AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIOLOGISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

NOVEMBER 1995 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the Fall semi-annual meeting of AACIO on Sunday November 12, 1995, at the Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, CA. By now you must have received the invitations and I personally urge you to attend and send your RSVP soon.

In previous newsletters on the occasion of these meetings, I outlined the objectives and goals of our organization. One of the goals was to encourage the younger Indian-Americans to get involved in clinical as well as basic research and present their work to their peers during these meetings. For the first time we have been able to accomplish this. To encourage wide participation we have decided to present a check of $500/- to each of these first two winners of these awards, in addition to a plaque recognizing their work. Inspite of advertisement in the AACIO newsletter and by word-of-mouth to academic cardiologists to encourage their fellows to submit their work, we have only had two entries.

1) Assessment of myocardial reperfusion using hormonic imaging echo contrast enhancement. An experimental study by Gopal Agarwal, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Agarwal obtained his M.D. from the University of Pune and is at present working as a research fellow under Dr. Navin C. Nanda.

2) Prophylactic use of Aspirin and Antioxidants by Physicians. A survey by Jason Mehta, University of Florida, Gainsville. Jason is a twelve year old eighth grader at the Fort Clark Middle School in Gainsville, Florida.

Each of the above presentations will last for 10 minutes and the awardees will receive a remuneration of $500 and a plaque.

We have two outstanding scientists who will be honored for their scientific achievements.

1) Dr. Sanjeev Saksena is an outstanding electrophysiologist. He is Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at UMDNJ, N.J. Medical School, Newark, N.J. and Director of Arrhythmia and Pacemaker Services, The Eastern Heart Institute of The General Hospital Center in Passaic, N.J. He is also Director of Pediatric Electrophysiology, Children's Hospital of N.J., Newark, N.J. He is a member of numerous professional societies and has authored many articles and textbooks.

2) Dr. Sampath Parthasarathy received his Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Sciences in Bangalore, India. While working at the University of California, San Diego, Dr. Parthasarathy described the critical role of oxidation of low density lipoproteins in vascular injury and atherosclerosis. This along with his work on anti-oxidants has led to a new direction in therapeutic management of atherosclerosis. He is presently Professor in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics and Medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia.

Last year we completed a decade of our existence and during this period the organization has grown and gathered momentum. I urge our members, particularly the cardiologists in academic centers, to get more involved and help in making endeavors such as Young Investigators Award a success.

I request you again to attend the meeting on Sunday November 12, 1995, in large numbers and come with new ideas and constructive criticism.

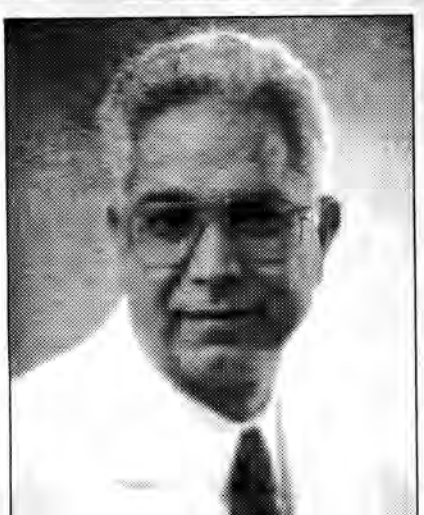
Madhukar M. Deshmukh, M.D., F.R.C.P.

THE LATE DR. RUSTOM JAL VAKIL, M.D., F.R.C.P.

On September 29th, 1995, The New York Times published the list of Albert Lasker Medical Research Award Laureates celebrating 50 years of these awards given for achievement in basic and clinical research and public service. Among the numerous awardees was the name of a lone Indian - Rustom Jal Vakil, M.D., F.R.C.P. for his pioneering work in the field of hypertension and introducing Serpasil and its alkaloids to Western medicine for the treatment of hypertension. For many years Reserpine was the cornerstone of treatment of hypertension including the accelerated and malignant phase of hypertension.

Dr. Vakil was an astute clinician, brilliant teacher and a scholar and some of us from the K.E.M. Hospital and G.S. Medical College fondly remember his bedside teaching.

AACIO Members In The News



Jawahar Mehta, M.D.

Jawahar Mehta, M.D., Ph.D., who is the Chairman of the committee for Young Investigators Award is well known to our members. Last year he got the A.A.C.I.O. award for his scientific achievements. He was recently awarded the University of Florida College of Medicine's Faculty Clinical Research Award as the outstanding researcher of the year. Dr. Mehta is Professor of Medicine at the University of Florida, and Staff Cardiologist at the V.A. Medical Center at Gainsville. Dr. Mehta's research interest is platelets and thrombosis. More than a decade ago Dr. Mehta was first to determine the role of platelets as a major player in the causation of coronary artery disease, and this basic work led to the use of aspirin and other platelet inhibiting drugs for the treatment of this disorder. He and his wife Paulette Mehta, M.D., authored the first book on platelet and heart disease entitled - "Platelets and Prostaglandins in Cardiovascular Disease".

In addition to his work on platelets, thrombin and the thrombosis cascade, he along with Dr. James B. Hendricks, developed a new test for rapid diagnosis of myocardial infarction. The test determines the level of monocyte platelet conjugates which is eight to nine times higher than normal in patients with myocardial infarction. The test takes about 30 minutes to perform. Further multicentric trials will be required for its further validation.

