



ATMGUSA NEWS

Spring-Summer, 2018
Volume 1: Issue 3

Edited by:
Soumya R. Neravetla, MD

President:
Ravi Kolli, MD
President elect:
Sushma Nakka, MD
Vice President:
Soumya Neravetla, MD
Secretary:
Srinagesh Paluvoi, MD
Treasurer:
Anupama Gotimukula, MD
Past President:
Satish Kathula, MD
BOT Chair:
Srini Gangasani, MD
Regional Directors:
Smitha Arekapudi, MD
Praveen Arla, MD
Radhika Chimata, MD
Radhika Grandhi, MD
Anupama Reddy, MD
Trishul Reddy, MD
Harita Veeramachineni, MD
Anil Yallapragada, MD
Swathi Yelamanchi, MD

Wishing you and all your loved ones a very **Happy and Auspicious Raksha Bandhana!** We hope all our members have enjoyed what appears to have been a very busy spring and summer. This packed double issue will cover a revolution, celebrations, elections, awards, a great loss, a new medical school, and more! Members continue to work hard here and abroad. ATMGUSA itself celebrated a changing of the guard at Telugu Night with the blessings of senior leaders.



Our members continue to be very active and we like hearing about your vision, pursuits, and accomplishments. Please email any exciting achievements or community service projects to newsletter@atmgusa.org. (Please note the address change.) It may be featured in our next newsletter! We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at one of our future events.

Outgoing President's Message

It's been great serving this esteemed organization. Started by a few thoughtful leaders several years ago, ATMGUSA has become a respectable and reputable organization. I thank all the founders for their hard work and vision. It certainly helps bring all Telugu speaking doctors together and serves as a platform for the younger generation to move up the ladder.

We had a very successful "Telugu Night" at the national AAPI convention in Columbus, OH attended by several Telugu speaking doctors. Musical program with performances by Sumangali and Sandeep Kurapati was melodious and memorable.

I would like to thank all my team for their support and encouragement throughout my tenure. I whole heartedly welcome the new president Dr. Ravi Kolli, and the executive committee.

Sincerely,

*Satheesh Kathula, MD, FACP
Immediate Past President, ATMGUSA*

Also in this issue:

- Outgoing President's Message
- Milestone: New Medical School
- Event Calendar
- AAPI News
- Nobesity Revolution
- White Coat Ceremony
- Member Profile
- Telugu Night
- Member in News
- Remembering Dr. Uma Kumar
- Incoming President's Message

A Milestone in the Annals of Indian American Doctors

Recently, two well-known Indian American doctors in the United States created history. Dr. Prem Sagar Reddy, a Cardiologist (SV Medical College alumnus) and Dr. Dev Gnanadev Appanagari, a Surgeon (Kurnool Medical College alumnus), were instrumental in launching a new private, nonprofit medical school affiliated to the California University of Science and Medicine (CUSM) in San Bernardino County of California (<https://www.calmedu.org/>). The mission of the new medical school is to improve healthcare by training exceptional physicians with a special dedication to serving underserved areas, especially in areas like the Inland Empire of Southern California.

Dr. Prem Reddy is the founder, Chairman, President and CEO of Prime Healthcare, which runs 45 hospitals in 14 states. Dr. Prem Reddy, has a long-track record of leadership, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship. The Prime Healthcare Foundation and Dr. Reddy's family



foundation committed more than \$60 million for the new medical school. In the words of Dr. Prem Reddy, Founder and Chairman of the CUSM Board of Trustees, "It has been a dream come true to establish a medical school sincerely believing that education and healthcare can profoundly improve the lives of others. It is a great privilege to help students shape the future of healthcare through dedication to clinical excellence and compassionate care."

Dr. Dev Gnanadev, past President of the California Medical Association, past Medical Director of the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC), a 456-bed teaching hospital operated by the County of San Bernardino, and the current President of the California Medical Board, and Founding President of CUSM said "Our new school will have a lasting impact not only on the current shortage of physicians and limited medical school slots in our state, but also on the wellness of those in our community. The medical school's affiliation with ARMC, where I've practiced for more than 37 years, provides an exceptional clinical training ground for future physicians. I thank Dr. Reddy, Prime Healthcare Foundation, the County of San Bernardino and our amazing faculty for making all of this possible."

The new medical school also received support throughout the local community including the County of San Bernardino, ARMC, the City of Colton, an affiliation with Claremont Graduate University and prominent members of the community on the CUSM Board of Trustees. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and ARMC contributed \$10 million to support CUSM.

