

AKMG Reporter

Photo Courtesy ChooseChicago.org



AKMG REPORTER / Spring 2017

Official Newsletter of the Association of Kerala Medical Graduates and AKMG-HS

38th Annual AKMG Convention in Chicago, July 20th–22nd, 2017

I am extremely pleased to be able to welcome you all to the 38th Annual AKMG Convention being held from July 20-22, 2017. This year's Convention will be held at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Hotel, located on the Chicago River, just a few steps away from the world famous Navy Pier. We have a full schedule of events for an unforgettable three days in the Windy City.

The AKMG organizing committee has been working very hard to make this year's Convention as enjoyable and memorable as possible. We have recently updated our website to make it even more user-friendly. With just a few months remaining, we are very excited to showcase all

the work put into making this convention successful.

Please reserve your rooms using the "Reserve your rooms now" link on our website, akmg.org. As we only have a select number of deluxe rooms at the discounted rate for a limited time, please make your reservations as soon as possible.

For the convention registration, both online and paper registrations are available. Early bird discounted registration is available now. Please register for the convention soon. Discounts will be available for medical students, residents, and fellows. We will also be offering three types of registration packages: the 3-day supersaver, the 2-day package, and the 1-day package.

This year's Continuing Medical Education (CME) lectures will include the most current topics, as well as expert presentations and break-

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Majeed Paduvana, MD
mpaduvana@gmail.com



Chicago is Ready...

Let us meet in Chicago and show our strength.

The year 2017 is moving fast and the 38th Annual AKMG Convention is getting closer. As your president for 2016-17, I am extremely thankful to our members and national leaders for a wonderful year so far. I had the opportunity to visit many of our local Chapters and meet with a great number of our esteemed members. I feel honored to lead this unique physician organization and arrange the national convention in Chicago. Our current leadership in AKMG, Dr. Raji Menon as President Elect and Dr. Thomas Mathew as the Secretary/Treasurer, have shown the strength and determination to serve our members well and look for improvements all the time. AKMG is stronger than ever!

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Gala Banquet Night



Famous Playback Singer Vijay Yesudas

AKMG IRS Tax Exemption Nos.
AMKG# 363 465 523
AKMG-HS# 32-0051235

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Chicago Convention



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Spring has sprung on us and we all can feel that gentle spring breeze caressing us all. There is a certain familiar fragrance the breeze is carrying - that of the upcoming 38th Annual AKMG Convention in Chicago, July 20-22, 2017.

Under the leadership of our AKMG President Majeed Paduvana and the Convention Chair Tomy Kalappambath, a very dedicated and hard working team is at work to make sure that the 38th Annual AKMG Convention in Chicago will deliver an unforgettable experience to the entire AKMG family. We can expect a great feast including the essential components of education, entertainment and cultural re-awakening.

The strength of any organization is its membership. AKMG Membership Committee Chair Tomy Kalappambath needs all the help and support that we, the AKMG members, can offer to attract new members to further strengthen our organization even as the founding, senior members of AKMG gradually retreat to a well deserved retired life.

AKMG's collaborations with various organizations across the continents representing Kerala origin health professionals –doctors, dentists and pharmacists– continues to flourish in a very robust fashion. To name a few, these include ATMG-UK, AKMG Emirates, various alumni organizations of medical schools in Kerala, rest of India and across the Western hemisphere. I had the opportunity to participate in the Trivandrum Medical College Alumni Association's 12th Annual Convention on January 26th, 2017.

Please mark your calendar and block the dates July 20-22, 2017 so that all of you can attend the upcoming 38th Annual AKMG Convention in Chicago. Please go ahead and register online and book your hotel rooms ASAP. There are direct links on our website akmg.org to expedite these processes for you.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Chicago !!!

Member in the News: Dr. Seetha Shankaran



This is a photograph in the office of the Director of the NICHD (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development), one of the Institutes of the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC. The picture above shows President John F. Kennedy handing a pen to his sister Eunice after signing legislation she championed to create the NICHD. In 2008, Congress added Eunice Kennedy Shriver to NICHD's name in recognition of her commitment to its research mission.

The picture below shows that the NICHD's Neonatal Research Network has helped revolutionize care and improve outcome for preterm and term neonates. The most significant research in the NICHD Neonatal Research Network since it was founded in 1986 is that among neonates who have lack of oxygen and blood flow to the brain at birth, providing whole body hypothermia decreases death and disability in childhood. The picture shows Jacques Poussier as a neonate on the cooling blanket (inset) and now as a healthy 14 year old. With him is the NICHD Neonatal Research Network's Dr. Seetha Shankaran, Principal Investigator from Wayne State University, who led the first clinical trial in the U. S. demonstrating that hypothermia was safe and effective and this treatment is now the standard of care for neonates with this condition.

