking AIPNA for bringing Indian pathologists together



**AIPNA Best Abstract at CAP2025 –
Sponsored By Dr. Anand Lagoo, MD. PhD**

CONGRATULATIONS: AKHILA ARAVIND AND SADHIKA SOOD

Akhila Aravind "Pre-Cryoablation Biopsy in Renal Tumors: Diagnostic Utility, Limitations, and Treatment Outcomes" and **Sadhika Sood** "A Pilot Study for AI-Based Prediction of Total Mesorectal Excision (TME) Completeness in Rectal Cancer" were selected as cowinners of the Best Abstract prize and received a certificate and the cash award (\$100), sponsored by Dr. Anand Lagoo. The awards were given by Dr. Deepak Kumar Mishra, TMH, Kolkata.





Vikas Mehta and Karuna Garg's very successful "Bite-sized histology pearls" at CAP 2025



Hansini Laharwani was invited to be a part of the joint House of Delegates and Residents Forum panel discussion at CAP 2025, where they addressed not only the critical workforce shortage in pathology, but also the complex realities surrounding visas.

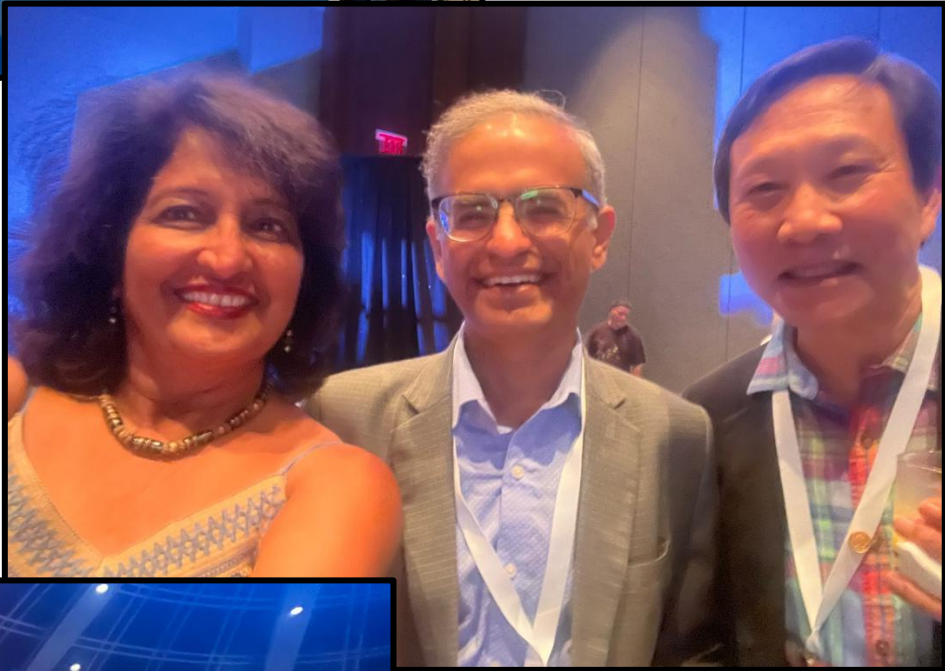


Connecting in Orlando! AIPNA is the organization that connects us all!



Celebrating
Success and
Friendship!

Igniting
Collaboration!



Making an
Impact,
Together!