Dr. Robert Suskind, a prominent educator and founding dean of medical schools in Texas and Northern California, has been recruited to serve as the Founding Dean of CUSM School of Medicine. He led the recruitment of exceptional faculty of MDs and MD/PhDs that align with the university's uniquely integrated, active-learning, student-centered curriculum. An inaugural class of 60 students was admitted in a White Coat Ceremony held on July 22nd.

Contributed by: **Bellamkonda Kishore, M.D., Ph.D., MBA**

Upcoming Events

GMCANA/RMCANA/SMCANA
16th Biennial Reunion
September 1-3, 2018,
[The Westin Atlanta Perimeter North](#)
7 Concourse Parkway NE,
Atlanta, GA 30328.

OGKTMA
September 14-15, 2018
Hilton San Francisco Bayfront
www.ogkma.com

AAPI GHS
December 28-30, 2018
Mumbai, India
Oberoi /Trident Nariman Point
www.aapisummit.org

YPS and MSRF WMC: Feb 8-10
Caesar's Palace
Las Vegas, NV
<https://www.aapiyps.org/Events/WMC>.

AAPI News



ATMGUSA acknowledges all the candidates who managed an extended, challenging election season with grace and poise. **Congratulations to ATMGUSA member winners, incoming Vice President Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, MD, and incoming Secretary Anupama Gotimukula, MD, and Regional Directors Lokesh Edara, MD, Hemanth Reddy, MD, Hemanth Bejjanki, MD, and Sri Nagesh Palluwoi, MD.** Other members on the current board are, **President-elect, Suresh Reddy, MD** and BOT Vice-Chair and upcoming Convention Committee Chair, **Sreeni Gangasani, MD.**



first runner up in the competition.

The AAPI national convention kicked off with AAPI's GOT TALENT. A hearty congratulations to all the finalists and winners! **Dr. Soumya Neravetla** performed a traditional Kuchipudi Tarangam Duet, Shiva Shiva Bhava Bhava, with Dr. Reneeta Basu. In the Tarangam, a highlight element of Kuchipudi, the dancers performed intricate movements on top of a brass plate. Narayana Teertha composed over 100 Tarangams in honor of Krishna, but Shiva Shiva Bhava Bhava is uniquely the only one in honor of Lord Shiva. The performance won

Dr. Sathesh Kathula serenaded the audience with a lovely rendition Kishore Kumar's classic *Nakrewhali*. Listeners wondered if the spirit of legendary Kishore Kumar himself had come to entertain the attendees. This amazing performance was awarded second runner up in the competition.



YPS elections occurred at the meeting and the new board is looking forward to a productive year under the leadership of **Dr. Praveen Arla**. ATMG members **Dr. Swati Yelamanchi** and **Dr. Soumya Neravetla** were elected as secretary and convention co-chair, respectively.

The board is excited to get things rolling early this year. YPS and MSRF Winter Medical Conference has been set for Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas on February 8-10. The conference continues to grow and impress every year. Suggestions for keynote speakers welcome. Discounted rooms and registration available at <https://www.aapiyps.org/Events/WMC>.

Discounted early bird registration for the Global Health Summit is now available at <https://apisummit.org>. The summit will take place at the Oberoi/Trident Nariman Point in Mumbai from December 28-30. Pre and post tour options to Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala are available.

NOBESITY REVOLUTION

Obesity is now a global epidemic. Urbanization and modernization with unhealthy, processed food and lack of physical activity has accelerated the incidence of obesity. In June 2013, the American Medical Association classified obesity as a disease. Obesity is a risk factor for diabetes, heart disease, cancers and several other major health problems. Obesity costs healthcare system over \$200 billion a year in the US.

The World Health Organization has recognized that **PREVENTION** is the most feasible option for curbing this epidemic.

On 12/12/12, Dr. Uma Koduri, as Founding President of AAPI-Tulsa Chapter in Oklahoma, USA, founded the Walk World Walkathon Organization and started the **NObesity Revolution**. This initiative of "Wear Yellow" for Obesity Awareness launched Obesity Walks and Events and promoted September as Obesity Awareness month. Yellow stands for Energy, Motivation, Hope, Optimism, Joy and Happiness!

With AAPI support, NObesity events have been organized in >100 schools across the country

after launching the pilot program in Tulsa, OK in April 2013. Global Association of Physicians of Indian

Origin (GAPIO) supported ongoing obesity events in India starting with the pilot program in Hyderabad, India launched in Sept 2015.

Recently, the Veteran Obesity Awareness Campaign launched the pilot program in Tulsa, OK on May 20, 2017 with aims to expand to at least 100 VA medical facilities through the VAMC MOVE! Weight Management Program in collaboration with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other organizations including AAPI, GAPIO and WHEELS Global Foundation. Obesity events include motivational speeches, walks, distribution of yellow t-shirts, yellow caps etc.

