

Harmony BAPIO

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN



.....

**Wishing you a Happy Holiday season from the team
at BAPIO.**



EDITORIAL BOARD
Prof Indranil Chakravorty
Dr Viju Varadarajan
Ms Ishita Purandare

Greetings from the President



I am writing this message from a cold and foggy winter morning in Bedford, which probably reflects the mood of the nation as we brace ourselves for the latest innings of the COVID-19 pandemic - the Omicron invasion! Our hopes and plans for an enjoyable Christmas holiday with our family and friends are now in jeopardy. For the people in this country and in many countries around the world, this would have been the first Christmas we could celebrate after December 2019.

However, we as health professionals have dedicated our lives to the care of our patients and this is indeed an hour of their need. I believe we have the strongest commitment to do our very best. We in BAPIO also have a special duty to uphold the principles of equality, diversity, and justice for our patients and our colleagues.

All of you are aware of the disproportionate impact of COVID19 on ethnic minorities and those on the fringes of society. We are grateful for the work you have done on our behalf to tackle inequalities and support those in most need. More needs to be done.

We have written to the NHS England CEO, suggesting vital steps to be taken to avoid a repeat of the catastrophic situation we have seen before within this pandemic. You can read the letter in this newsletter.

All of the BAPIO members, our friends, and our allies are our extended family and we need to do everything in our power to support and protect you.

If you are working in the front line please ensure that you have completed a new risk assessment, have access to appropriate personal protection equipment, and are taking all recommended precautionary measures. Please do contact us if you have any difficulties.

It was great to meet many of you at our silver Jubilee conference in Edgbaston, Birmingham. I am proud of the brilliant work our members have been doing through our divisions, forums, and arm's length bodies. I hope you were able to attend the premiere of the BAPIO documentaries and the song commissioned to celebrate our silver jubilee. These are now available on [BAPIO YouTube](#).

It pains me to bid farewell to Sneha, our office manager as she starts a new phase of her career. She has been dependable, supportive, honest, and always willing to assist. On behalf of the executive committee, I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

Finally, may the magic of the Christmas season fill your hearts with joy and peace. We are sending lots of love to your family, and looking forward to the day we can meet you again, soon. Take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Ramesh Mehta OBE
President, BAPIO



A Winter of Variants & Plan B

Editorial by Dr Indranil Chakravorty

As the sun sets on the second year of the pandemic, the world which has changed so much since the event in Wuhan, continues to spin and the heavens over this iconic view of the Thames -remains oblivious of the battles which have raged since the native SARS-CoV-2 reached our shores. We have now been through a number of variants and seen the curves of the now too familiar infection-hospitalisations-mortality curves rise and fall with a precision only possible of public health predictive modeling.

[Read more...](#)

Indian Group of Southwest Wales Presents COVID charity cheque to BAPIO

An Indian group in Southwest Wales raised almost £ 8000 for COVID relief in India and UK. On behalf of BAPIO the cheque was accepted by Prof Hasmukh Shah. The invitees present were Assistant Chief Constable David Thorne (South Wales Police), Dr Bushra Nabil, Mr Abhay Mallipedi (One Stop Charity), Mr Dinesh Bharwani, Mr Nick Morgan.

Trustees present were Dr Ketan Shaw, Dr Saloni Jain, Mr Rana Verma, Mrs Sujata Verma, Mrs Chantal Patel, Dr Arun Ramachandran (Chairman), Dr Narendra Babu (Secretary), Mrs Sindhu Mahadevan (Treasurer). BAPIO will use the funds appropriately.



BAPIO suggestions to the NHS England CEO regarding coping with OMICRON impact

BAPIO has written to Ms. Amanda Pritchard, the Chief Executive Officer, NHS England about the sustained and immense pressure on all healthcare staff working in the NHS, and particularly those who are in the frontline.

BAPIO has suggested that at the basic minimum instructions must go out to support the following: an increase in test and trace, the availability of appropriate PPE readily available in all clinical areas, including FFP3 masks which appear to be in short supply in some areas, an emphasis again on remote working wherever that is possible, instructions on self-isolation/quarantine so that those who are not required to do so can be facilitated to return to work more speedily than has been the case, and finally risk assessments to ensure those who are vulnerable such as BAME staff do not run the risk of being exposed to the virus at their workplace.



Read more...

BAPIO raises concern about disparities in CQC inspections of BAME doctors

BAPIO has written to Dr. Rosie Benneyworth, Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services and Integrated Care. Care Quality Commission raising concern that there has been a lack of a robust action plan emerging from CQC around how it plans to tackle the disparities seen in outcomes and inspections in practices led by Black, Asian, and ethnic minority colleagues with the urgency needed.



[Read more...](#)

More than an Admin Angel



In the US National Archives on the issue of the history of Women, this description was found;

A good secretary needs the education of a college president, executive ability of a financier, the humility of a deacon, the adaptability of a chameleon, the hope of an optimist, the courage of a Hero, the wisdom of a serpent, the gentleness of a dove, the patience of Job, the graciousness of God, and the persistence of the Devil. (Federation Aviation Agency Scanner, USA, 1959)

When we sit down to reflect on the contribution of Sneha in her capacity of the all powerful 'admin' backbone of BAPIO, one cannot but wonder how one person can have so much capability, yet stay almost as part of the fabric, the furniture, never presenting herself as an independent entity. In it's journey of 25 years, BAPIO has undergone exponential growth in 3 key points - 2006, 2010 and in 2020. The most recent growth in the number of forums, divisions, arm's length bodies has been the wildest time in terms of administrative responsibility. The one person who has held this juggernaut together and supported the multiple executive teams, without a whimper is Sneha.

It is rare that people with great talent will remain static in their own lives, and such is the fate of Sneha as she moves on to greater roles and responsibilities. She will be missed, her shoes will be hard to fill but there has been such an outpouring of love and good wishes for Sneha from all members of BAPIO, that she will be riding this high wave for sometime to come. We wish her all the success she truly deserves. In her honour, one of our members Rajeev has penned the following lines;

*It's time to say Goodbye Sneha so that you can leave us for a new venture and climb the mast.
The two words hardest to say in life are Hello for the first time and Goodbye for the last.
The change in life happens for a reason and people leave us with memories of the past.
What you are leaving is a memory for us, BAPIO loves for your actions smart and fast.*

Written by- Dr Indranil Chakravorty
Poem by- Dr Rajeev Gupta