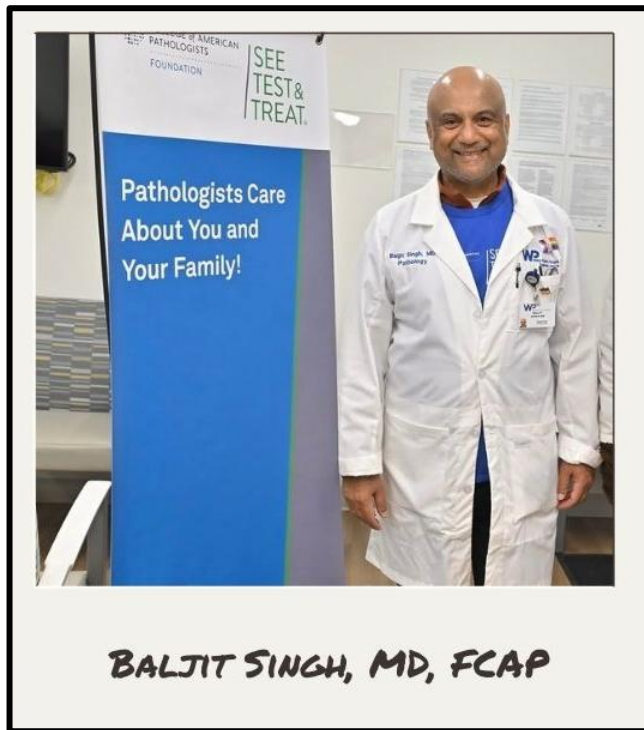
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CAP AWARDEES



Herbeck Humanitarian Award
Baljit Singh, White Plains Hospital



Leadership Development Travel Award:
Sonalben Italiya, M.D., Baylor College of Medicine



<https://foundation.cap.org/ourstories/from-vision-to-impact-dr-baljit-singh-receives-2024-herbek-humanitarian-award/>



Leadership Development Travel Award
Lily Mohapatra, MD., PhD,
Illinois Dermatology Institute



**Rajendra S. Singh, MD,
FCAP**

CAP Pathology Advancement Award



**Swati Bhardwaj, MD,
MBBS, FCAP**

CAP Outstanding Communicator



AIPNA COMPANION MEETING AT THE 73RD ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYTOPATHOLOGY MEETING IN ST LOUIS, NOVEMBER 2025

