

BMA NA Newsletter

Bangladesh Medical Association of North America

Editorial

It is very exciting to see the opening of the Michigan Chapter of the BMA NA. The same group of physicians who were pioneers in the 1980s have now joined with new participants to create a community that will no doubt benefit us all. The success of the NY Chapter and this new Michigan Chapter will hopefully encourage other States to organize more local Chapters. It is always easier to work through a local organization with a strong central committee. The involvement of more physicians with commitment, experience and vision can only help us fulfil the goals of the BMA NA.

**BMANA
NEWSLETTER
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Welcome to the 16th Annual meeting of the BMA NA. The next meeting will be held on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of August, 1997 at the Troy Marriott Hotel in Troy Michigan. Please call ahead to reserve your room. The hotel can be reached at (800) 228 9290 and offers an attractive rate of US\$82 per night plus taxes. This rate is only valid for reservations made prior to July 16, 1997.

Coordinator of the 16th Annual meeting: Syed Showkat Hussain, M.D.
Safiul Hasan, M.D.

Program director of Scientific Seminar: Shamsud Doha, M.D.

Coordinator of Research Roundtable: M.B. Yunus, M.D.

Coordinator of Cultural Program Rownak Hasan, M.D.

The Agenda:

FRIDAY, 1ST AUGUST-
5PM - 8PM : Registration
6PM - 8PM : Snacks
7PM - 9PM : Childrens' cultural program
9PM -12AM : Members' cultural program

SATURDAY, 2ND AUGUST-
8AM -12PM : Scientific Seminar
12PM- 1PM : Lunch
1PM - 2PM : Research roundtable,
2PM - 5PM : Business meeting:
Election of BMA NA
6:30PM-8:30PM : Dinner (including children) and entertainment
9PM - 1AM : Cultural night

Please send your registration fees (US\$100), membership fees (US\$50, associate US\$25) and additional fees for the reception, coffee break and dinner (US\$50), & children's dinner (US\$15 if 12 years and below) to Shafique Rahman, M.D., Treasurer, BMA NA, 11 Stirrup Lane, Roselyn Height, NY11577 tel. (516) 484-2806. All fees should be received before May 5th, 1997. Non-members cannot vote.

If your children are interested in participating in the childrens' show, please contact : Nausheen Hasan

Coordinator of Childrens' program
1208 Hidden Lake Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
Tel (313) 997-9610
Fax (810) 433-1328
E-mail: nausheen@umich.edu

The 1996 BMA NA Meeting was a success

The 15th annual meeting of 1996 in Orlando, Florida was a big success. The Disney family vacation was also a remarkable event. The warm reception on Friday evening was accompanied by snacks and followed with an excellent childrens' program, which was staged by talented performers. The beautiful members' cultural night evoked a feelings of warmth and nostalgia among all of us. Duets sung by two childhood friends, Dr. A. Hafiz and Dr. Goni Khan, were heartbreaking; folk songs by Dr. Moaz-

zam Hussain were very entertaining; modern songs by Dr. Syed Showkat Hossain and Mrs. Mohua Sobhan were extraordinary. The famous singers Ferdousi Rahman and Quaderi Kibria stayed through the whole program and expressed their astonishment at the artistic standard of our physician performers. The members' program was conducted by Dr. Syed Showkat Hussain. Saturday Morning began with opening remarks by Dhiraj Shah, M.D., President of the BMA NA, Ahmed Ali Azam, M.D., A. Hafiz, M.D., coordinators

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of the meeting and Dr. Rashid, program director of the scientific meeting. The lectures on pulmonary medicine were presented by David Solomon, M.D., Mohammad Rashid, M.D., A.S.M. Firoz, M.D. and Alim Khandokar M.D. Hamidzaman, M.D. also participated in the panel discussions.

In the evening, after the dinner, a young physician Dr. Ikramul Karim from Bangladesh, who is suffering from acute lymphoblastic leukemia, thanked the members of the BMA NA for their moral and financial support for his struggle with the cancer.

A short movie was shown on disabled freedom fighters and the contribution of Dr. Ronald Garst towards the establishment of an orthopedic hospital in Bangladesh. The movie was an excellent piece of cinematography. The audience

was moved to tears. Dr. Dhiraj Shah then presented the BMA NA humanitarian award to Dr. Ronald Garst. Dr. Garst highlighted his experience in a very compassionate speech. Marie Garst said their stay in Bangladesh was their most memorable one, and that the love and respect of the people of Bangladesh was unforgettable.

A slide show on Rabindranath Tagore's "The invention of the Shoe" (Juta Abishkar) was shown by Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D.

