



Dignity consists not in possessing honors, but in the consciousness that we deserve them.

Aristotle Greek critic, philosopher, physicist, & zoologist (384 BC - 322 BC)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Has BAPIO softened its stance against the DH?, I was asked. I am sure this thought would have crossed the minds of many others on hearing that we have welcomed the new immigration rules, sending a clear signal to those doctors still overseas that it is very difficult now to obtain postgraduate training here.

The answer is simple. We would like to deal with the DH in the best interests of IMGs. We would like to discuss, negotiate and, if necessary, fight to achieve the best deal. Our approach has to be mature, practical and pragmatic. We know presently there are about 10,000 IMGs struggling to get a training post. It makes no sense to invite *new* HSMPs to come to UK when we recognise that their struggle can only be worse. We remember the tragedy of tens of thousands of PPUDs not so long ago and do not wish that any IMG goes through that situation again!

The Triple celebration conference and Dinner at the Royal college of Physicians on the 12th of January was a momentous event for BAPIO. A combined celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the NHS and India's Independence highlighted a historical and mutually beneficial relationship. An added joy was in celebrating BAPIO's 10th anniversary.

The NHS is a successful unique enterprise providing health care free at the point of need to all the citizens of the United Kingdom. India's achievements as a democratic nation and the progress it is making in all fields is staggering.

The address to the conference by Hon Dr Anbumani Ramdoss was absolutely brilliant. For over an hour he described the progress being made by India to provide health care to all its citizens. His grasp of the complexity of the problems was amazing and his determination to improve the system was evident. It was nice to see that a doctor as health minister of one sixth of humanity is making a difference to the lives of millions.

Those who were present for the event will agree that it was a great success and another feather in BAPIO's cap. It was a great honour that the Union Minister for Health, Government of India flew in specially to attend our function. The Indian High Commission's offer to jointly host the event was another indication of our growing influence. The feedback I have received from delegates as well as speakers is excellent.

Recently I have had an opportunity to discuss the issue of training and the fact that more EMDs receive Rita D and E with Professor Elisabeth Paice the COPMeD Chair. I am pleased to report that she has agreed to take forward our proposals, initially through the London and Oxford deaneries. We are now planning to organise a national conference to discuss the issue of failing trainees.

The DH appeal to the House of Lords will be heard on the 28th of February. We feel our case is strong and have engaged the best QC in the field. We are hopeful of a positive outcome. However, we still remain greatly short of funds. I hope you will contribute generously for the fight against injustice and unfair treatment of IMGs. **This, indeed, is the need of the hour.**

Dr Ramesh Mehta

BAPIO has given a cautious welcome to the new Immigration Rules imposed by the Home Office.

The new rules make it clear to international medical graduates currently overseas who may plan to come to the UK, that it would be difficult for them to obtain postgraduate training here. At the same time the rights of doctors already in the UK to compete equally with their colleagues from the UK and European Union are protected.

Dr Ramesh Mehta, President of BAPIO said "BAPIO has been lobbying both the Home Office and the Department of Health for the last 5 year asking them to take action to limit the number of international graduates entering the UK. This is a necessary change which is in the best interests of both UK doctors and IMGs".

UPDATE JUDICIAL REVIEW

As our members are aware DH has been given permission to appeal against the unanimous decision of the Appeal court on the status of HSMP holders to apply for training posts in the UK..

The appeal is to be heard on the **28th of February**, and BAPIO has instructed its legal team to launch a vigorous defence on behalf of all IMGs.

As usual we need ALL our members to contribute financially to achieve this goal. We are on the verge of creating more history and we must not flag. If we fail at this appeal, not only will the current applicants lose the chance to progress, but the DH may well apply this retrospectively endangering the careers of the 4500 IMGs successful in the last round. Please contribute generously at <http://www.bapioaction.moonfruit.com>

Have you paid your BAPIO membership fee?

