

BMA NA Newsletter

Bangladesh Medical Association of North America

Founded by Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists
of Bangladeshi origin in 1981
222 Wantagh Ave, Levittown, NY 11756.
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Executive Committee 1997-1999

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M. Badruzzaman, MD (NY)

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(LA)

The 18th Annual meeting is at the Grand Hyatt-Park
Ave at Grand central (42nd Street) . NY 10017,
August 7 to 9, 1998. Hotel reservations: (800) 233-
1234, (212) 850-5900.

Registration fees: Pre registration \$100, onsite
\$125. Dinner, reception and coffee break per per-
son \$75, Children \$15, Baby sitting available. Mem-
bership fee: Active \$50, Associate \$35, Adjunct no
charge. **Fees must be sent by the 15th of July,**
otherwise the hotel cannot provide dinner. Mention
the BMAN NA conference while making hotel reser-
vations for the discount. Please make your check
payable to **BMANA** & send it to Abul F. Islam, M.D.
7595 Cypress Point, Bay City, MI 48706.

Family & Children program coordinator :

Nazmul Khan, M.D. (718) 621-4327

Scientific Seminar coordinator :

Shafiqur Rahman, M.D (516) 369-8192

June 1998

Meeting Schedule

August 7th

5 PM Registration and reception
with snacks

8 PM Children's program

9 PM Members Cultural Evening

August 8th

8 AM Scientific seminar

2 PM General meeting,

6 PM Dinner,

9 PM Cultural evening.

August 9th

Breakfast and departure

Editorial: Membership is growing but coping with communications is still a problem. Among seven hundred addressees, half of the mail is undelivered. Newcomers need urgent assistance in many sectors. All the Bangladeshi US physicians need to give active support to alleviate the enormous problem. Increasing activities and contributions by our members to Bangladesh is encouraging. Keep up the good work.

The Newsletter is edited and Published by :

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Assisted by :

Saabry Osmany, M.D.

An Urgent Appeal

Several Bangladeshi Physicians with J1 and H1 visa who are completing their residency need sponsorship. Without the sponsorship and job offers from underserved areas they will be sent back. This is a serious problem which needs urgent attention and support from all of us. Please check your area for physician shortage status. Even if you are not in a Shortage area you will be able to help enormously. Time is running out. Please call Dr. M. Badruzzaman, Dr. Waled Choudhury, Dr. Hamiduzzaman or Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed.

Obituary

Akthar Hussain MD of Virginia has died suddenly of a heart attack. He was an excellent physician and a wonderful human being. He will be missed by all of us.

Member's News

Mahbubur Rahman MD, Ph.D. has joined Harvard Medical School as a faculty in the Division of Rheumatology. He has finished his Ph.D. and medicine residency from Medical college of Pennsylvania and fellowship at Mass. General Hospital of Harvard University.
Badrul Alam Choudhury MD, Ph.D. has joined the FDA. He has received his Ph.D from Canada, medicine residency from Wayne state and fellowship in Infectious disease at NIH

Abul Kalam Azad, M.D a Pulmonary physician of Albany NY, during his visit to Bangladesh presented review paper on new treatment of Asthma in the annual meeting of the Bangladesh college of physicians and surgeons. He also spoke on inhalation therapy to the DMC teachers association. He is helping Mohakhali Chest Hospital's Pulmonary program

Monica Zaman, MD, a pediatrician & second generation member of the BMANA was married in the first week of June. Congratulations and best wishes.

Begum Rokeya Women's Hospital , Dhaka

Women in Bangladesh suffer from deprivation and poverty . They have always been, and continue to be, the victims of social and economic neglect and injustice. Eighty five percent still suffer from anemia while malnutrition is wide spread. Improvement and sustenance of Women's health (Physical and mental) is of paramount importance for a nation. The vision of this new movement is materialized by the establishment of the first health clinic at Uttara, Dhaka. Its Mission is to establish many health and rehabilitation centers all over the country. This six month old clinic is already serving 60-70 patients per day. Their patients are exclu-

sively women and their children. The hospital will have capacity to address most of the diseases women may suffer from cradle to grave. Survey and research on the diseases of women will be an important priority. The founder, President Professor Kabiruddin Ahmed, FRCS, FACS, FICS who was also Chief of surgery and principal of Dhaka medical college and organizer of numerous organizations recently passed away. Anybody, physicians , spouses or children ,who are interested in being a part of this movement please fax (610) 543-3577 for more information.

