



# HARMONY



The e-newsletter of BAPIO *British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin* Volume 3 Issue 1 December 2009

## Message from the President

I extend to you all my best wishes for the festive season. It has been another exciting and a very busy year for BAPIO.

We are poised to launch a major initiative for our members. Many doctors, especially those of ethnic origin have been finding it difficult to get appropriate advice and support from existing professional organisations. BAPIO has decided to take a bold step to rectify this situation. Over the last year our team has been engaged in detailed negotiations with various agencies to develop an alternative. We are now in the final stages of preparing bespoke packages to suite the requirements of all Doctors and Dentists. Details will be announced in near future.

This year over 20 members spent two days reflecting on our vision and mission. I thank Mr Bhup Patel from J & J for being the facilitator. Our stated vision now is "Empowering doctors and dentists of Indian heritage to be beacons of leadership and professional excellence"

BAPIO's vibrancy was evident at the launch of its first Young Doctors' Forum (YDF) in Birmingham. We also launched a South West division and a Scottish division. I am pleased to welcome Dr Abrar Hussain as Chair of YDF; Professor Sandhu as Chair of South West Division, and Dr Meena Virdi as the Chair of Scottish Division.

I was privileged to be re-elected as the President of BAPIO at the AGM held in August this year. While welcoming Professor Raj Madhok as the new Chairman of BAPIO, I thank Professor Raman Bedi for his excellent support as Chairman for the past three years.

The new Executive Committee, to be nationally inclusive, has been expanded to 20 members, bringing in new blood and experience. I welcome the new Executive Committee. We also have a new team of officers to support my work. I am pleased to welcome Dr Satwinder Basra as Vice President; Mr Sanjiv Manjure as Hon Secretary, Dr Sajayan as Jt Secretary, Dr Subhash Kanungo as Treasurer and Dr Chandu Prasannan as Jt Treasurer.

In October, myself and our Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr Buddhdev Pandya MBE were invited to meet the President of India Smt Pratibha Patil during her state visit to the UK.

We continue to play an important role at an international level. 22 BAPIO delegates will join me in January 2010 in Delhi to participate in the Global Healthcare Summit to develop pilot projects for Indian Health care.

Finally, It gives me great pleasure to announce that Hon Shree Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India, has kindly accepted to be our Chief Guest for the Annual Conference and Dinner on 6th February 2010 at the Royal College of Physicians in London. I look forward to meeting you there.

Ramesh Mehta  
President BAPIO



## BAPIO OFFICERS MEET NEW MINISTER



Dr Satheesh Mathew – Vice Chair, Dr Ramesh Mehta - President, Mr Anil Verma - Minister (Economic) Indian High Commission, Mr Sanjiv Majure—Hon Secretary, and Mr Buddhdev Pandya MBE - Director of Corporate Affairs, on their visit to Indian House

A team lead by the President of BAPIO met the Minister (Economic) at India House in October to update him about the work of the organisation and some of the issues affecting IMGs in the UK.

## Professor Rajan Madhok appointed as Chairman of BAPIO

Prof. Rajan Madhok, the Medical Director of NHS Manchester, accepted an invitation by the Executive Committee to join as Chairman of BAPIO at a recent meeting.



Originally he became an orthopaedic surgeon and moved to provide leadership in public health, serving a range of national bodies in the UK. These include the Faculty of Public Health, the General Medical Council, and the British Medical Association. Rajan is an active researcher who has secured grants and authored book chapters and over 120 publications, including more than 40 peer-reviewed original papers. He is an Honorary Professor at the University of Manchester and a Visiting Professor at the University of Teesside.



Young Doctors' Forum  
GETTING PUBLISHED: What you need to know  
**23rd January 2010**  
Contact for details: [bapio@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bapio@tiscali.co.uk)

EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP  
BAPIO ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE AND DINNER

Saturday, 6th February 2010  
at Royal College of Physicians—London

**bapio** Contact for details  
Email: [bapio@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bapio@tiscali.co.uk)

**BAPIO Scottish division launched**

BAPIO extended its tentacles across the border and launched its ninth division, BAPIO Scotland in Glasgow, on 14th November 2009, in a grand function attended by 160 delegates including doctors, their family members and invited dignitaries.