The Cultural Gala was a unique experience. Singers Ferdosi Rahman and Quderi Kibria kept everybody spellbound for hours. Singer Amjad Rahman also gave a remarkable performance. The Coordinators of the meeting, Dr. A. Hafiz and Dr. Ahmed F. Azam gave a vote of thanks at the end.

A Message from the President of the BMA NA

It is pivotal that many more Bangladeshi physicians participate in our activities. We have to work hard to attain the following goals over the next few years in addition to our intended goals as expressed in the bylaws:

1. More young physicians should be encouraged to join, and be active in, the Association.
2. Young physicians should be aided in finding and utilizing opportunities, appropriate training and jobs in the United States.
3. The inclusion and participation of young American physicians born to Bangladeshi parents should be encouraged.
4. Our children should be encouraged to participate at, and develop an interest in, our social functions and conferences.
5. We will also evaluate the appropriateness and contributions by the BMA to the Bangladesh Medical Community in terms of education, research and technological assistance.

Dhiraj Shah, M.D. FACS

Michigan News from the BMA NA Michigan Chapter

Dr. Syed Hossain, President-Elect

The Michigan Chapter of the BMA-NA is very excited to be the host of the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the BMA-NA. This year we are planning multiple events, including a reunion of the Class of 1972, a full-fledged Meena Bazaar, stalls from drug and insurance companies and workshops addressing social issues.

With the blessing of the central organization, we have started from the grass roots and formed a Michigan chapter so that we may reshape and organize the BMA-NA. The first meeting of the chapter was held at the Kingsbury Hotel in Birmingham, where the following officers were elected:

President — Dr. Safiul Hasan
 President elect — Dr. Syed S. Hossain
 General Secretary — Dr. S. Jakir Ahmed
 Treasurer — Dr. Sultana Ghuznavi
 Members at large — Dr. Md. Nurul Amin, Dr. Jamal Akbar, Dr. Fateh Mohammad

We will also compile a complete directory of all doctors and their families from Bangladesh, so please fax or mail a phone number prior to April 1997 to either

Dr. Syed Hossain (Tel (810)985-8677,
 Fax(810)985-3613)

or Dr. Nurul Amin (Tel.(810)360-9395).

After the huge success of the New York Chapter, we encourage all States to form local chapters and to participate at the State level in activities which would serve to make the central organization an even greater success.

Thankyou.

Activities in Bangladesh

Dr. Humayun Kabir of Albany, New York recently lectured on **hepatitis C and its management** in Dhaka Medical College. The presentation was greatly appreciated. He is also trying to make available **routine serological testing for hepatitis C** in Bangladesh.

Dr. Mohammad B. Yunus, Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago is **publishing two papers** with

the research collaboration of Prof. Atiqul Haq of the IPGMR Dhaka. Prof. Yunus is also collaborating with Shah Mhd. Keramot Ali, Prof. of Clinical Nutrition of Dhaka University in establishing a **mini symposium on clinical research** in Bangladesh.

Any Member of the BMA NA who is willing to participate in a lecture/demonstration program while visiting Bangladesh is requested to submit a list of lectures ahead of time. Please fax the dates of your visit and your list of topics to **(610)543-3577**.

A letter of invitation will be provided by the BMA in

Dhaka and can be used for tax purposes.

Dr. Emdadul Haq will be responsible for arranging the seminars in Bangladesh, on behalf of Dr. Kazi Shahidul Alam, General Secretary and Prof. M.A. Majed, President of the BMA, Dhaka.

The Executive Committee
of the BMA NA
1995-1997

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Red Lands, CA

Support the BMA NA
Projects

We need your active participation and financial support to our following projects:

1. To send medical equipment to different hospitals in Bangladesh.
2. To start :
 - *CME programs in Bangladesh.
 - * a consulting service in North America to provide services to physicians and patients in Bangladesh.
 - *a quarterly medical letter which will be distributed in Bangladesh.
 - * an information center in the USA, to promote our profession.
3. To provide small loans to struggling physicians.
4. To create a disaster fund for any emergencies arising in Bangladesh.

Your ideas and contributions are welcome

Agenda and Announcements - BMA NA, Michigan Chapter

Dr. Saiful Hasan, President, 5th Jan 1997

As President of the BMA NA, Michigan Chapter, I greet each and every one of you, and your families and invite you to spend this August with us in Michigan. The entire Michigan chapter, along with its component committees, is working very hard to make your visit memorable. The auxiliary committees are working towards arranging tours and visits to places of interest such as the Henry Ford Museum and Dearborn Village, the birthplace of the American Automobile.

