

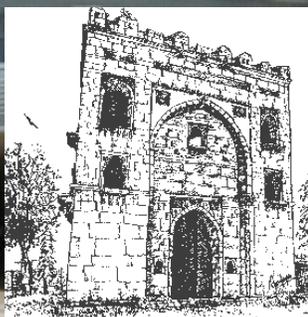
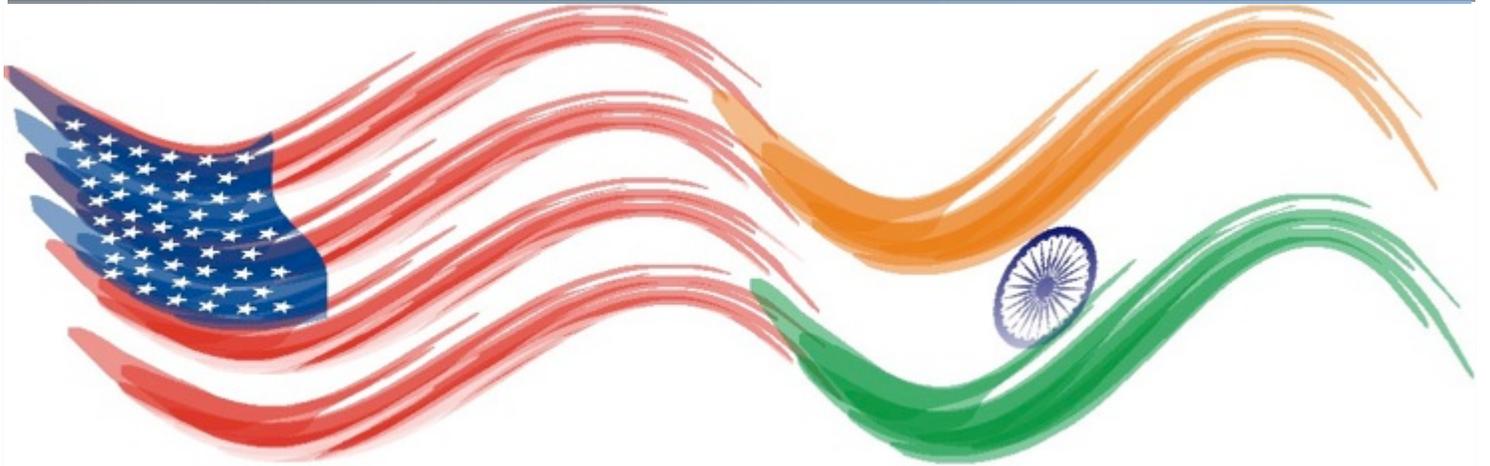


28th Edition
September 2012

इशानवेष्टइते

The Voice of MAMCOAANA

Maulana Azad Medical College Alumni Association of North America



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Message From The President – 2011-2012

A year ago, when I took over as President of MAMCOAANA, I was awestruck by the honor bestowed by fellow MAMC Alumni upon me and I made a personal pledge to myself to make sure that the Alumni had the best time and the most fun possible at the annual MAMCOAANA Convention.

The XXVIII Annual Convention at Houston, has just concluded my tenure at the helm and I can say without any hesitation that based on the feedback I have had so far from the attendees, there was indeed much fun at the convention, along with the education.



In arranging this convention I had the help of three outstanding individuals who pitched in without hesitation and without whom the convention would have not been successful. Randeep Suneja, Seema Suneja and Rita Kaul gave help and worked unstintingly. Randeep and Seema were of course the meeting hosts and really the point persons in Houston who did much of the initial work in working out the details which only a Houstonian could have done. Their contribution ranged from picking the hotel, soliciting local sponsors for the Convention, to arranging the little details like gifts for the attendees as well as in picking the menu for the meals. Without them, the convention would not have been as successful. Rita's work was behind the scenes. She arose from her sick bed to take charge of the mundane work like keeping track of who the registrants were, their addresses, the monies they had paid, the CME brochure and so on. So thank you to these three individuals. The XXVIII Convention marked a passing of the baton in more ways than one. Rakesh Nanda, our long time CME Chair, stepped down after 12 years to make way for the next generation of MAMC Alumni led by Dinesh Chaudhry along with Anupama Pathak, and guided by Raj Marwah.

In the past year MAMCOAANA has grown in strength. During the year July 2011-July 2012, a total of 19 MAMC Alumni became new life members. That in itself, is a record, due in some part to the reduction in Life Membership fee to \$200. Financially also, the MAMCOAANA 2012 convention was able to attract multiple sponsors, all due entirely to the strenuous efforts of Randeep Suneja.