Membership application form can be downloaded at
<http://www.bapio.co.uk>



CURRENT NEWS

APPEAL



**Contribute
Towards
Fairness
and Justice**

Please contribute generously at

<http://www.bapioaction.moonfruit.com>

Or

Donations could be sent to:

**BAPIO, 43 Hookhams Lane,
Renhold, Bedford MK41 0JU**

BAPIO REPRESENTED AT GOPIO CONVENTION-DELHI

BAPIOs' Corporate Advisor Mr Buddhdev Pandya MBE addressed a session at the convention of Global Organisation of people of Indian Origin [GOPIO] held on 6th and 7th January 2008 at Shastri Bhavan, Delhi.

Buddhdev introduced BAPIO's work and elaborated on the issues surrounding the legal battle for Judicial Review in the UK. He said; "In BAPIO we take the view that the 'buck stops with bodies such as ours, and if we do not take care of our people in a foreign land, who else would do it for us".

Amongst other guests were Lord Bhiku Parekh, Lord Rana and Baroness Usha Prashar. He also met Mr Vayalar Ravi, minister for Overseas Indian Affairs.



New Clinical Assessment Test issue raised with the MMC

BAPIO had a meeting with Professor Derek Gallen, National Director, UK Foundation Programme Office about the newly introduced clinical assessment test for Foundation 2 trainees. BAPIO was represented by Dr. Dwarak Sastry and Dr Kishor Tewary. The test will mainly affect international medical graduates and It is an additional test for doctors who have already passed PLAB. Moreover the test is too expensive. Following the meeting Dr Tewary said "It was a frank discussion. Prof Gallen agreed that the issues need further consideration". Another meeting has been planned.

BAPIO - BMA MEETING

**Disciplinary Action, Procedures,
and the Future 14th January –
Barnsley**

.An excellent meeting was arranged by Dr Rajeev Gupta, Chairman BAPIO Yorkshire division on 14th January 08 to discuss various disciplinary procedures and the impact on Ethnic Minority doctors

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**BAPIO to hold a major national
conference in July 2008 to discuss
issues of trainees in difficulties.**

This conference is being organised in collaboration with other IMG organisations. So far support has been extended by Dr Prasad Rao, Chair of BIDA, Dr Akhmal Makhdom, Co Chair of All British Pakistani Physicians Association, Dr Khurram Ayub, President of British International Medical Graduates and Dr P Gautam, Chairman of Nepali Doctors Association.

BAPIO's ground breaking win in the Appeals court ensured that all IMGs on HSMP visas are eligible to apply for the current round of recruitment. Deaneries are recruiting independently. We wish good luck to all those who have applied for the trainee posts!



EVENTS



TRIPLE CELEBRATIONS BY BAPIO



On 12th January 2008, BAPIO celebrated its 10th Anniversary in a grand style at Royal college of Physicians, one of the most prestigious venues in London. The triple celebration also included the 60th Anniversary of India's independence and inception of the National Health service in the UK. The event was celebrated in partnership with the High Commission in London.

Over 100 VIPs and delegates from the medical fraternity joined the Chief Guest Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, Indian Union Minister for Health. The Minister had specially flown in for the event and offered the full support of the Indian government to BAPIO. He talked about measures that are being introduced to improve health in India and laid out his vision for taking healthcare in India to the forefront in the coming decades in a fascinating speech.

HE Mr Kamlesh Sharma, the recent Indian High Commissioner and designated Secretary General of the Commonwealth, also spoke about the contributions of doctors of Indian origin to the NHS. He also highlighted the rapidly changing global order and the fact that India is now claiming its rightful place in the world. He spoke of a confident and capable India, ready to excel in all fields.



The Key note address was given by Lord Nigel Crisp, former chair of the NHS. He spoke on global health issues and credited India with supplying trained doctors to the world. Emphasising the need for health integration in a more joined up world, he highlighted the bonds between the NHS and India and insisted that the

geographical proximity alone should not be a reason to ignore relationships built over decades.