Navin C. Nanda, M.D.

Dr. Navin C. Nanda is in the news again. At the annual convention of A.A.P.I. in June 1995 he was awarded A.A.P.I.'s Most Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Nanda needs no introduction to the members of AACIO. He was the founding president of the Organization. His contribution to the consolidation of A.A.P.I. (American Association of Physicians from India) are not known to many. In the late 1980's when the association was a fledgling organization of diverse groups of physicians at cross-purposes with each other, he, with his organizational skill and nonconfrontational approach, was instrumental in unifying these groups into one single united organization. For his contribution to echocardiography he received honors and awards from countries such as the USA, India, China, France, Brazil, etc. He is the author/co-author of nearly 400 scientific publications, and nine highly acclaimed textbooks and video teaching tapes.

Besides Dr. Nanda, several other members of AACIO became presidents of AAPI. Among them are Drs. Roshanlal, Gopal Lalmalani, and the current president, Dr. C. Venkat S. Ram. Those who attended the annual convention of AAPI in June 1995 in Chicago, which was addressed by President Bill Clinton, know how strong the organization has become, thanks to the leadership and hard work of the above mentioned members.

Naranjan Dhalla, M.D.

AACIO congratulates one of its members, Dr. Naranjan Dhalla for his numerous achievements.

Dr. Dhalla, an Indian-Canadian Cardiologist was honored by Charles University in Prague, conferring on him an honorary doctorate degree in Medicine, and awarded him its Gold Medal for his contribution in the fields of physiology, biochemistry and pharmacology of the heart. Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia, is one of the oldest Universities in Europe.

Dr. Dhalla is division head at St. Boniface General Hospital Research Center in Winnipeg, Canada.

Announcement Of Research Investigator Award

The American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin announces a Research Investigator Award for trainees in cardiovascular disease.

Eligibility: Current trainees or Assistant Professor level individuals who accomplished the work during their training. The applicant must be of Indian subcontinent origin. The work may have been conducted inside or outside India, and may relate to any domain of the cardiovascular system including physiology, pharmacology, pathology, medicine, or surgery.

Award: The first and second prizes will include a cash award of $500.00 and a plaque of recognition. The applicants will be invited to present their work at the annual meeting of the AACIO in conjunction on March 24, 1996.

Submission of Abstract: All abstracts should be submitted in AHA abstract format in triplicate to:

J.L. Mehta, M.D., PhD
Professor of Medicine and Physiology
University of Florida College of Medicine
Box 100277 JHMHC
Gainesville, FL 32610

All submissions must be made prior to February 15, 1996. The cover letter should include the applicant's current address, and phone and fax numbers. For further information, please contact Dr. J.L. Mehta (fax #904-374-6113).

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International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound (ISCU) and Chinese Medical Association (CMA) sponsor The Second World Congress of Echocardiography and Vascular Ultrasound

May 24-26, 1996 (Friday-Sunday)
Beijing, China
Congress Site: Conference Center, Chinese Medical Association

Organizing Committee
Chairman: Navin C. Nanda
Co-Chairpersons: Wang Xin-Fang, MD, Liu Han-Ying, MD and Xu Zhi-Zhang, MD (China)

Cooperating Societies: 35 Societies, including the American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin, are cooperating with this meeting.

Other CME Programs

November 10-11, 1995 Echocardiography State of the Art. Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California. Sponsored by the University of Alabama School of Medicine, UAB Division of Continuing Medical Education and Division of Cardiology. Anaheim California (just prior to the American Heart Association Meetings.) CME Credits: 15.5 hours Category 1

December 22-24, 1995 World Conference on Consensus in Clinical Cardiology and Workshop in Echocardiography (WORLDCON '95 AND ECHOVISION '95). Meridian Hotel, New Delhi, India. Sponsored by the University of Alabama School of Medicine, UAB Division of Continuing Medical Education and Division of Cardiology. CME Credits: 22 hours Category 1

December 25-26, 1995 International Conference on Recent Advances in Cardiology. Medwin Hospital, Hyderabad, India. Sponsored by the University of Alabama School of Medicine, UAB Division of Continuing Medical Education and Division of Cardiology. CME Credits: 14 hours Category 1

December 29-30, 1995 International Conference on Cardiology and Echocardiography Workshop. Bombay, India. Sponsored by the University of Alabama School of Medicine, UAB Division of Continuing Medical Education and Division of Cardiology. CME Credits: 14 hours Category 1

March 22-23, 1996 The Twelfth Annual International Symposium on Recent Advances in Echocardiography (with emphasis on Transesophageal, Stress and 3D and 4D Echocardiography) will be held at the Buena Vista Palace, Lake Buena Vista, Florida just prior to the American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando, Florida. This two day symposium is designed to provide a comprehensive review of recent advances in various aspects of echocardiography with emphasis on transesophageal, stress, and 3D and 4D echocardiography. Sponsored by the University of Alabama School of Medicine, UAB Division of Continuing Medical Education and Division of Cardiology. CME Credits: TBA Category 1.

For further information on any of these conferences, please contact Navin C. Nanda, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham, Heart Station SW/S102, Birmingham, AL 35233. Phone: 205-934-8256; fax: 205-934-6747.

AACIO Newsletter
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AACIO Newsletter November 1995

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