Dr. Seetha Shankaran is Professor of Pediatrics at Wayne State University and continues her research in preventing brain injury and cerebral palsy in high-risk infants. This photograph was placed in the Directors Hallway in June 2016.

Greetings from Canada...



Raji Menon, MD
shalini_apr@yahoo.com



Greetings from Canada – from me and from the members of AKMG Canada.

First of all, let me wish Dr. Majeed Paduvana and his team, All the very Best for the upcoming convention in Chicago. I hope the preparations are going well. I hope to see a good crowd there, and hope to connect with as many of the members as possible.

As Dr. Paduvana has said in his message, it is important that we have a good turnout, since it is from the surplus funds collected, that the association is able to keep up a lot of its humanitarian work. To this end, please make an effort to attend, and to persuade your friends to attend as well.

As has already been announced, the 39th Annual AKMG convention will be held in Ottawa Canada, from the 9th to the 11th of August, 2018. August will be a great time to visit Canada, since it will be nice and warm, and you won't have to bring any warm clothes with you!

Dr. Nigil Haroon, who is the President of AKMG Canada, has very kindly accepted the role of Convention Chair, and we are in the process of negotiations with various hotels. We are also in the process of assembling a great team, to help with the legwork.

Our hope and aim for the convention in Ottawa will be to bring you a

great, enjoyable program, at a reasonable rate. Once again, this will only be possible with the help of the members, and so, I humbly ask that you mark your calendars, and make arrangements to attend, as soon as we have it all set up.

It will also be helpful if we can set up a list, with names of young AKMG members, or children of AKMG members, who would be willing to volunteer at future conventions. For a start, I would ask that anyone willing, send me an email with their names and contact information, so I can start a list. Eventually, I hope we can make this a feature on the AKMG website. My email address is: shalini_apr@yahoo.com

I wish to thank all the members of AKMG, who work tirelessly, despite their own busy careers and lives, to keep the organization functioning like a well-oiled machine. A special Thanks to Dr. Krishna Prasad, and to Dilip for their patience, and perseverance in bringing out these newsletters on time.

Finally, as a Life Coach, I'd like to say that we are living in troubling times, and it is important to stay safe, and to manage our stresses well - and for those feeling overwhelmed, to seek help early. Please do look out for each other.

God Bless.

Membership Update...



Tomy Paul Kalapparambath, MD
tomypaulmd@aol.com



The online AKMG membership application process is going very well. It is easy for the new members to navigate and complete the Application. Secure payment makes it easy for both the member and the bank to process the payment.

In preparation for the Chicago Convention, we have discounted memberships available, starting from March 15th, 2017 through July 23rd, 2017. Individual life membership rate will be \$350 (\$150 savings) and Joint life membership rate for \$500 (\$250 savings). Please take advantage of this discounted rate. I would encourage all the annual members to become life members. Please check our website www.akmg.org and follow the link 'Become a Member'.

We need to encourage medical students, residents and fellows to join

AKMG. I am glad to report that we have a very active 'Young AKMG Group' organizing activities for the young members to get more involved. We had good participation of young members at the Miami convention. I am expecting an even bigger participation for the Chicago convention, thanks to the 'Young AKMG' leaders. Hopefully, this will encourage more young members to join AKMG.

I would also like to encourage our Dental Physicians to join AKMG. A Dentistry related CME session is planned for the Chicago convention. I hope we can bring more Dentist members and encourage them to be in leadership positions.

Discounted Life Membership Until 07/23/17.

Become an AKMG Life Member Today!

2017 AKMG Chicago Convention

Continued from page 1

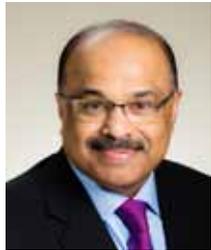
through science. The CME Committee leaders are working hard to release a finalized agenda very soon.

We have a very exciting schedule of events planned for attendees. AKMG has organized both professional performers, as well as performers from our very own community of AKMG members and family. On the evening of July 20th, we have planned a leisurely and relaxing cruise on Lake Michigan. Dinner and on-board entertainment will be provided on the wonderful Mystic Blue cruise ship. Stay tuned for more information, as our Entertainment committee leaders will be sharing the final agenda shortly.