Shaheeds of Liberation War Honored

The Prime minister of Bangladesh in a BMA conference in Dhaka recently, honored two martyrs of our war of liberation Shaheed Professor Shamsuddin Ahmed FRCS and Shaheed Professor Alim. Choudhury

A Remarkable Award

Dr. Syed Showkat Hossain , President elect of the BMANA recently received an award from the American Heart association of Saint Clare county division for his great dedication and work in caring for patients afflicted by strokes and other vascular problems for the past 16 years. Dr. Hossain recently returned from Bangladesh where he donated one month of his time taking care of people who would not otherwise receive care of his expertise. He also shared his insight with other physicians so that better care could be given. The Mercy community health care system donated the supplies. He visited BIRDM, IPGMR, DMCH, Orthopedic hospital, Cardiovascular Institute, and Zaherul Islam Medical college. His visit helped him to get a overall picture of the health care delivery system in Bangladesh. He met many entrepreneurs who showed interest in financing state of art health care centers in Bangladesh if USA trained physicians are willing to team up with them. Dr. Hossain suggested anybody who is interested in giving lectures during a visit to Bangladesh should contact the following persons:
Professor Kazi Shaheed:
Dhaka Medical College &
Professor Kazi Mesbahuddin Iqbal, IPGMR

Educational Assistance Fund

A fund has been proposed by BMANA to give interest free loans to assist the physicians in need who are not yet in training programs, who may use the money to pay the fees for the examination or buy some free time to prepare for the USMLE. It may sound impractical but no step is too small and no task is impossible. This gesture actually is a gigantic step towards creating confidence in newcomers & future members of the BMANA. This is an extremely important project which is too important to ignore. Six years ago the first loan of this kind given to a female physician was repaid in one year

even before she started her professional career. This time three physicians were assisted. One of them has repaid the loan and another is in the process of repaying the loan in less than a year. Two thousand dollars in donations have been received from present and past members of the executive committee as seed money. Recently a generous gift of US\$ 2000 was received from Dr. Ali Choudhury of Virginia. Generous donations from all able members are urgently needed to sustain the hope of these struggling fellowmen. Please send your donation today to Abul F. Islam, M.D. Treasurer,

Observership Training for Bangladeshi Physicians:

Dr M. Badruzzaman President BMANA and a renown Professor of Pathology of New York Medical college has successfully trained several pathologists in Bangladesh during his visit over the last few years. He is now offering training in New York Medical College. He has trained Dr. A.N.Mosin of IPGMR, Dr. Tahminur Rahman of BIRDEM, and is now training Dr. Kuddus Rahman of Mother & Children center (A project of the WHO). All the trainees get financial support from some international funding source arranged by their own institution. This an effective way to improve the skills of our colleagues in Bangladesh. All members of the BMANA are encouraged to explore the same possibility in their institutions. If most of us can arrange meaningful training for visiting Bangladeshi physicians we can make a difference in the health care field back home. Please Contact; M. Badruzzaman, M.D., or Ziauddin Ahmed, M.D.

Disabled Physician needs assistance

Dr. Anwar Choudhury came to this country in 1995 for treatment of his ruptured urethra from a motor vehicle accident. He had two surgeries in New York's Brooklyn hospital without much success. The BMANA and mostly the NY chapter gave him some financial support. Dr. Shafique Rahman, ex-treasurer of the BMANA was instrumental in getting his surgery done free of cost. But his present condition dictates further operations which are not possible without financial support. Some members of the Bangladeshi community in New York created a fund to help Anwar. Members of the BMANA are requested to help him through his ongoing ordeal.

17th Annual BMA NA Meeting

The 1997 BMA NA meeting was a grand success.

