

8 South Asian-Americans Among 2011 Ellis Island Medal Winners

By A STAFF WRITER

Eight South Asian-Americans, including five Indians and three Pakistani Americans, were awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a special ceremony at the Ritz Carlton in New York on May 7.

The event, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the prestigious awards, was hosted by comedian Jerry Lewis.

The South Asian-American honorees were Dr. Samin Sharma, Nitin Doshi, Babu Rao Mandava, Manu Vora, Tejinder Singh Bindra, Munr Kazmir, and Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim.

The awards were created to recognize the contributions of distinguished immigrants who are now United States citizens.

Honorees are selected from nominations by the public in several categories, including distinguished service to humanity in



Dr. Samin Sharma



Nitin Doshi



Babu Rao Mandava



Manu Vora



Tejinder Singh Bindra



Munr Kazmir



Dr. Fahim Rahim



Dr. Naeem Rahim

any field or building bridges between racial and ethnic groups, a statement on the awards website said.

Sharma, who serves as the director of interventional cardiology at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, holds the record – 1,500 – for most number of complex coronary interventions performed annually. He also serves on the Cardiac Advisory Board of New York state for coronary interventions.

Doshi, with his wife Leena, founded the Diagnostic Imaging Group that provides a variety of medical imaging services.

From a single clinic in Queens,

N.Y., in 1985, the Doshis have expanded their operations to 38 locations in New York and Florida.

Mandava, founder of Indotronix International Corporation, lives in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Vora of Naperville, Ill., is chairman and president of Business Excellence Inc., a global management consulting firm.

Bindra, the president of the Sikh Art & Film Foundation, is also president of the Sikh Organization.

Pakistan-born Kazmir is founder of the American International School System representing U.S. educational invest-

ment ever made in Lahore and brings quality education to underprivileged children.

The Rahims were born in Peshawar and after moving to Idaho in 2005, they established the Idaho Kidney Institute.

Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh, publisher of News India Times, has also

been honored with the award.

Other Indian-American recipients have included Dr. Akshay Desai of St. Petersburg, Fla., who was last week reappointed to the state's education board; and Dr. Uma Mysorekar, president of the Hindu Temple Society of North America.

Nassau County Executive Praises Indian-Americans



Nassau County Chief Executive Edward Mangano, center, with American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin Queens-Long Island (AAPI-QLI) chapter members at a recent felicitation meeting at Hotel Akbar, Garden City, N.Y. Addressing the meeting, Mangano said New York State is blessed with a diverse population with roots all around the world and the Indian community has gone out of the way to improve relations with other citizens and is committed to enhancing the lives of fellow citizens. "It's this compassion and dedication to healing the residents of Long Island that should be recognized," he added. Photo right, Mangano presents a county citation to Dr. Krishan Kumar, president of AAPI-QLI. Dr. Kumar also presented a plaque on behalf of the organization to Mangano. According to Dr. Kumar, AAPI-QLI represents over 600 physicians out of 2,000 Indian-American physicians living in the county. Others who attended the meeting include Dr. Ajay Lodha, treasurer of AAPI-QLI and chairman of the New York AAPI Convention committee, Dr. Shashi Shah, chair of AAPI Charitable Foundation and president of host city convention chair, Dr. Satish Anand, incoming chair of AAPI Board of Trustees and Dr. TKS Rao, professor of nephrology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.



Physician Honored at Cancer Society Event

FROM NEWS DISPATCHES

Dr. Chandu Patel, a noted Williamsburg, N.Y., pediatrician, was among several physicians and volunteers feted at a May 10 dinner hosted in honor of the Rofeh Cholim Cancer Society (RCCS).

Thousands of Williamsburg residents, well-wishers and donors packed the Ateres Avraham Hall in Brooklyn, N.Y., to

support the society's work.

According to its website, the RCCS provides an array of services for cancer-stricken patients in need; primary among them is the subsidizing of health insurance premiums, enabling them to obtain the best possible medical care.

Rabbi Aharon Schiff, the chief rabbi of Antwerp, Belgium, flew in especially to attend the program, a press release said.

Along with Patel, the numerous volunteers of Chesed of

Williamsburg, who provide rides to and from hospitals, and several other community activists were recognized for their dedication and service.

Apart from poetry reading and songs, inspiring speeches were delivered by Reb Hershel Kohn, RCCS founder and president, and by noted singer Yonasson Schwartz, who spoke of his firsthand knowledge of the life-saving work of RCCS. Videos about the society were also screened.

Youth Group Raises \$4,000 at Annual Basketball Event

By A STAFF WRITER

The 3rd annual Hoops for Hope Basketball Tournament was held April 30 at the gym at South Asian Youth Action's center in Elmhurst, Queens. Over 100 people attended the high-energy afternoon of basketball, music and food, a press release from SAYA said. Sixteen teams featuring both youth and young professionals competed in two divisions - casual and competitive. The event was coordinated by SAYA's Young Professional Action Council (YPAC).

Over \$ 4,000 was raised at the event to support SAYA's many youth programs providing academic support, leadership development, sports and wellness activities, artistic expression, and social and emotional support to 600 youth annually, the release said.

Late Bloomers, the winning team of the casual division, was led by Vishnu Murthy, a MBA student at New York University. Murthy and Usman Ahmed founded the event in 2009 to demonstrate

peaceful solidarity among Muslim and Hindu communities in response to the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India, the release said.

In the final game of the competitive division, Team Mahindra met with the undefeated Victorious Secret, led by team captain Asif Khan, which emerged "victorious" in the championship game and took home the trophy.

During a break between games, youth staff Vinay Kapoor facilitated a 3-point shoot-out contest where staff, young professionals, and youth participated for a \$25 gift card to Best Buy. Following two tie-breakers, Neel Pahlajani won, with a record of seven shots made under a minute. Pahlajani is the founder of Hoops India, an organization dedicated to promoting high quality basketball at the grassroots level.

Sandwiches were provided by New York Style Eats.

Other sponsors included Akin Gump & Associates, Shearman Sterling, House of Spices, Kalra Insurance, Khera Travels, and Ila & Dinesh Paliwal.