Our AKMG Youth Leaders have arranged several sessions especially tailored for our young AKMG members and young families, including cultural galas, musical performances, breakout sessions that include mentoring sessions, poster presentations, career advice, and networking opportunities.

We hope to see you very soon in the phenomenal city of Chicago!



Top: Convention Chair Dr. Tomy Kalapparambath; (LtoR) Convention Co-chairs: Drs. Joseph James, Najeeb Mohideen and Philomina Thomas

From the President

Continued from page 1

This is not the first time that AKMG is coming to Chicago, the “Jewel of the Midwest”. We celebrated the Silver Jubilee of AKMG in Chicago. This convention will be different in many ways. This is the first time it is being held at the beautiful Sheraton Grand Chicago Hotel on the Chicago River and within walking distance to Navy Pier, one of the most recognized and visited attraction in Chicago. If you turn the other way you will walk into the “Shopping Mecca of the Midwest”, the Magnificent Mile which boasts more than 450 shops! The hotel itself has plenty of space to make claustrophobia vanish the moment you walk into the spacious reception area.

The convention team has worked hard to give the registrants the right mix of education and entertainment. Three days of meeting and greet-



(LtoR) Convention Advisors Drs. Narendra Kumar and Thomas Mukkada

ing, nostalgic discussions, catching up with latest in medical knowledge, fine dining, breath taking entertainment during the evenings. You will be treated like royalty.

I am happy to say the Sheraton hotel rooms with the AKMG discounted rate are going fast and I encourage all our members to book their rooms as early as

possible. Chicago is one of the most visited cities in the USA in the summer and the hotel rooms become VERY expensive closer to July.

Please also register for the convention and take advantage of the early bird discounts. Please see the articles by the Convention Chair and other AKMG 2017 leaders for more convention details. Visit www.akmg.org for convention highlights and updates.

I personally invite all AKMG members, their families and friends to AKMG Chicago Convention on July 20th-22nd. I can assure you that you will be glad you came!

Convention planning meeting in Chicago





The Annual Gala for 2016 was conducted on December 10, 2016 with Antony Satyadas (CEO Innovation Incubator, Inc.) as our Chief Guest who presented on Innovations in Medicine. We honored five of our AKMG members who have shown exemplified services to the community: Drs. Anto Joseph, Prof. Latha Chandran, Joseph V. Pottanat, Ramchandran Nair and Beppy Edasery.

Our March Quarterly meeting was honored by the presence of our own Dr. and Mrs. Majeed and Tahiya Paduvana who provided updates on the Chicago Convention. Dr. Paduvana also inaugurated our website akmgny.org exclusively for Greater New York members.

Looking ahead, the Chicago Convention has been driving momentum with the great initiatives of Dr. Majeed Paduvana and Convention Chair Dr. Tomy Kalapparambath. We are expecting a record crowd this time as many of us have ties to Chicago.

The AKMG Greater New York Chapter is preparing itself for the 2019 Convention and we had our first discussions in the presence of our President Dr. Majeed Paduvana. We had many of our senior members and patrons attend the hour-long meeting to initiate the process and we were showered with lots of suggestions and ideas which we will consider

for the Convention.

The Greater New York Chapter also has a vibrant Young physician group who has shown much interest into the Quarterly Chapter meetings and we hope the initiatives led by Drs. Binu Chacko and Ann Arackal will attract more physicians and residents to AKMG.

We are having AKMG Governing Body Meetings on a regular basis, which are well-attended tele-conferences. The input we receive in those meetings are being incorporated in our day to day activities.

Please log on to the website www.akmg.org and update your profile. We have a very active charitable organization, AKMG-HS, and I urge you to make your tax-deductible contributions.

Do remember that AKMG is your organization. We need your camaraderie, support and participation. Together we can keep this united front going. I hope to see you all in Chicago.

— **Thomas P. Mathew, MD**

Secretary/Treasurer, AKMG & President, AKMG Greater New York





**2017 AKMG
Chicago Convention**
*Sheraton Grand Chicago
July 20th–22nd, 2017*

CME Committee

On behalf of the 2017 AKMG convention team, I would like to invite our members to attend the CME Program, which will be held on July 21-22 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel Chicago. Lectures will take place from 8:30am to 12:30pm on both days for a total of 8 CME credits. As you well know, the CME program has been a vital part of our annual AKMG convention. It is this time of the year when we pause and make time for learning and professional growth in an environment of shared community.