I take pride and satisfaction in leaving MAMCOAANA in a position of strength. However, it will still take every committed MAMCOAANA member to motivate non-member MAMCOAANA alumni to become Life Members of the organization and to start making the annual convention a regular feature on their calendar.

I want to take this opportunity to thank two members who not only attend each MAMCOAANA convention but also shepherd the MAMCOAANA accounts faithfully, namely Bhushan Pandya and Ashutosh Gupta. I want to thank all the members of MAMCOAANA and the Executive Committee, too numerous to enumerate, who helped make MAMCOAANA 2012 memorable. For this, Nikhil Goyal, our webmaster gets a special thanks for his unstinting efforts with the web.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome I. P. Chhabra, the incoming president of MAMCOAANA.

And finally I'd like to offer my humble thanks to the MAMCOAANA members who gave me an opportunity to serve the organization that we all love so much.

- Bupesh Kaul, MD

Message From The President – 2012-2013

I still cannot believe that it has been 20 Years since I left MAMC for the United States. Like all of us, I too struggled to get through training. I terribly missed all good friends I spent 6 years of my prime youth with.

And then fortunately, came back to MAMCOAANA. It has been a great experience. Reconnecting with some old faces and some new, it was rejuvenating. Especially since now the relationship is more collegial.

Some of us got exposed to giving back at MAMC through the leadership of teachers such as Dr G.S.Sethi, a phenomenal pediatrician and humanitarian; and the National Service Scheme programs run by P&S.M. department at MAMC. I saw an X ray machine at Tilak Vihar widow's colony with the inscription "Donated by Nargis Dutt Foundation". (www.nargisduttny.com). I am lucky to have been involved with them since 1996. This foundation has donated millions of dollars worth of equipment to various charitable institutions across India. It has also helped contribute towards natural calamity relief funds such as in Bhuj, Gujarat and Haiti.

I wish we could have such a structure in MAMCOAANA as well. I brought this idea up a few years back to my MAMC1986 yahoo group. There was a very mixed reaction. Some were apathetic, most were warm and then there were some who were very enthusiastic towards this program. The way we envisaged it was to raise a small to modest endowment, which sort of pays for itself through investments etc. My good friend, Anupam Sibal from Apollo Hospitals gave this brilliant idea of utilising these funds to encourage real and original research at MAMC. The idea was to institute an award to be provided to any student of MAMC who publishes an original article in a well known peer reviewed journal. I am looking forward to creating this through my class and would like to welcome the larger MAMCOAANA group to contribute and participate as well.

Looking forward, I and my family invite all of you and your families to spend a few days of your summer of 2013 with us in our hometown of Long Island, New York. In order to keep expenses reasonable, we are working on getting the best deals possible.

Have a great rest of the year and a bright future.

- Inderpal Chhabra MD FACP



The Editor's Inky Notes

I am proud to bring another edition of Sandesh to you.

This year saw a major 'change of guard' in that Dr. Rakesh Nanda handed off his enormous mantle of CME organization to others – and it took three able minded and able bodied people to shoulder what he has carried alone all these years. Drs. Dinesh Choudhary, Raj Marwah and Anupama Pathak together will be CME organizers for the year 2012-2013.

As the compiler, chronicler and editor of this newsletter, my biggest challenge and delight is to coax material from my dear mamcoana colleagues, who, in the stupor of the alumni reunion are usually slow to respond. This time, however, I was pleasantly overwhelmed to receive responses that were not just prompt, but deliciously readable, and as always, so from the heart. It is my pleasure to share all these with you.

- Tarang Sharma, MD



Introducing the new CME Committee!!



Dr. Dinesh Choudhry



Dr. Raj Marwah



Dr. Anupama Pathak

Minutes of GBM MAMCOAANA July 30, 2012

Location: Residence of Dr. Randeep and Seema Suneja, Houston, TX

Time: 2.30PM, 7/28/2012

Called to order by Dr. Bupesh Kaul, President 2011-2012.

