



Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.
Mahatma Gandhi

LAW LORDS DECISION: A LANDMARK VICTORY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The judgment of the House of Lords on 30th March 2008 is a historical landmark for the International Medical Graduates and vindication of our stand that the Department of Health regulations were unfair and ill thought-out. We believed that they were rushed through for political expediency rather than effective man power management.

We succeeded in effectively stopping an attempt by the Government to impose regulations to restrict the international medical graduates from accessing training in the NHS.

The 2 year long fight was not easy. We strode ahead despite all the doubts and criticisms; enrolling supports from thousands of individuals, other IMG organisations and other major institutions. Thousands of Doctors signed petition and hundreds took part in the peaceful demonstration in Whitehall to express our concerns. The discussions on Indigo and Energy brought new ideas and information enriching our understanding of the gravity of the impact these 'illegal' regulations were to have on our colleagues. The political lobbying also proved a great help in raising the profile of the issue. In the process BAPIO had set an example of effectively engaging other IMGs and building a united front.

At this moment of celebration we cannot forget those whom we could not help. Those who had come for permit free training but had that opportunity abruptly withdrawn, thus being put into such hardship that some ended their lives.

Now, we should draw a line under this unpleasant episode and focus on other, equally important issues affecting our colleagues in the NHS. We intend to rebuild our relationship with the Department and the Deaneries to develop a healthy and effective working partnership.

On 3rd July 08, a major national conference of stake holders is taking place in Birmingham. We will be joined by Prof. Elisabeth Paice and Prof. Dame Lesley Southgate to discuss "Trainees in difficulty".

I had a pleasure of meeting the Indian Minister for Health and family Welfare Dr Ramdoss during my recent visit to New Delhi, who confirmed that our proposal of recognising the British post graduate qualifications was accepted by the Government of India.

May I take this opportunity to thank members and contributors to our legal fund for their unwavering support in this battle for justice. Thanks to Indian High commission and Rajendra Choudhary for their constant advice and encouragement and finally grateful thanks to our legal action team for all the hard work.

Long live BAPIO!

Ramesh Mehta



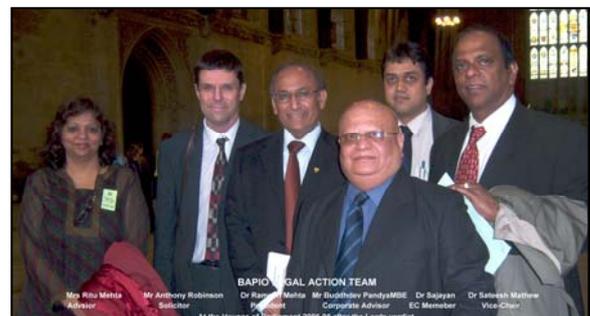
HOUSE OF LORDS RULING

Regina (BAPIO Action Ltd and Another) v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Scott of Foscote, Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, Lord Carswell and Lord Mance Speeches April 30, 2008 Government guidance to National Health Service employers which had the effect of preventing overseas trainee doctors from being offered postgraduate training places in NHS hospitals was unlawful.

The House of Lords so held (Lord Scott dissenting) in *dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for Health* against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Sedley, Lord Justice Maurice Kay and Lord Justice Rimer) ([2007] EWCA Civ 1139) allowing an appeal by the first claimant, BAPIO Action Ltd, a company established by the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, against the decision of Mr Justice Stanley Burnton ([2007] EWHC 199 (QB)) that the guidance was lawful.

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/>



BAPIO TEAM AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Have you paid your BAPIO membership fee?

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



INDIA

NHS



CURRENT NEWS



MEMORIES 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 2008

BAPIO WINS IMPORTANT CONCESSION FOR ST APPLICANTS

BAPIO was made aware of a discriminatory marking scheme affected by the Mersey Deanery.

Short listing criteria penalised applicants if they were more than 3 years after graduation.

We felt this was unfair on international graduates, who have spent time in training prior to arriving in UK.

Dr Satheesh Mathews, BAPIO Vice Chair, took up the case and wrote to the Dean. As a result the deanery withdrew this controversial caveat, and apologised!

And this was when the BMA was reluctant to act. We encourage our members to report any such unfair practices and we will, as always, take them up.

INDIA TO RECOGNISE POST GRADUATION QUALIFICATION

The Government of India has passed a directive recognising Post graduate qualifications from six English speaking countries as equivalent to specialist qualifications in India. This has been a fruit of many years of labour by BAPIO and discussions at the very highest level.

Currently all doctors on the specialist register benefit from this directive, however BAPIO is working hard to extend this recognition to doctors who have royal college qualifications but may not feature on the specialist register.

BAPIO CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

BAPIO organised a very successful reception at the spring conference of the RCPCH in York. Dr Rajiv Gupta welcomed the guests and Dr Ramesh Mehta, President BAPIO, appreciated the support given by the RCPCH to BAPIO.