The well organised launch ceremony took place at The Fotheringay Centre of Hutcheson's Grammar school .

A separate entertainment programme for the children was an instant hit with the parents, as the children were safely looked after whilst the parents attended the CME and BAPIO Launch.

The launch was preceded by an educational programme (Update in Medicine) accredited by the RCPSG, Glasgow with four specialists in their fields giving lectures. The guests included Hon. Minister Jim Murphy, Secretary of State for Scotland., Councillor Catherine Bailie McMaster, Assistant Chief Whip, Scottish Labour party, Hon. Anil Verma, Minister (Economic), High Commission of India and Prof. Raj Bhopal. Dr Mehta presided over the ceremony with a formal introductory speech and he introduced Dr. Meena Virdi, the new chairperson of the Scottish Division. Mr. Buddhdev Pandya MBE, Head of Corporate Affairs, BAPIO and Mr. Sanjiv Manjure, Honorary Secretary of BAPIO also attended the meeting.

The evening concluded with a traditional Indian dinner followed by music and dance with an Indian DJ. The organisation of the event was led by a group of enthusiastic doctors including Dr. Nitin Gambhir, Mr Natarajan Balaji, Mr. Sanjeev Patil, Dr. Babu Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Pankaj Agarwal and Dr. Prit Singh.



**BAPIO President meets Minister for Overseas Indians & MCI Chair**

President of BAPIO, Dr Ramesh Mehta had a meeting with Mr Vayalar Ravi, the Minister for Overseas Indians, in New Delhi on 7th October 2009. In a wide-ranging discussion regarding the issue of doctors of Indian origin in the UK, Dr Mehta brought up the problems doctors, who hold OCI, have when travelling to India. It should not be necessary to have a stamped lifelong visa in the passport as well as a requirement for an OCI card . Mr Ravi promised to take this matter up with the relevant departments.

**BAPIO TO JOIN GLOBAL HEALTH CARE SUMMIT 2010 In NEW DELHI**

**More than 300 physicians of Indian origin are likely to join the Global Healthcare Summit due to be held on 2nd and 3rd January 2010 at the ITC Maurya Sheraton in New Delhi, India.**

The delegates will discuss various topics including: allergy and immunology, cardiology, diabetes, emergency medicine, infectious disease, stroke, HIV, mental health, maternal and child health, oncology, surgery, health information technology and medical tourism.

The delegates will attend by invitation only. It is proposed that there will be workshops on each of the above topics, and projects of practical application in an Indian scenario will be discussed. A pilot for each of these will be developed and implemented, and the outcome reviewed within the next year. The successful pilots will then be used as a model for national use.

BAPIO (British Association of Physicians of India Origin), CAPIH (Canadian Association of Physicians of India Heritage) and AAPI USA are providing the lead in organising this event along with local organisations such as IMA, ASI, FOGI, IAP and ICON.

The Minister was appreciative of the voluntary work carried out by UK Indian doctors in India and welcomes the opportunity to meet BAPIO members when he next visits the UK.

Dr Mehta also met Dr Ketan Desai, President of the Medical Council of India, who confirmed that MCI now recognises British postgraduate qualifications. There was a discussion regarding collaboration between the GMC and MCI for which BAPIO offered assistance and mediation. Dr Desai showed a keen interest and agreed to meet the GMC when he is next in the UK.



## BAPIO hosted a grand Diwali celebration event in Bedford with a splendid cultural programme by children

BAPIO hosted a grand Diwali celebration in Bedford on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009. The evening was literally jam-packed with events and all the performers were either Doctors themselves or spouses and children of Doctors.