Please help us in making this convention a resounding success. The various committees are being announced below, and you are encouraged to contact them for additional help and information.

The Convention will be held at the Troy Marriott Hotel in Troy Michigan, beginning Friday the 1st of August, and finishing on Sunday the 3rd. Contact persons for the various activities are as follows:

CME related activities: Dr.A.Shamsuddoha (810)433-9600
New Directory and Souvenir related matters:
Dr. Syed Shawkat Hussain (810)985-8677
Dr. M. Nurul Amin (810)360-9395

Cultural activities: Dr. Rownak Hasan (810)433-9600
Children's program: Nausheen Hasan (810)433-9600
Fashion show: Nausheen Hasan (810)433-9600
and Ambereen Ahmed

Ladies auxiliary/spousal/children's activities:
Mahmuda Akbar, Polly Ahmed and Najma Amin.
Reunion of class of 1972: Dr.Rafiqul Islam (517)686-8382

Obituary

Dr. Asad Khan, a 45 year old Bangladeshi dentist, a faculty member of the New York Medical College, a philanthropist, a man of highest moral and ethical standards, died recently after suffering from cancer. He was well respected for his patriotism and humanitarianism. He was the founder President of the Bangladesh Sangsad. Under his leadership the Sangshad contributed enormously towards alleviating the sufferings of the Bangladeshi immigrants who came

with an OP-1 visa. He, along with his friends, including Dr. Waled Chowdhury, raised large sums of money and built cyclone shelters and schools along the coastal area of Bangladesh. He was the 1st recipient of the BMA NA Humanitarian Award in 1992. Later he was honored by many other organizations. He left behind three small children, his loving wife Rita, parents, siblings as well as numerous friends and well wishers.

The Elections of the BMA NA

The elections of the BMA NA for 1997-1999 will be held on August 2nd during the annual meeting. The last date for submitting nominations is May 30th, 1997, and should be made to

Dr. Mohammad A. Siddiqui,
Election Commissioner of the BMA NA,
3200 Stapleford Chase,
Virginia Beach, VA 23452,
tel. (804)463-1374.

To be eligible to vote please renew your full membership before the 5th of May.

The Continental Hospital, Dhaka

The construction of a 300 to 500 bed capacity privately owned modern hospital in Gulshan, Dhaka has been completed. Though it has not opened yet due to a delay in the enrollment of personnel and the acquisition of equipment. Outside funding and management is being looked into. Interested BMA NA members are invited to join in any capacity (shareholder, consultant). The hospital aims to be a state of the art, multidisciplinary medical institution providing the highest level of health care in the country.

Please contact Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D.,
fax: (610)543-3577, e-mail: ahmedz@allegheny.edu

BMANA Newsletter

924 STEWART AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD
PA 19064
USA

The BMA NA Newsletter is edited and published by Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D., FACP,
from 924 Stewart Ave, Springfield, PA 19064
Tel (610) 543-7018. fax (610) 543-3577, e-mail: ahmedz@allegheny.edu
Assisted by Saabry Osmany, M.D.

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Gonoshasthya Kendro Seeks cooperation in

Dr. Zaffrullah Chowdhury is the founder and CEO of the famous health sector NGO of Bangladesh the "GonoShastya kendra" (Formerly **Bangladesh Hospital** during the war of liberation in 1971). Dr. Choudhury has initiated a Gono University including a private medical college and a state of art modern hospital in Bangladesh. The 6 story building of the complex is already completed. Dr. Zafrullah Choudhury a famous freedom-fighter who is dedicated to improving the health care system in Bangladesh working

relentlessly in a private sector since the birth of Bangladesh. He has received many international awards and honors for his different innovative ventures in promoting health of the people. His center has sufficient manpower, experience and dedication. He also has a pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Choudhury invited interested members of BMANA to join him in shaping this new project. Physicians of all specialties who are interested please contact Z. Ahmed, M.D. by fax (610) 543-3577.

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Mohammad R. Chowdhury
A most experienced and reliable advisor
6702-06 Third Avenue, 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11220
- Tel (718) 833-3200 fax (718) 921-6388
res (718) 726-4364 beeper (917) 943-1762

Honored

Dr. Dewan Majid, M.B.B.S., Ph.D a graduate of the the Sylhet Medical College, at present assistant Prof. of Physiology at Tulane University, New Orleans, has received the very prestigious **Goldblatt research award** from the American Heart Assoc. for his **outstanding** contributions in **hypertension research**.