1. Approval of minutes of GBM 2011 sought – approved by Dr. B. B. Kalra.
2. Financial Update provided by Dr. Bhushan Pandya and Dr. Ashutosh Gupta
 - Merrill Lynch Account (Parent account) – balance as of 6/30/2012 – 196,922.94
 - ANB account (Active, current account) – balance to date - 10, 966.03
 - Convention account 2011 – closed – transferred to ANB already – 2011 convention was subsidized by approximately 1500-2000 dollars by the Parent account.
 - Full details of convention 2012 account will be available to present to the GBM 2013
3. Credential verification update provided by Dr. Bhushan Pandya –
 - new part time liaison in place at MAMC to help with credential verification – paid by MAMCOAANA, working under the direction of the Dean Dr. A.K. Agarwal
 - Most credential verification submission can now be done online (details from Dr. Khurana and Dr. Pandya)
 - At the present time the service is free and is being utilized not just by MAMCOAANA members but by all MAMCITES globally
 - Dr. Rakesh Nanda, asked regarding the need and establishment of a fee for these services to cover the running costs, as well as incentivizing it for MAMCOAANA members
 - Dr. Ashutosh Gupta clarified that this is under consideration once the accountability and the accuracy of the process is better established.
 - Dr. Mitter and Dr. Pathak volunteered to look into details of streamlining the verification process even further.
 - Proposal from Dr. Bupesh Kaul – Dr. Pandya/Dr. Ajay Mitter/Dr. Anupama Pathak to work out more details and logistics of the verification process together and present their findings to the GBM in 2013 – unanimously approved.
3. New Officers for 2012 - 2013
 - President – I . P. Chhabra
 - Immediate Past President – Bupesh Kaul
 - President Elect – Bharat Bhushan Kalra
 - Secretary – Tarang Sharma
 - Treasurer – Bhushan Pandya

- Chairman, By-laws – Ashutosh Gupta
- Members at large – Vimal Sodhi, Shiv Gaur, Rajeev Malik
- AAPI Liaisons – Bhushan Pandya, Vikas Khurana

Further, Dr. Rakesh Nanda has been unanimously elected as permanent EC member for life with full voting rights, as he steps down from the post of the CME organizer after 12 years of continuous service.

4. To fill the vast shoes of Dr. Nanda's role as CME organizer, an amendment was proposed by Dr. Bharat Bhushan Kalra, seconded by Dr. Ajay Goel and unanimously approved by the GBM – to organize a CME committee with a CME chair and additional members per the Chair's discretion.

- CME chair – Dinesh Choudhary
- CME committee members – Dr. Raj Marwah, Dr. Anupama Pathak

Further, Dr. Ajay Mitter proposed looking into placing CME presentations on the MAMCOAANA website page. This will be looked into by Tarang Sharma, with assistance from the webmaster.

5. Convention 2013 – New York City, tentative dates July 25 – 28th. Organizer – Dr. I.P. Chhabra

Thoughts From Dr. Dinesh Choudhry - CME Chairman 2012-2013

The 28th MAMCOAANA convention in Houston was a well-organized fun filled event. One major change that took place was the handing off of the CME Chairmanship - undoubtedly, a huge responsibility that Dr. Rakesh Nanda shouldered for twelve long years with energy and enthusiasm. It was time for someone else to step up and give Rakesh a break. It is time for me to contribute!

The newly created three member CME committee with Dr Raj K Marwah, Dr Anupama Pathak, and I as chairman, will try to hold the brightly burning torch and keep it burning with the same intensity, if not brighter. My goal would be to ensure that these eight educational hours continue to be well rounded and informative. I feel that for many MAMCOAANA members, as it is for me, this is an important forum where we get to learn about the advances in medical specialties other than our own.

One of the CME committee members will be contacting some of you to please come forward and educate the rest of us about the advances in your respective fields. We will keep you posted and look forward to seeing you next year.

Dinesh Choudhry MD, FRCA

My Reminiscences - Notes from Dr. Rakesh Nanda

Dear friends,

It is with many mixed emotions that I decided to hand over the reins of the CME program. I have organized the sessions for 12 years and now felt it was time to move on. I have enjoyed doing this (duty) and want to say that without you all the annual meeting and the CME would not be there. Thanks for letting me a part of this and putting your faith and trust in me.

Also, many thanks to the countless speakers over the years who came up and agreed to speak whenever I called on them. It would be remiss of me to forget the numerous hosts/ presidents and the families who over the years made superb arrangements at each city. I call it a “mini wedding”. Kudos to all of you. Many thanks.

Over the past year I have had occasion to reflect back over the now more than 12 years I have attended and served. All I can say is that it has been my privilege to work with you all.

You all showered me with your love at Houston. That kind of appreciation is very gratifying to me professionally. It humbles me.