Dr Navita Srivastava set the mood with her soulful rendition of "O Paalanhaare" from Lagaan. Mrs Rekha Patil's superlative performance in the Kathak Style depicted a "Guru Vandana". Dr Parvati Rajamani left us no less than enthralled by her performance "Moksha" in the Odissi style of Indian Classical Dance.

There were several "little" performers too. Most of them under 10 yrs of age. It was a great pleasure to see the array of talent within the youngsters, and the enthusiasm and confidence with which they conducted themselves on stage. The Awards for the Best Child Performer and Best Dressed Child went to Miss Shreya Chenilath and Miss Manha Kamath respectively. Top marks to Dr Deepshikha Thakur for consolidating the children's performances!!!!

Dr Kishore Tiwari had the audience in raptures with the nostalgia created by the evergreen songs of the late Kishore Kumar. The Film Quiz, co-hosted by Dr Rajat Srivastava and Dr Vinita Manjure, kept all generations of Bollywood addicts glued to their seats.

People enjoyed the food cooked to precision in keeping with Punjabi Cuisine and the DJ had everyone swinging and swaying to his tunes. The award for the "Best Dressed Couple" went to Ruby and Anthony Cullen from Cambridge, who had made a special effort with their completely "Bharatiya" ensemble.

The proceeds from the sale of Raffle tickets have been pledged for the "Andhra Flood Relief Fund". BAPIO Hon. Secretary Mr Sanjiv Manjure thanked all the organisers of this event, Dr Vinita Manjure, Dr Rajat Srivastava, Dr Deepshikha Thakur and Dr Vrinda Patil.

### News from BAPIO divisions

BAPIO – North West joined with the Indian Medical Association and British International Doctors Association on 15th November to organize a Diwali charity event at Bury Village Hotel.

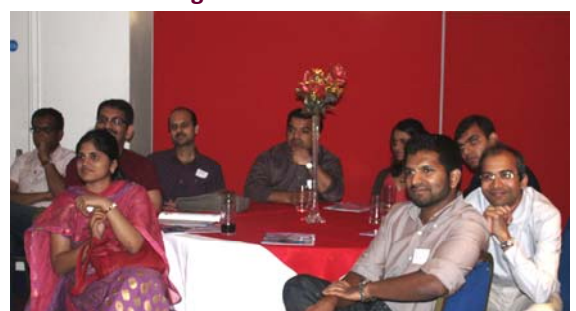
It was well attended and our guests of honour included the Mayor, Sir Natar Mallik and Professor Rajan Madhok, BAPIO Chairman. The speakers were very positive about the collaborative working of all IMG organisations and their achievements.



### BAPIO launched its Young Doctors' Forum on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at a Birmingham venue with a cultural programme to celebrate its inauguration.

The initiative was led by Dr Abrar Hussain - Chairman of YDF, and Dr Arun George – Hon Secretary of YDF. Dr Abrar said, "The Young Doctors' Forum of BAPIO is a new and exciting initiative to establish a youth network.

Membership is open to all BAPIO members within 15 years of graduation. This vibrant drive aims to create a platform which will foster interaction and networking among young doctors across the United Kingdom." It is looking to establish regional representatives in all deaneries. The Young Doctors' forum would like to extend a warm invitation to the youth of BAPIO to join its ranks and strengthen the ever growing network".



**Child is the Father of Man**

My heart leaps when I behold  
A rainbow in the sky:  
So was it when my life began;  
So it is now I am a man;  
So be it when I shall grow old,  
Or let me die!  
The Child is Father of the Man;  
I wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by Natural piety.  
*William Wordsworth (1770-1850)*

Wordsworth's sentiment is but a poetic statement of an otherwise commonplace observation. What you are, and feel, and think and believe as a child, creates a path you will take into adulthood.