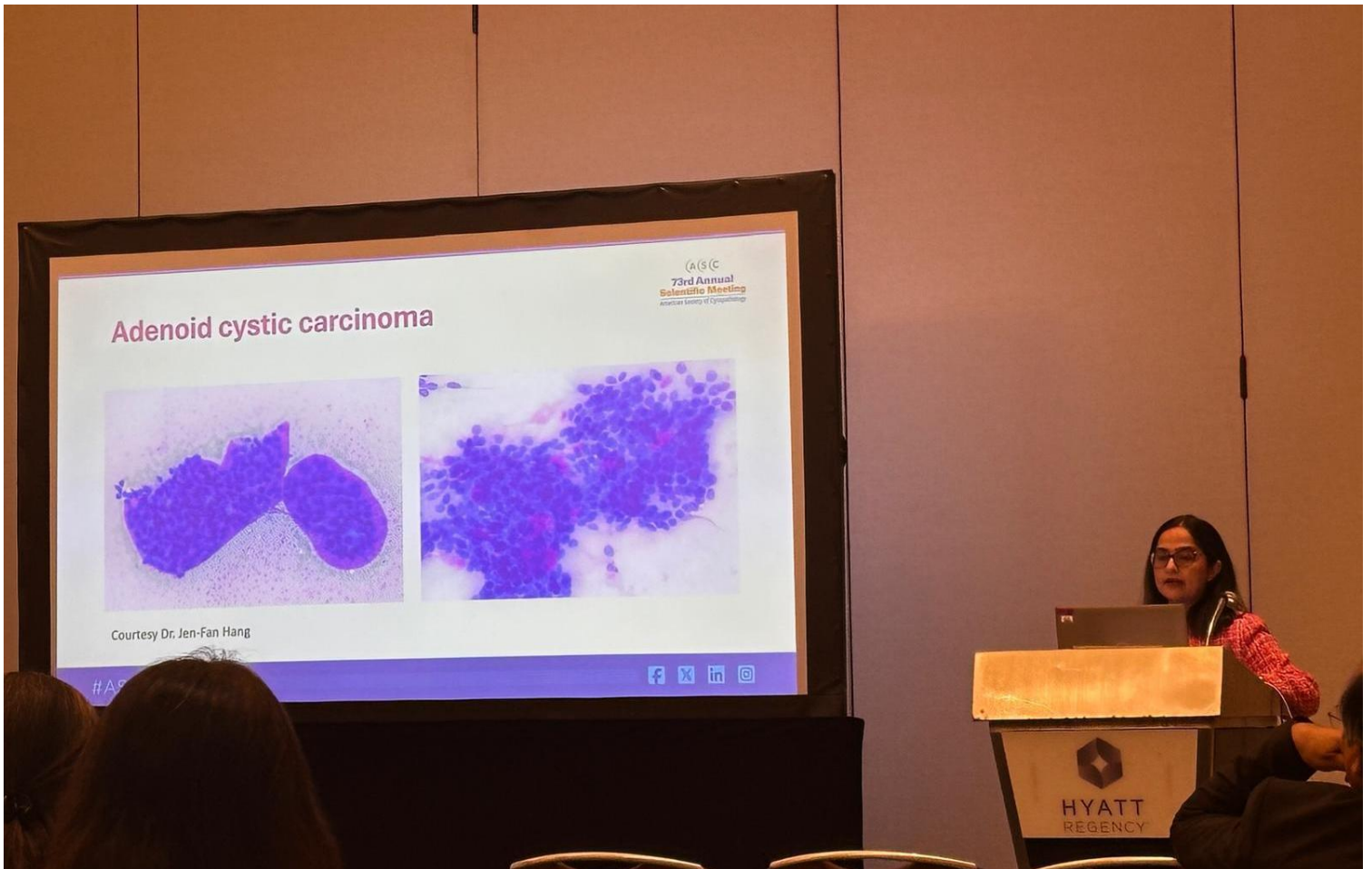


Dr. Renuka Malenie, moderator of the ASC meeting

The AIPNA Companion Session at the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) annual meeting in St. Louis, MO, on November 6, 2025, was a resounding success!

We were privileged to host a panel of expert speakers who delivered highly relevant and timely talks focusing on the critical evolution from traditional cytology to modern molecular diagnostics. Dr. Varsha Manucha, Dr. Nirag Jhala, and Dr. Poonam Vohra captivated the audience with their in-depth presentations. They skillfully explored the transition from “Morphology to Molecular” in key areas, covering complex topics in salivary gland tumors, liver lesions, and interventional cytopathology, respectively.

The session was exceptionally well attended, drawing a large and engaged crowd of cytopathology professionals. The quality and practicality of the presentations were highly appreciated by the audience, generating excellent discussion and demonstrating AIPNA's commitment to providing cutting-edge educational content.



Dr. Varsha Manucha at her talk on “Impact of Small Samples on Diagnosis of Salivary Gland Tumors.”



Dr. Nirag Jhala at his talk on "Impact of Small Tissue Samples and Focal Liver Lesions."



Dr. Poonam Vohra at her talk on "Impact of Interventional Cytopathology: Challenges and Opportunities"

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELECTED OFFICERS AT AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYTOPATHOLOGY



Sinchita Roy-Chowdhuri, MD, PhD
American Society of Cytopathology
Vice President

Celebrating Our Elected Stars!

The future of cytology is bright!



Swati Mehrotra, MD
Executive Board Medical Members



AIPNA Women: Leading cytology and building connections at ASC 2025!





Smiles and success: The unstoppable force of AIPNA at ASC St. Louis.



NEWS FROM INDIA

AIPNA Long time Member, Dr. Malini Harigopal, Vice chair Surgical Pathology, Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, USA Presents “Multidisciplinary CME on Breast Lesions” at Sri Ramchandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai on 9th September, 2025



Congratulations to the authors of the best paper of the year 2024!



European Society of Pathology

VIRCHOWS ARCHIV
European Journal of Pathology



Prize for the best paper of the year 2024



Prof. Bharat Rekhi et al.
Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India

for their paper

EWSR1::ATF1 Fusions Characterize A Group of Extra-abdominal Epithelioid and Round Cell Mesenchymal Neoplasms, Phenotypically Overlapping with Sclerosing Epithelioid Fibrosarcomas and Intra-abdominal *FET::CREB* Fusion Neoplasms

Congratulations!