The recent article published by ThinkProgress.org illustrates just how severe the veteran obesity epidemic really is.

"The U.S. veteran obesity rate has reached 80 percent, surpassing that of the general population. The Department of Veterans Affairs says that more than 165,000 veterans who use its health care services have a body mass index higher than 40..."



5210 for Childhood Obesity

5 servings of fruits and vegetables
2 hrs or less of recreational screen time
1 hour or more of physical activity
0 sugary drinks (more water & low fat milk)

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan"
~Abraham Lincoln 1865.

Modified 5210 for Adult Obesity

5 fruits & vegetables. Half your plate should be fresh fruits & vegetables. Portion control – choose small plate, avoid second helpings.
2 hrs or less of screen time. Avoid excess sitting. Get up & move at least every 90 minutes.
1 hr+ of physical activity. Aim for 150+ min/week. Every 10 min session counts.
0 sugary drinks & soda. Drink more water.

More information is available at <https://www.facebook.com/NObesity-Revolution-1873746429563427/> or www.yellowout.org

If interested in helping with NObesity Revolution please contact Uma Koduri at 918-261-9517 or uma.koduri@gmail.com

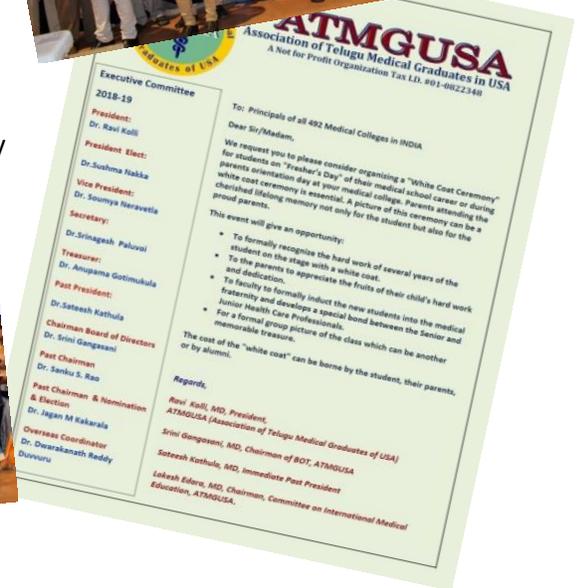


ATMGUSA Endorses White Coat Ceremony in India



Dr. Lokesh Edara spearheaded an initiative which led to AAPI and ATMGs endorsement of the White Coat Ceremony in India. A letter was sent to all Principals

encouraging them to add this event to the “Fresher’s Day” of their medical school. GMC had a ceremony that was memorable for students, parents, and faculty.



Member Profile: Dr. Bellamkonda Krishna Kishore, MD, PhD, MBA



ATMGUSA is excited to highlight **Bellamkonda Krishna Kishore, M.D., Ph.D., MBA**, in this issue. Dr. Kishore is a University Professor and VA Investigator in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was trained and worked in India (Kurnool, BHU, AIIMS), Japan, Belgium, and the NIH.

A Fellow of the American Society of Nephrology (FASN), and Royal Society of Biology (FRSB), Dr. Kishore leads an internationally recognized kidney research program in Utah, where he

developed innovative and patented therapies for anemia, kidney diseases and obesity. He

co-founded Renal Purinergic Club, a forum that brings together scientists in his field on both sides of the Atlantic. He is deeply committed to the community work, as the Founding Member of the Telugu Association of Utah and SAI Kuteer (spiritual and charitable), and the past Vice President of the APNA Foundation. Currently he is the President of the Kurnool Medical College Alumni of North America (KMC-ANA). He is a freelance writer, composes poetry, and leads weekend Bhajans.

Full Profile: [https://faculty.utah.edu/u0276355-B. K. KISHORE, M.D., PhD., MBA/hm/index.html](https://faculty.utah.edu/u0276355-B.K.KISHORE,M.D.,PhD.,MBA/hm/index.html)

Telugu Night at AAPI

Dr. Satheesh Kathula had a vision for an enjoyable yet productive Telugu Night at the national convention. The evening began with melodious performances by Sumangali and Sandeep Kurapati. The performers were kind enough to accommodate many special requests that made the intimate event even more enjoyable for the attendees.



During the business meeting, ATMG members took the opportunity to honor the Telugu



forefathers of AAPI and thus forefathers of ATMG. **Dr. Jagan Kakarala, Dr. Ranga Reddy, and Dr. Sanku Rao** were felicitated. Each honoree shared words of wisdom with the group.



The new board was then inducted and introduced to the audience.