The last annual meeting at Troy, Michigan on August 1997 was a spectacular event. Friday, after the registration, the children's cultural program was extraordinary. About 64 talented participants performed variety of shows including concerts, solo performances of instruments (Piano, Dotara, saxophone, guitar), songs, dance, recitation and speech. The coordinator of the children program was Tanzeela Islam. The fashion show was a grand event. The choreography and the musical accompaniment were excellent. The youths were very jubilant and spontaneous. The organizers were Dr. Rownak Hasan, along with Ambreen, Nausheen, Nadia, Sagar, Jasmin and Susmita. The Friday Members' night was full of fun. Nostalgic and heart felt warmth were evoked by the beautiful songs by all the participants including Dr. A. Hafiz, Dr. Gani Khan, Dr. Showkat Hossain, Dr. Sultana Ghuznabi, Dr. Kiron Devnath, Dr. Rownak Hasan, Dr. Moazzem Hossain, Mrs. Mohua Sobhan, Mrs. Ruqsana Ahmed, Mrs. Rebeca Costa, and Mrs. Shika Sarkar.

Dr. Belayat Hussain, and Dr. Moazzem Hussain's comedy were very entertaining. First time in our cultural history a full length drama was performed. The director was famous reciter and TV broadcaster Dr. Sajedul Alam. The Bangladeshi famous play writer Humayun Ahmed's "Mohapurush" was very successfully performed by the Michigan chapter of BMANA. The participants were Dr. Jakir Ahmed, Dr. Dilip Sarkar, Dr. Showkat Hussain, Dr. Fatima Hossain, Dr. Jamal Akbar, Dr. Sunil Das, Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Dr. Nurul Amin, Mrs. Ruqsana Ahmed, Mrs. Nazma Amin, and Nabila Ahmed. The play was a breathtaking event. Everybody was overwhelmed by the superb performances. Master of the Friday evening ceremonies were Dr. Syed Showkat Hussain and Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed.

Saturday began with a scientific seminar. The topic was Recent Advances in Medicine and Surgery. The speakers were Dr. Nasirul Haque, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Dr. Jamal Akbar, Dr. Nitin Doshi, Dr. Chung Owyang, Dr. Anna Lok, Dr. Frank Check, Dr. Narendra Tyagi, and Dr. Mounir gazayerli. The excellent CME program was coordinated by Dr. Shamsud Doha.

The annual general meeting had a busy agenda. It was presided over by president Dhiraj Shah. He thanked his committee members and others and encouraged them to continue ongoing activities to further the goals of the BMANA. Treas-

urer Shafiq Rahman presented his report and emphasized the need to raise funds to fulfill the obligations. Dr. Shah thanked Shafiq for his excellent two term service as treasurer. Dr. Ajmal Sobhan, secretary of the BMNA also gave his report and mentioned the importance of active participation by the members in BMANA activities. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed thanked Dr. Shah and his committee for contributing to the extraordinary growth of the organization. Discussions ranged from organizational reform to many activities in the USA and in Bangladesh. Dr. M. Yunus relentlessly stressed on the importance of initiating research in Bangladesh. Dr. Hamiduzzaman proposed to reorganize the short term loan programs for struggling physicians. Dr. Farnad Karim, Dr. Badrudozza, Dr. Anis, Dr. Quzi Ahmed, Dr. Kabir and others suggested that communications be improved. Dr. Waled Choudhury assumed the responsibility to use his office to improve communications until a central address is established. The hiring of a part time secretary was proposed for the clerical work, with a suggested allotment of funds for this purpose, up to a maximum of 5 thousand dollars. Dr. Monika Zaman a second generation physician assumed the responsibility to organize the medical students and new physicians of Bangladeshi parents who are studying in USA. Dr. Thanadar suggested ways to improve the election process. Active participation by Senior Rtd. Prof. Syed A. Shakur was very valuable. The discussions were enthusiastic and involving. All were in extremely high spirits. The election was conducted by Dr. Mohammed A. Siddiqui.

Women's Auxiliary committee of Michigan chapter under the excellent leadership of Mrs. Moni Akbar also organized a program which included , Beauty workshop, lecture on Breast cancer, a fund raising for a charity foundation, and a financial planning seminar.

Dr. Ajmal Sobhan and Dr. Abu F. Islam updated the members of Project Bangladesh about the progress of this NGO's activities in Bangladesh. There were jewelry, clothing and music sales. Pharmaceutical companies also had their stalls.