It has been a joy to make it to the convention over the years. I guess I can state that I hold the record for not missing a *single* meeting for the past dozen years (yes! I have tabs on everyone...).

Of course, I will not miss lugging the ancient projector- they have become smaller- but ours works very well...(don't discard it). It has served us well. I got attached to it over time.

I won't miss having to tell the speakers that their time is up and then listen to our audience say “let him speak”.

But I will miss many things- too numerous to elaborate here.

The new CME committee – Dinesh, Raj and Anupama will do great job and I am always available if needed.

I must thank my family work supporting me - especially my wife Anita who let me go each year even when she could not make it.

Thanks once again to you all Maulanians for attending each year.

I could go on and on but I won't.....30 minutes are up..... It has been a great innings.

See you next year.....

This has been a busy road

Now a time to change the scene

The journey has been long and will continue

Now be ready, for a lot of cheers

Be ready for change



MAMCOAANA 2012 In Pictures









On Being The Inadvertent Event Manager

*From the desk of Seema Suneja
A non-mamcrite YET part of the MAMC family*

Over a year ago, Randeep expressed the desire of hosting the MAMCOAANA Reunion in Houston. I was excited. Then he told me that meant we would be the hosts. My reaction, "What do you mean we will be the hosts?" He then explained what that meant. And of course, my quick response was, "Oh My Gosh! Why do you have to do this to me? Our lives are so busy with the kids. This is unbelievable!" And I stayed upset for a little while.



Few days passed and I thought oh well! The guy can't handle it without my help. Not only that, this is something I LOVE doing. I would make a good event manager. Let me help him out.

Days and months passed. Randeep every now and then would come home and tell me about the phone calls he made; the sponsors he got; how much they have committed to, etc., etc. I would be happy for him. He would be always busy making phone calls--whether to sponsors or booking a cruise or NASA or anything to do with the BIG Reunion coming up. All our friends and family probably got tired of hearing about the reunion, too.

Time passed by and we realized how close we were to this reunion. It was then that I realized how important this was for Randeep and I that we put up a great reunion—something that people would be happy to experience and would make memories and cherish those for a long time to come. We both had spent many a sleepless nights preparing for the various activities and menus, etc. We wanted to make sure details were not left out—however big or small they might be.

The closer we got to the reunion, the excited I was getting to be part of it. After all, in a way, I was part of MAMC long before I met Randeep and long before many of you graduated from there. My uncle was the Dean at the college when I was very young. I remember going there with him and my cousin brother. I still remember the blackboard in the office where I would always scribble or draw. Those memories were the little pleasures of life that I still cherish.

Then the time came and I found myself making decisions: how to welcome everyone in our city; what boxed lunches will prove nutritious yet yummy; need water bottles because Houston heat is something most of the people are not used to; snacks would be good; getting the house ready for the luncheon; parting away tokens; little of this; little of that. In all this, Bupesh and Rita were always available when I needed them to run things by or get advice from or approve my decisions.

Finally it was the big day and the big weekend. I loved being THE HOST. I loved meeting new people and getting to know them. Throughout the whole weekend, I felt that I DO belong to this family. That sense of belonging was so strong that I didn't realize how "YOUR" everything changed to "OUR" everything.

I loved being the host.

I loved that all my running around had paid off.

I loved making new friends.

I loved knowing people (some more than others, though).

I loved that everyone went back taking good memories with them.

I would like to thank my family and friends who supported me in my ideas. I would like to thank Bupesh and Rita for being just a phone call away.

I would like to thank Randeep for trusting me in helping him.

I would like to thank all our sponsors without whose help we wouldn't have had such a success.

I would like to thank Laura, Nancy and Lindsey from our office for helping us with registration.

I would like to thank Zoila and Elizabeth, my most reliable helpers, without whom I wouldn't be able to do anything. They were there at every step of the way to ensure smooth sailing for this event.

All I can say in the end is I am blessed to be part of this group and to have each of you in my life.

Love you all.

Seema Suneja

On being with MAMCOANA.....

This was my second MAMCOANA. Over the years my uncle and role model for being a doctor and joining MAMC (over any other medical institute). Dr VP Kushisk kept asking me to attend. Facebook helped connect some of us Maulanians and we decided to meet in Philadelphia as many of them were from the east coast. We all loved meeting each other and connecting as though we had just left medical school. Slowly but surely my batch mates and I are reaching out to more Maulanians and would like to contribute to developing the network started by our seniors.

- Anupama Pathak, MD

New York

MAMCOAANA 2013

MAMCOAANA 2013