Dr. Kamaljeet at Asian society of digital Pathology in Mumbai (Oct 10-12)



Breast masterclass CME in Philippines (Oct 23-2)

YouTube Search

POETRY SESSIONS

Saturday Nov 15

SUNAYANA KACHROO

AMIT MAJMUDAR

SRINIVAS MANDAVALLI

USHA AKELLA

YUYUTSU SHARMA

1:43 / 2:03

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IAAC LITERARY FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 15 - 16, 2025

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, NYC

IAAC Literary Festival 2025

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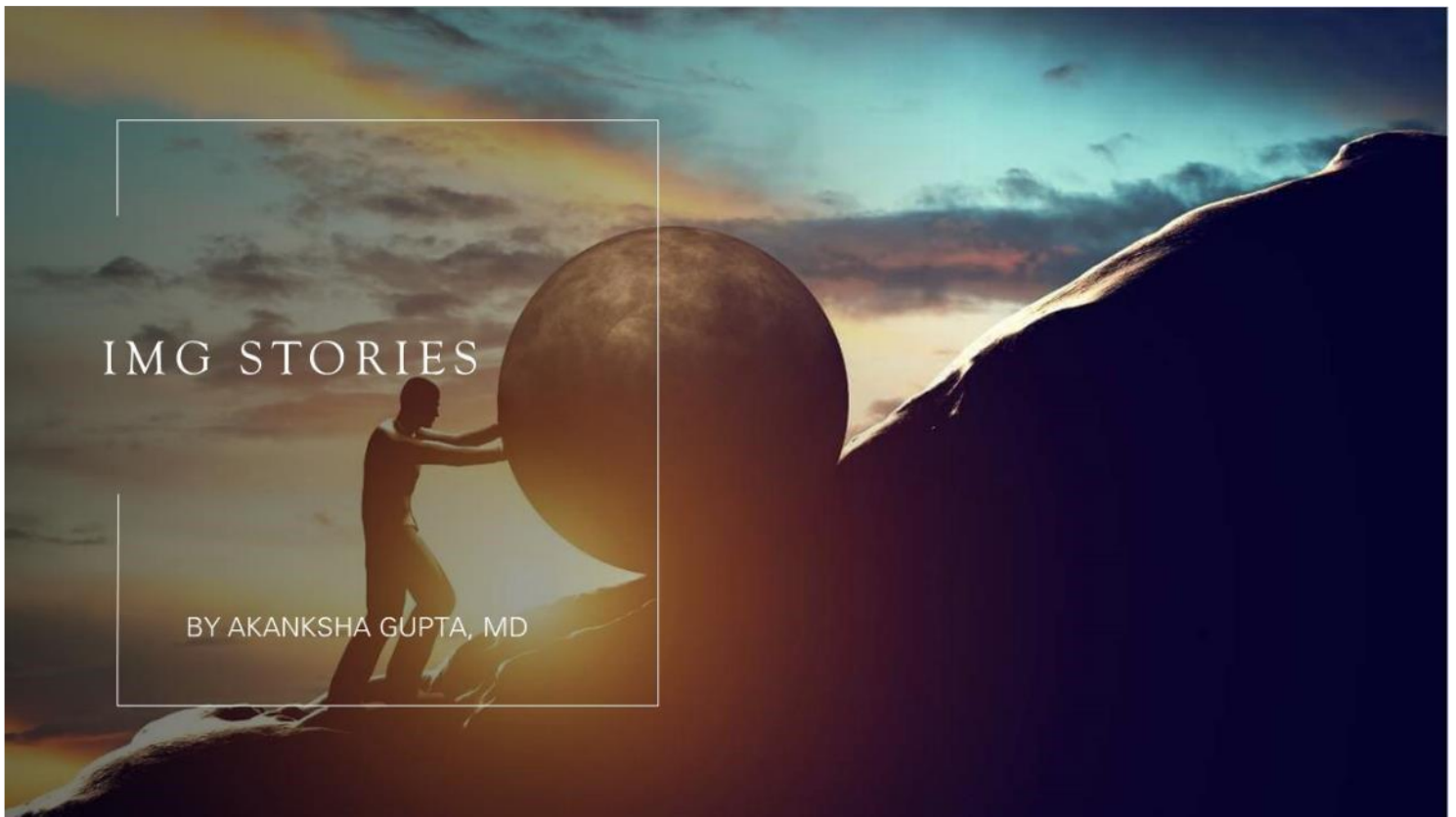
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IMG STORIES