During the Annual dinner there were two guest speakers one Dr. Krishna Sawhney, President of the Indian Medical association and the other Professor Momtazuddin Ahmed a visiting Bangladeshi, play write, actor and freedom fighter. The BMA NA's Humanitarian award was given to Dr. Mohammad

Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank. Dr. Yunus couldn't attend the meeting, but his letter of acceptance was read in the meeting. This time in addition to a Humanitarian Award, the BMANA also awarded the following members for their contributions to different fields. Physicians with significant contributions for the liberation War of Bangladesh: Dr. Sitara Rahman.(Bir Pratik), Dr. Kiran Devanath. Physicians with significant contributions for health care of Bangladesh: Dr. Alim Khondekar, Dr. Ehsanur Rahman, Dr. Ajmal Sobhan. Significant contributions to help settle Bangladeshi Physicians in USA: Dr. Nasirul Hue, Dr. Hamiduzzaman, Dr. Dhiraj Shah, Dr. Peter Finch, Dr. Bernard Bercue. Significant contributions in social welfare activities; Dr. Waled Choudhury, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed, Dr. Syed Showkat Hussain. Founding member and President : Dr. Safiul Hasan. Academic Achievement: Dr. Dewan Majid.

The last program on Saturday's cultural night was a remarkable event. Bangla ganer Vassho, a musical presentation on the evolution of Bengali Songs was an excellent presentation by the host organization, the Michigan Chapter. The classical dance performed by Nausheen Hasan was a superb show. A beautiful Sruti natok based on the life of an immigrant was written and played by guest artist Professor Momtazuddin Ahmed. Ruqsana Ahmed was the costar of the play. It was indeed a treat. Finally our singers created an unforgettable memory by their extraordinary talent. They were Seema Muhit (Modern songs), Akram Hossain (Rabindra Sangit), Amjad Rahman (Classical & Mixed), Shamsul farid (Modern and Mixed).

The master of ceremonies on Saturday were Dr. Safiul Hasan and Dr. Mohammad a. Siddiqui. An updated directory is published and a video of the program is available (Contact person: Moni Akbar). The coordinators of the 17th annual meeting at Michigan were Dr. Syed Showkat Hussain and Dr. Safiul Hasan.

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BMA NA Newsletter

CPR courses in Bangladesh.

The first CPR courses were given in Bangladesh by Omar Farooque, M.D a US trained Emergency Physician. Dr. Farooque went back to Bangladesh a few years ago. Among many things, he initiated the CPR course and has already trained a few hundred physicians all over Bangladesh. The BMANA has donated \$2,000 worth of mannequins for this project and became a proud participant of such an important mission in Bangladesh.

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.
5. More young physicians should be encouraged to join, and be active in, the Association.

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

Dr. Ikram went back to Bangladesh.

Dr. Ikramul Kabir, son-in-law of Shaheed Dr. Alim Choudhury, who came to the USA for a bone marrow transplantation for his leukemia went back to Bangladesh. Ikram had one course of chemotherapy while waiting for a transplant opportunity in the USA. Unfortunately none of the US hospitals contacted would perform the procedure for less than \$150,000. Many members of the BMANA showed tremendous support and generosity and had raised a significant amount of money for his treatment. It was a wonderful feeling to see a genuine commitment for a relative of a Martyr of our war of liberation, even though the money was not enough to meet the need. He is now trying to get a bone marrow transplant in

A vascular team is going to Bangladesh

Dr. Ajmal Sobhan, a vascular surgeon, ex-general secretary of BMANA, president of project Bangladesh is leading a vascular team to perform peripheral vascular surgery in Bangladesh during the first two weeks of July, 1998. He is accompanied by 3 OR nurses and an Anesthesiologist from his Hospital in Hampton, Virginia. The hospital will also be providing some support with equipment and other logistics. He will see patients and perform surgery in BIRDEM, Cardiovascular Institute at Surwardy hospital and in a nursing home. Operations will be charitable but donations from able patients will be accepted for the benefit of the Shushatya clinic in Dhaka. He intends to train some young Bangladeshi physicians during his trip.