## BAPIO Executive committee 2009-2012

**President**

Dr Ramesh Mehta

**Vice President**

Dr Satwinder Basra

**Chairman**

Prof. Rajan Madhok

**Vice chair**

Dr Satheesh Mathew

**Hon. General Secretary**

Mr. Sanjiv Manjure

**Joint Secretary**

Dr Sajayan

**Treasurer**

Dr Subash Kanungo

**Joint treasurer**

Dr Chandu Prasannan

**Members-**

Dr Paresh Lathia  
Dr Chinnaya Yemula  
Dr Sam Murnel  
Dr Kishor Tewary  
Dr Raj Verma  
Dr Parag Singhal  
Dr R K Rao Rebapragada  
Dr Joydeep Grover  
Dr Raj Kathane  
Dr Virendra Soni  
Dr Subodh Dave  
(Chair Education Forum)  
Dr Vinita Manjure  
(Chair Women's Forum)  
Dr Abrar Hussain  
(Chair YDF)

**Editorial team:**

Dr Joydeep Grover  
Dr Sajayan  
Mrs Parvati Raghuram  
Dr PSR Reddy  
Mr Buddhdev Pandya

Send your feed back and suggestions to  
bapio@tiscali.co.uk

## Reciprocal recognition—BAPIO meets GMC again

Following BAPIO's success in attaining recognition of British postgraduate qualifications by the Government of India and the Medical Council of India, BAPIO met the GMC to request reciprocal recognition.

The BAPIO team consisted of Dr Ramesh Mehta and Dr Sajayan while the GMC team was represented by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Finlay Scott, Mr Neil Roberts, the Director of Registration, and Professor Rajan Madhok a GMC Council member.

The GMC pointed out that presently they do not have a mechanism to evaluate overseas acquired postgraduate qualifications. However, the work being done by Lord Patel on behalf of PMETB on credentialing was discussed. It will be useful to Indian doctors working in the UK as non-consultant career grade doctors as well as those wanting to return to India. Credentialing could be achieved with a certificate of the experience gained by these doctors. It was agreed that a pilot scheme would assess the value of credentialing to these doctors.

BAPIO brought up the issue of certification confirming the eligibility for specialist registration (CESR) for overseas graduates instead of CCT. GMC pointed out that Lord Patel is already heading a review team looking in to this on behalf of PMETB. GMC will keep BAPIO informed on the progress of this work. BAPIO expressed concerns about the appointment of responsible officers for revalidation. The GMC is aware of the concerns about the potential abuse of this position. This is being looked into.

BAPIO also raised the issue of doctors who passed PLAB >3yrs ago and had to go back to India without being able to register with GMC (due to lack of Jobs) and now want to return to the UK. As the validity of PLAB is for 3yrs, these doctors will have to take PLAB again.

GMC agreed that they can favourably look into this matter and if they have passed PLAB <4-5 yrs ago and can prove that they have been in active clinical practice since then, it may be possible to waive the need for a second PLAB pass.

## The Lord Mayor of Bristol launched South West Division of BAPIO

The Lord Mayor of Bristol, Rt. Hon Christopher Davies joined the President of BAPIO in launching the South West Division of BAPIO at the prestigious venue, Leigh Court in Bristol on 9th May 2009. The Division is lead by Professor Bhupinder Sandhu, a leading figure of BAPIO, who is also the incoming President of the Commonwealth Association Of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition (CAPGAN), as Chair of the Division. Her team includes Drs A V Ramanan, Parag Singhal and Joydeep Grover.

Dr Ramesh Mehta, President of BAPIO said, "the Bristol launch will realise the aspirations of our strong membership in the region" Dr Joydeep Grover, the recipient of a BAPIO Imran Yousf Memorial Award and a member of the policy think-tank group of BAPIO, said many doctors wanted to support BAPIO and this would be their opportunity to play a significant role in the organisation. He added, "Engaging our members at the grass-roots level is a practical way to strengthen the organisation and deliver good service to them".



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**BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN**

178 Ampthill Road, Bedford MK42 9PU United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1234 212879, Fax: +44 (0)1234 795820, Email: bapio@tisacli.co.uk