We have recruited outstanding speakers from some of the most prestigious institutions who will be covering a variety of topics that straddle primary care and multiple relevant specialties. In addition to didactic lectures, there will be case presentations and opportunities for audience



participation. It is our goal to incorporate social activities, professional development, and networking opportunities into our annual meetings.

We trust that attending our meeting will exceed your expectations, and we look forward to seeing you in the Windy City.

— *Shyla Vengalil, MD*
Chair, CME Committee

Literary Committee

It is an honor and a big responsibility to be asked to chair the literary session by the Michigan chapter once again. My co-chair Dr. Shakunthala Rajagopal and myself hope to present a unique and exciting 2- hour program.

Details so far:

- An interview with the legendary Malayalam writer M. T. Vasudevan Nair pre-recorded exclusively for AKMG.
- Recently published writings by members of AKMG fraternity will be showcased in a series of brief presentations by the authors. If you have published a book in the past two years please contact shakuakmg@sbcglobal.net
- We are soliciting participation from the AKMG Youth. Those youngsters who have Original creations (literary, film, music, other art forms) interested in participating, please write to me at vijayemenon@gmail.com. Also if any of you know of a youngster who we can invite please write to me.



• We may possibly have visiting speakers from India – details TBA. Thank you.

— *Vijay Menon, MD*
Chair, Literary Committee

Entertainment Committee

The Entertainment Committee wants to welcome everyone to Chicago for three days of fun and exciting entertainment for the AKMG family. We will begin our convention on Thursday evening with a cruise on Lake Michigan aboard the cruise liner Mystic Blue. Come aboard and watch the sun set while you enjoy fine dining and entertainment with panoramic views of the Chicago Skyline in the background.

On Friday night, we will have the campus night with a showcase of talent from our AKMG members and family. The convention concludes with the Gala Banquet on Saturday night with a stage show by the most popular young singer in Kerala, Vijay Yesudas and his team. As you know, he is the son of acclaimed singer and music legend, K. J. Yesudas,



who has been part of AKMG for so many years. Vijay Yesudas and his team will mesmerize you with old and new melodies and will bring back the wonderful memories of Kerala. Please plan to be in Chicago from July 20th to 22nd and enjoy the variety of entertainments planned. Stay tuned for more updates.

— *Smitha Paily*
Chair, Entertainment Committee

Souvenir Committee

It's with distinct honor and great privilege that we are inviting all of you to contribute literary articles for publication in the commemorative souvenir of the forthcoming AKMG Annual Convention in Chicago.

The Souvenir Committee would like to invite all AKMG Members and families to send us your recent family pictures for publication, preferably in color (tariff below).

New Reduced Rates for Family Pictures/Compliments:

- Family Compliments/PicturesFull Page \$1000
- Family Compliments/PicturesHalf Page \$500

We are also hereby requesting all AKMG Chapter leaders to send their Chapter pictures and local activity reports for publishing in this Souvenir.

I would also like to remind our Young AKMG members to actively contribute to this annual literary endeavor in the form of essays, commentaries, poems, travelogues, cartoons, etc. This would be an excellent opportunity to showcase the avant-garde literary talents among our Young members.

We also would like to remind all of you to kindly forward us the advertisement or contact information of those who you think will be able to contribute towards our cause.



All AKMG Members are requested to turn in their articles to sunil.manjila@gmail.com within the new extended deadline: May 15, 2017.

Thanking you in anticipation and expecting your wholehearted cooperation,

— *Sunil Manjila, MD*
Chair, Souvenir Committee

Please note that
ONSITE REGISTRATION is NOT AVAILABLE.

2017 AKMG Chicago Convention Registration Form

July 20th, 21st & 22nd, 2017 ❖ Sheraton Grand Chicago

IMPORTANT: Early Bird Discount: Before 05/20/17 ▪ Onsite Registration NOT Available

Cancellation Policy: 50% Refund by or before 06/22/17.