President:

Ravi Kolli, MD

President Elect:

Sushma

Nakka, MD

Vice President:

Soumya Neravetla, MD

Secretary:

Sri Nagesh Paluvoi

Treasurer:

Anupama Gotimukula, MD

Past President: **Satheesh Kathula, MD**



on stage to dance to the music. **Dr. Surender**

Neravetla gifted both

musicians with copies of *Salt Kills*.

Sumangali also allowed talented ATMG members like

Dr. Satheesh Kathula to perform

duets with her. All in all...a memorable evening for all!



The artists then closed out the event with the second half of their performance. The show was even more enjoyable, because the performers were not only very talented, but also approachable. Audience members joined the artists

Member in News: Dr. Kishore K. Challa

Dr. Kishore K. Challa was elected to serve a two-year term as President of West Virginia Board of Medicine. Dr. Challa succeeds Dr. Ahmed D. Faheem as president on the 16-member board. The board oversees the licensing and regulation of more than 7,000 physicians and nearly 1,000 physician assistants in West Virginia.

Kishore K. Challa, M.D. from Hyderabad, India, Dr. Challa has lived in Charleston, West Virginia, for over 23 years. He began his medical education at Osmania Medical College in India, where he graduated with honors in 1983. Dr. Challa then moved to the United States and completed his medical residency and cardiology fellowship at Coney Island Hospital in New York. As a resident, Dr. Challa was awarded the Ghani Mohamad Award for being the best outgoing intern and the Virginia Nash Award for being the best outgoing resident and served as the chief resident in his final year. As a cardiology fellow, he continued to excel as a student and professional in medicine and was recognized as The Best Outgoing Fellow. After completing his interventional cardiology at New York Medical College, Dr. Challa and his family



moved to Charleston, West Virginia, in 1989. During his career in Charleston, Dr. Challa has served as the Chief of Staff at Thomas Memorial Hospital. Currently, Dr. Challa is board certified in internal medicine and cardiology and serves as a member of the Credential Committee and cardiology subsection chairman at Thomas Memorial Hospital in South Charleston, West Virginia. Dr. Challa is the President of South Charleston Cardiology Associates, a group of three cardiologists in the greater area of Charleston. On February 22, 2013, he was presented with the Distinguished West Virginian award by Governor Tomblin. Dr. Challa is married to his wife, Jalasree, and is blessed with one son, Dr. Karthik Challa, and a daughter, Supriya, who is working for a prominent bank on Wall Street. In his free time, Dr. Challa likes to golf and has served on the Board at Berry Hills Country Club. He is an ardent fan of WVU and Marshall sports, and enjoys time with friends and family. Dr. Challa is a member of the American College of Cardiology, American College of Chest Physicians and the Kanawha Medical Association. Congratulations to Dr. Kishore Challa.

In Memorium: Dr. Uma Kumar

ATMGUSA is grieved to hear of the passing of Dr. Uma Kumar (Maheshwari) on August 5th due to ruptured intracranial aneurysm. Dr. Uma M. Kumar grew up in Kavali, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh. She received her medical degree from Kurnool Medical College, Andhra Pradesh. After her marriage to Mr. Prasanna Kumar, she moved to USA in 1980. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency and Nephrology Fellowship in New York and moved to Atlanta in 1995.

She served as a Medical Director for DaVita Dialysis Center in Atlanta. Dr. Uma Kumar was nominated twice for "Top Doctors" Award. She was recipient of the National Kidney award and DaVita divisional "PEPper" award. She served on AAPI BOT and Regional Director in the past.

Dr. Kumar was fondly remembered for selflessly taking care of her patients, family, and friends. Her charitable nature also set an example for her peers. She had passion for teaching, dance, gardening, painting and community service. Her family fulfilled her wishes by donating her organs to the needy people. She is survived by her parents, husband, daughter, son in law, son, daughter in law and 3 grandchildren. Our deepest condolences to her dear family and friends. A profound loss to every community she touched.



Incoming President's Message

With great humility and gratitude, I assume the role of President of ATMGUSA. Our alumni association has been led by many stalwarts over the years and now to be able to tread the path they have forged is a great honor as well as a responsibility.

Our Telugu alumni have been ground breaking leaders at the national level over the years, advocating for professional parity and equality. They have contributed to many social and humanitarian causes back in India while also professionally excelling in academia, clinical practice, organized medicine etc.

We will strive to continue to strengthen our association by reaching out more extensively to all our alumni and encourage them to assume leadership roles at their local chapter level as well as nationally. Having a strong and decisive alumni association will provide a launch pad to more effectively fulfill our community service goals, advocate for quality health care for all and build bridges and form networks with like-minded peer groups.

I humbly seek your support, advice and guidance in the coming year to reach our goal to make our alumni association a force for good as well as a force to reckon with. Thank you

Best Regards

***Ravi Kolli, MD
President, ATMGUSA***