Prof Patricia Hamilton, President RCPCH, was chief guest. She highlighted the achievements of international graduates in providing care for children in the UK.

Dr Sheila Shribman, Director children's services England, was guest of honour and praised the contributions made by Indian doctors to child health.

The theme for the evening was Indian and was accompanied by delicious Indian food, followed by a musical program organised by Dr Kishore Tewari and Dr Deepa Prasad.

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!



Congratulations Sharmaji !

Mr. Kamlesh Sharma, The most recent High Commissioner of India has taken over the position of Secretary General of the New Commonwealth on 1st April 2008.

Sharmaji, a career diplomat, 66-year-old retired IFS officer will hold the prestigious post for two years. He has served with distinction at various key positions including India's Permanent Representative to the UN and spokesperson for developing countries in the UNCTAD during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.



As India's Permanent Representative in New York he chaired the Working Group on Financing for Development. His efforts led to 'Monterrey Consensus' in the conference in Mexico. He has also played a key role in both South-South and North-South relations. During his office as the High Commissioner, Sharmaji, with his superb diplomatic skills proved to be an excellent representative of the people of Indian origin. Particularly for BAPIO he was ever readily available to support and advice.

BAPIO congratulates him in his new position and wish him well !

A page from the diary of Dr Misfit

We proceed further on the journey of Dr Misfit, a PIO (Physician of Indian Origin), and the adventures in progressing to Miss Integrated.

Chapter Two- The Moral of the story is....

A few months into the First Senior House Officer Post, in a UK DGH...

Dr Misfit had noticed a rather strange discrepancy in the manner in which pre-operative clerking clinics were held.

Whenever Dr Misfit was rostered for the clinic, the ward always seemed understaffed and the sister could not spare a member of the Nursing Team to assist. Dr Misfit and co. were, therefore, expected to obtain the notes from the secretary, usher the patient in, clerk, consent, fill out blood test forms, label the specimens and provide a phlebotomy service.

Dr Misfit, true to her name, thought it fit to carry out an Audit (non-clinical/organizational audits were encouraged and of course, Dr Misfit was very keen to make her C.V. rich).

When the data was presented at the Departmental Audit meeting (despite a piece of friendly advice from the college tutor), disbelief and indignation abounded, especially from the Nursing Staff. Surely! This could not be true!

Until, of course, Dr Peter Potter, born, bred and educated in Utopia decided to intervene with a single sentence ... 'I have audited this data with Dr Misfit'. Instant acceptance and back-patting galore! What an eye opener! The Clinical Director promised immediate action and overhaul of the staffing of these clinics- a Nurse was to get all notes and paper work organised and also vital signs and BMI. The Pathology Lab was geared into action and even pre-op patients could now avail of the phlebotomy service (hitherto restricted solely to outpatient attendees).

A true achievement – evidence of change apparent when re-audited 3 months later.

The Moral of the story:
Always solicit the help of a non-desi in all Audits/ research projects in order to have an acceptable outcome!

Surprisingly though, in the various job interviews that Dr Misfit attended subsequently, no one ever seemed interested in discussing the aforesaid audit. It was not even worth a mention in Dr. Misfit's reference.

Around the same time, BAPIO was being conceived, nurtured, born.....

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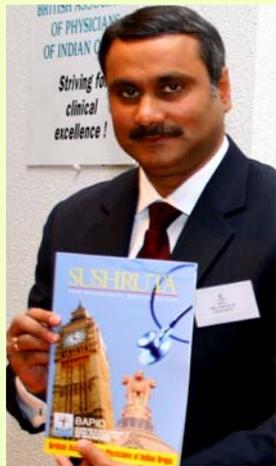
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SUSHRUTA

BAPIO Conference



SUSHRUTA MAGAZINE

Following the re-launch of Sushruta magazine of BAPIO at the Annual Dinner held in January 2008, it will now be published quarterly.

We are anticipating that Sushruta will be a self-financing enterprise, largely supported by sponsors and advertisement.

The contents will reflect diverse interests and issues affecting the Doctors of Indian

origin and other professionals working in the NHS. Please email your articles, views, pictures and advertising material for July 2008 issue by 30th May 2008 to Buddhdev Pandya buddhdevp@googlemail.com

BAPIO is organising a major conference 'Trainees in Difficulty' on Thursday, the 3rd of July 2008 in City Hospital, Birmingham.

This is being organised in conjunction with the London Deanery, BMA, Remedy UK, BIDA, All British Pakistani Physicians Association, Nepali Doctors Association and Association of British International Graduates amongst others.

Confirmed speakers include Prof Elizabeth Paice, Dean London Deanery, Prof Dame Lesley Southgate, Professor of post graduate education and Prof Janet Grant, vice chancellor of the Open University.

The day will also include workshops and interactive sessions for trainers and trainees. More details soon on www.bapio.com






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