"STILL DREAMING: FROM THE SLUMS TO THE STETHOSCOPE"

I was born and raised in the slums of Ghana, West Africa. Life was tough—tough in a way words can't fully describe. My parents didn't have much, but they gave us what they could: love, faith, discipline, and an unshakable belief in the power of education. That was their currency of hope. They poured everything they had into educating me and my siblings, even when it meant going without themselves.

One day when I was a child, I suffered a traumatic head injury. I don't remember all the details, but I remember the shift. After that, something inside me changed. I became withdrawn, anxious, and emotionally shut down. I couldn't explain it. I didn't have the words for what was happening to me, and I certainly didn't know how to ask for help. All I knew was that I felt broken.

Life got harder after that. My dad was a strict man. Like many African parents, his love was often expressed through high expectations and punishment when those expectations weren't met. The cane was always close by. I lived in fear—of failing, of being

misunderstood, of not being enough. I often felt like the odd one out among my siblings. They were sharper, more organized, better at navigating the rough world we grew up in. I wasn't discriminated against, but deep down, I knew I wasn't treated the same. And it hurt.

Still, in the middle of all that confusion, pain, and isolation, something in me kept dreaming. I didn't know how, but I believed I was meant for something greater. Even when I didn't believe in myself, the dream refused to die.

Academically, I was average—not bad, but not brilliant either. I battled intense self-doubt and low self-esteem. I was often sick and mentally exhausted. Childhood wasn't fun for me. But now when I look back, I thank God for that foundation. It kept me grounded. It made me hungry. It taught me to appreciate every step forward.

When my high school diploma results came in, I had failed. Anxiety and depression had taken their toll. It felt like the end. When a teacher asked what I planned to do next, I told him I still wanted to become a doctor. He chuckled sarcastically. I don't blame him. I

must have looked like a fool. But deep in my heart, I couldn't stop dreaming.

Everyone who heard me say I wanted to be a doctor thought I was either delusional or just plain stubborn. Eventually, I was talked into pursuing Mathematics instead. During that program, I got accepted into a Bachelor's degree in Applied Sciences at a school that most people didn't even consider a viable option. The location was terrible. The resources were almost nonexistent. But it was there I met the love of my life—my wife. That one blessing made all the hardship worth it.

She became my anchor. A true gift from God. That period of my life was filled with trials, but it made me stronger. I became resilient. I had to. I was still dreaming, still believing that somehow, someday, the impossible would become possible.

Then one day, after years of trying and failing, God did the unthinkable—I got accepted into medical school. I still don't understand how. It was nothing short of a miracle. That moment proved to me that with God, all things truly are possible (Mark 10:27).

Medical school was brutal. I had to fight through every semester. It was physically, emotionally, and financially draining. But again, God provided. My wife stepped in and supported me in ways I can never repay. The school was private, and the fees were overwhelming. But somehow, every time a payment was due, the money came. God used her to carry me through that season.

After medical school, I completed only part of my required internship. Then I made a risky move—I left for the United States. I knew it wasn't the wisest decision. I didn't have a license from my home country, which meant I couldn't qualify for the U.S. medical residency match. I was stuck. I couldn't go forward. I couldn't go back.