Prof Aneez Esmail then spoke of the history of Indian doctors in the NHS, highlighting their achievements and struggle for equality. His presentation also offered a route for thinking about what else BAPIO needs to take on if we are to proceed towards equality between Asian and locally trained doctors.

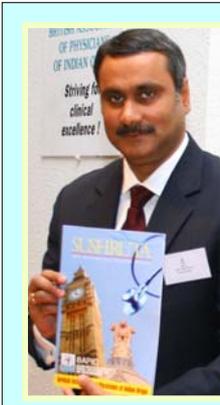


SPEAKERS





MINISTER LAUNCHES SUSHRUTA



The Indian Union Health Minister Hon Dr Anbumani Ramdoss launched a special edition of Sushruta as a souvenir to mark 10th Anniversary of BAPIO.

Sushruta will be published regularly to cover news and views affecting Doctors across the UK. BAPIO already has an e-newsletter, Harmony, that is circulated amongst its members.

Imran Yousaf Memorial National Award



B A P I O announced Dr Sajayan as the first recipient of new special category award in memory of late Dr Imran Yousaf .

The Imran Yousaf Memorial Annual Award is given to recognise the contributions of young doctors towards the cause of International Medical Graduates.

B A P I O N A T I O N A L A W A R D S 2 0 0 8 A N N O U N C E D

This year's BAPIO national awards for being a role model or for the exceptional contribution to the cause of international medical graduates were presented to Dr Ramesh Mehta, Professor Raj Bhopal, Sir Netar Mallick and Dr Peter Trewby in the award ceremony during the annual dinner on 12th January.



Dr Anushka Irani compere: L- Dr R Mehta, R-Prof Raj Bhopal, Sir Netar Mallick, Dr Peter Trewby and Dr Satheesh Mathew with R-Dr Dhruvi Bhatt ,

A page from the diary of Dr Misfit

We are starting on the journey of Dr Misfit, a PIO (Physician of Indian Origin), and the adventures in progressing to Miss/Mr Integrated.

Chapter One: Rude Awakening

The ODTS application has finally been accepted. Dr Misfit's stand was that the ODTS application had been submitted whilst she was still in her "Country of Origin". Having travelled to the UK as a "Dependent spouse" she saw no reason to return to India during the time the application was being processed. The concerned Royal College agreed! Hooray!!! But is this indeed a victory?? Dr Misfit will probably question this for the rest of her days...

Day 2 of First Senior House officer post in a UK DGH -The Year 1996

Dr Misfit is bleeped exactly at 09: 01 AM by Staff Nurse on Ward for 'urgent' administration of intravenous antibiotics. Having arrived at 8 AM, she will have to stop clerking patients for the Day Surgery list.

'Wasn't this supposed to be done by the night team?' she queries. 'Uh-huh, the Night SHO hands the bleep over at 9am and you are the team SHO, so it is really up to you to come and do it straightaway - the dose was due at 8 am.'

Wonder why it was left till 9:01 am then?

Dr Misfit rushes to the summons. 'The medicine is all drawn up, all you need to do is to administer it and sign the drug chart' says sister D in a tone not used to inviting arguments. Having administered the antibiotics she returns to the Nurses' Station to sign the drug chart only to find Sister D towering over her, hands on hips, eyes blazing "Dr Misfit, that was unsafe practice. You should have checked for allergies, expiry date, made sure the correct medication had been drawn up.....I could report you, you know?"

Stunned silence follows. Shock at the presumption that an 'Indian Doctor' would definitely not have followed protocols - in the third world, they have no protocols, do they? A big dent in Dr Misfit's pride and confidence is inflicted early on.

In retrospect though, Dr Misfit is forever indebted to Sister D - for thus began the initiation of a journey from a world of implicit trust and acceptance to a world of spite and discrimination.

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Published and circulated to the members of by

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