



Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association.Inc

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Welcome to AIMGA's first newsletter for 2011.

We welcome our new President Dr Shailja Chaturvedi, a Psychiatrist known to the community for her professional and charitable endeavours.

We also acknowledge new committee members Dr Amin, Dr Sachdev, Dr Chandra, Dr Prakash and Dr Lal. Dr (Mrs) Thakkar and Dr Singh are now sub committee members. We look forward to their valuable contributions.

The outgoing President Dr Patel achieved many valuable outcomes during his term, notably increasing the profile of AIMGA by attending various meetings in Sydney and Canberra (with Dr Rao) to engage with the salient issues. He also raised funds for the Pakistani flood victims with the help of Dr Bhatia and other AIMGA members. Dr Patel has now been appointed as the Public Officer for AIMGA.

AIMGA has been involved in various activities since the last newsletter and increased its membership profile. We extend a hearty welcome to all of our new members!

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting, which was held on 11 November 2010 at Crowne Plaza Norwest, was a successful event.

Many resolutions were passed, including the redrafting of the Constitution by Dr Rao and Dr Sawrikar with the assistance of Mr Onkaraswamy. A copy of the Constitution can be obtained upon request through Mr Onkaraswamy.

It was decided that allied health professionals such as dentists and pharmacists ought to be invited to become AIMGA affiliate members.

It was also decided that the membership contribution would be increased in 2011 to reflect the increased expenditure of AIMGA as the organisation has grown. A concessional rate will apply to students.

Annual Dinner Function

The Annual Dinner function was attended by many, including the NSW Health Minister. The Consul General of India delivered a touching and memorable speech. He raised the issue of homelessness and urged AIMGA members to deliver services to this sector of the community. The AMA president spoke very well on a range of issues, commending the contribution international medical graduates to Australia. He undertook to pursue the issue of the 10 year moratorium on IMGs with the Federal Health Minister. A special vote of thanks is to be extended to the MC of the function Dr Pradnya Dugal, who did a wonderful job. Thank you also to Dr Harinath for his contribution in attracting the involvement of dignitaries to the Annual Dinner function. Mention must also be made of Miss Melissa Wu, granddaughter of Dr Wu, past AIMGA President, who was especially honoured by AIMGA for her triple gold medal win at the Delhi Commonwealth Games.

Annual events

As usual, AIMGA was involved in fundraising for breast cancer research. Many committee members attended the Mother's Day Classic fun run/walk at Parramatta Park. All members are welcome to join in this event in 2011, with inquiries to be directed to Dr Nagamma.

AIMGA also held a stall at the United Indian Association's Australia India Friendship Fair at Olympic

Park. This year ,AMGA's stall helped a special project, entitled Project Dharma. The Coordinator Dr Ritin Fernandez (PhD) attended with Ms Charmaine Miranda, Research Assistant and collected data in relation to perceptions about ideas, attitudes and practices on the subject of cardiovascular and preventative health within the Indian community. The overall aim being to develop a family focused intervention program for the Indian community. The stall was also staffed by student doctors and pharmacists from the University of Sydney, which was overseen by Dr Sundar, Dr Prakash and Dr NC Patel. Dr Orekondy organised the participation of nurses from the Macular Degeneration Foundation.

Dr Patel attended the Project Dharma focus group session in February on behalf of AIMGA.

Pakistani flood relief

AIMGA was actively involved in fundraising for the Pakistani flood victims. Assistance in this regard was provided by the UIA and the Pakistani Doctors Association, as well as private and business contributors.

CME Activities

Dr Nagamma had overall carriage of CME activities. As part of this program, Dr Orekondy organised an eye health workshop which was well attended. Feedback from the workshop suggests that it was a useful workshop of a very high standard.

Dr Nagamma will carry on as CME Coordinator for 2011. All members are requested to provide ideas and assistance on CME activities where appropriate.

AIMGA's overseas conference

There are two overseas conferences organised for 2011. They are cruises of Eastern Europe and Alaska which will take place in July and August. Trip organisers are Dr Borkar, Dr Sawrikar, Dr Chandra and Dr Orekondy. All members are welcome to inquire about these most exciting adventures.

Annual Premier's Indian Subcontinent Community Awards

The Annual Premier's Indian Subcontinent Community Awards recognise the long standing relationship between NSW and members of the Indian Subcontinent Community. The Awards are presented each year by the Premier of NSW at Government House and winners receive a certificate and official citation. AIMGA has nominated Dr Rao this year, in recognition of his charitable contributions. The ceremony will be held at Government House on the 18th February 2011.

Chandana TV

AIMGA supports Chandana TV by providing a televised health information program monthly. Any members interested in hosting a session can contact Mr Onkaraswamy.

Obituary

AIMGA acknowledges members, Dr Zaman and Dr Gani who have sadly passed away. Condolences have been sent to the respective families and our thoughts are with them at this time.

Professional support

We extend our gratitude to Mr Bellantonio, Honorary Solicitor and Mr McNaughton, Accountant for their ongoing assistance. We also thank Mr Onkaraswamy for his efficient administrative support. Finally, we look forward to the year 2011. We hope to increase the contribution of all committee members to enhance AIMGA and increase its membership. As AIMGA members, we are privileged to be able to share friendship, support and professional advice with one another.

AIMGA Ex President Dr Orekondy received Lifetime Achievement Award



New South Wales Government recently awarded the first-ever Indian Subcontinent Community Awards. The Awards presentation function was held at the beautiful gardens of the Government House, Sydney overlooking the Sydney Harbour and Opera House..

AIMGA Member and Ex president of AIMGA, Dr Siddhu Orekondy was the recipient of the “Lifetime Achievement Award”. Dr Orekondy is also ChandanaTV Asia Pacific Television Honorary chairman also presently the President of Sydney Kannada Sangha and Veerashaiva Samaja of Asia-Pacific Inc.

New South Wales Premier Mrs. Kristina Kennelly honoured Dr Orekondy by presenting the Medal and Certificate of Appreciation. Dr. Orekondy shared the honour with Dr. Siddhu the former scientist of CSIRO.

New South Wales government Ministers Mr. John Robertson and Mrs. Barbara Perry, Indian Consul General Mr Amit Das Gupta, Community Relations Commission Chairperson Mr. Stephan Kerkyasharian were present on the occasion along with many Indian sub-continent community leaders. AIMGA was represented for this award ceremony Dr N.C Patel. Dr Hem Rao and Dr Sunder.

Report from President Dr Shailja Chaturvedi.

I attended on the invitation of the Fijian govt a meeting as a member of expert advisory committee for mental health reform and developing postgraduate studies at the Fiji National University from 14th to 18th Feb 2011.

Mental Health is recognised as an integral part of any national development. It is now a significant priority for the Fijian govt who is endeavouring to move away from its image of a highly subsidised country to developing its own resources and utilise its home grown product.

I was accompanied by Dr Naveen Chandra another psychiatrist from Wollongong and a member of AIMGA. I met in Suva a young surgeon Dr Amit Rana from Sydney who was doing a brief locum for the local hospital.

Fiji with its nearly 38% Indian population may be an option for our members to work there even on a working holiday.

AIMGA will continue to foster many useful partnerships to boost its profile and utility

This newsletter has been prepared by Dr Sundar, in conjunction with Dr (Mrs) Sachdev and Dr Amin.

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AIMGA Executive Committee 2011



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Chaturvedi



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