But I started studying for the U.S. boards anyway. I had no idea how I'd ever sit for them, let alone match. I also got a job working in a hospital. Looking back, I can't even call it faith. It was sheer desperation... and maybe a bit of divine foolishness. But somehow, I kept going.

Working in the hospital was another trauma. I was spoken to like I was nothing. I was constantly asked to prove that I had gone to medical school. "Where's your certificate?" "Which school did you attend?" "Are you even a real doctor?" The questions stung. The judgment was suffocating. The emergency department was intense, and I was often singled out, mocked, or ignored.

But I had seen worse. My story had built armor around my spirit. I refused to break.

Then COVID-19 happened. Everything changed. New policies were introduced. Pathways were created. And just like that, the very thing that had made my dream impossible became the key that unlocked the door. Only God could have orchestrated that.

Years later, I was sitting quietly when a message popped up on my phone. I read it, then read it again. I screamed. I wept. My wife and in-law ran to me in a panic, thinking something was wrong. But I was crying tears of joy—I had matched into residency in the USA!

Me. The boy from the slums. The one who failed his high school diploma. The one everyone laughed at when he said he wanted to be a doctor. The one who was told ""you can't."" I had made it.

Residency hasn't been smooth. I've faced racism, discrimination, and more subtle forms of abuse. But I no longer see these things as setbacks. I see them as part of my story. God is still writing it. And I believe it will end in praise.

Now, I see the bigger picture. I see why I had to go through every single hardship. It was never just about becoming a doctor—it was about becoming a witness. My life is proof that God takes brokenness and creates beauty. That He chooses the most unlikely people to do the most unbelievable things.

And I'm still dreaming.

This story isn't over. But one day, it will be. And when it is, I'll be standing with my hands lifted high, giving all the glory to the One who carried me through it all.

ANONYMOUS

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. IAPM: Jammu India, Dec 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; 2025
 2. Int CME, AIPNA ICP meeting in Amritsar, India Feb, 20-22 2026:
 3. MPAI, Kolkatta Feb 27-29, 2026
 4. IAP in Japan, Oct 2026
 5. Int CME in Goa, Jan 22,23, 24 - Dr Roque Pinto
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



The momentum of AIPNA this quarter has been nothing short of spectacular, proving that our association is truly going strong. This newsletter is a testament to the collective energy and expertise within our community, a community that cherishes, applauds, and connects us all. Our recent companion meetings at CAP '25 in Orlando and ASC in St. Louis were resounding successes, featuring insightful, well-attended, and often "Houseful" sessions on topics ranging from AI to "Morphology to Molecular" diagnostics. These events highlight AIPNA's commitment to delivering cutting-edge educational content, a commitment further emphasized by requesting a larger room for the CAP 2026 companion meeting to accommodate the growing interest.

We are especially proud to celebrate our members' remarkable professional achievements and leadership in the wider pathology world. We extend huge congratulations to Sinchita Roy-Chowdhuri, MD, PhD, for being elected the Vice President of ASC, and Swati Mehrotra, MD, for her election as an Executive Board Medical Member. Furthermore, Dr. Bharat Rekhi, TMH, was honored with the award for the best paper in 2024 by Virchows. We also applaud the CAP Awardees, including Dr. Baljit Singh (Herbeck Humanitarian Award), Dr. Rajendra S. Singh (Pathology Advancement Award), and Dr. Swati Bhardwaj (Outstanding Communicator Award).

AIPNA continues to be a hub for global engagement and recognition. Dr. Srinivas Mandavilli was featured at the Indo-American Arts Council Literary Festival in New York, and Dr. Malini Harigopal presented a multidisciplinary CME on Breast Lesions in Chennai, India. As we approach Thanksgiving, let's carry this spirit of achievement and collegiality forward. I encourage all members to engage, participate, and pledge our monetary support to the organization that unites us.

- **Akanksha Gupta, MBBS, MD, FASCP, FCAP**
Founder & CEO, Ace My Path
Lead editor, AIPNA Newsletter