Check One Box: Life Member Annual Member Resident/Fellow/Med. Student Non-member

Are you attending the AKMG Convention for the first time? Yes No

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____ M / F

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Medical School Attended: _____ E-mail: _____

SPOUSE: Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Physician? Y / N

Number of Children attending: _____ 1. _____ Age: _____ M / F

2. _____ Age: _____ M / F 3. _____ Age: _____ M / F

4. _____ Age: _____ M / F 5. _____ Age: _____ M / F

Additional Names: _____

NOTE: Proof of Training Required for Residents, Fellows and Medical Students

**NO ONSITE
REGISTRATION**

GRAND GALA BANQUET: Meal Choice and Number: Beef: _____ Fish: _____ Vegetarian: _____

Seating for Banquet: *Please let us know who you would like to seat with:* _____ / No preference

A REGISTRATION & CME:				
Charge per person	EARLY BIRD before 05/20/17	AFTER 05/20/17	Number of People	Total US\$
AKMG Member	US\$ 100.00	US\$ 100.00		
Non-member	US\$ 150.00	US\$ 150.00		
Medical Students, Residents and Fellows: No Registration or CME Fee (Proof of training required)				
Sub-total for Section A (Registration):				US\$

B 3-DAY SUPER SAVER PACKAGE (See Sections C, D, E & F for other options)				
Charge per person	EARLY BIRD before 05/20/17	After 05/20/17	#	Total US\$
Adults and Children above age 6	US\$ 500.00	US\$ 550.00		
Children below age 6	FREE	FREE		
Medical Students, Residents and Fellows: No Registration or CME Fee (Proof of training required)	US\$ 199.00	US\$ 199.00		
* If you have selected this package, skip to Section F. Sub-total for Section B (3-DAY Package):				US\$

Please complete both sides of the Registration Form.

SEE OTHER SIDE >>>

C 2-DAY PACKAGE (July 21st & 22nd, Friday & Saturday)

Charge per person	EARLY BIRD before 05/20/17	After 05/20/17	#	Total US\$
Adults and Children above age 6	US\$ 400.00	US\$ 450.00		
Children below age 6	FREE	FREE		
Medical Students, Residents and Fellows: No Registration or CME Fee (Proof of training required)	US\$ 199.00	US\$ 199.00		
* If you have selected this package, skip to Section F.				Sub-total for Section C (2-DAY Package): US\$

D DAY 1 (July 20th, Thursday) DINNER CRUISE

Charge per person	EARLY BIRD before 05/20/17	After 05/20/17	#	Total US\$
Adults and Children above age 6	US\$ 110.00	US\$ 150.00		
Children below age 6	FREE	FREE		
Medical Students, Residents and Fellows: No Registration or CME Fee (Proof of training required)	US\$ 90.00	US\$ 100.00		
				Sub-total for Section D (Day 1 Dinner Cruise): US\$

E DAY 2 (July 21st, Friday) CAMPUS NIGHT

Charge per person	EARLY BIRD before 05/20/17	After 05/20/17	#	Total US\$
Adults and Children above age 6	US\$ 200.00	US\$ 230.00		
Children below age 6	FREE	FREE		
Medical Students, Residents and Fellows: No Registration or CME Fee (Proof of training required)	US\$ 90.00	US\$ 90.00		
				Sub-total for Section E (Day 2 Campus Night): US\$

F DAY 3 (July 22nd, Saturday) GALA BANQUET NIGHT – DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT

Charge per person	EARLY BIRD before 05/20/17	After 05/20/17	#	Total US\$
Adults and Children above age 6	US\$ 230.00	US\$ 275.00		
Children below age 6	FREE	FREE		
Medical Students, Residents and Fellows: No Registration or CME Fee (Proof of training required)	US\$ 90.00	US\$ 90.00		
				Sub-total for Section F (Day 3 Gala Banquet Night): US\$

NO ONSITE REGISTRATION | GRAND TOTAL for Sections A, B, C, D, E and F : US\$

Make checks payable to "AKMG" and mail completed form and your check to:
Dr. Majeed Paduvana
570 Briarcliff Drive, Gross Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Contact us for any questions:
Majeed Paduvana mpaduvana@gmail.com
Tomy Paul Kalapparambath tomypaulmd@gmail.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**Onsite Registration NOT Available.***Early Bird Savings before 05/20/17.**Cancellations: 50% Refund if cancelled by 06/22/17.**Registration Form is also available at www.akmg.org.**Medical Students, Residents & Fellows: Need proof of your training status.***Hotel Reservations:**

Sheraton Grand Chicago
301 E North Water Street
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone (312) 464-1000

*Online Reservations: www.akmg.org**Book early to get discounted AKMG rate of \$209 per night.**Chicago Area Airports:**ORD – O'Hare (~25 miles) | MDW – Midway (~15 miles)*

65th Anniversary Celebrations–Trivandrum Medical College; TMC Alumni Association 12th Annual Convention

The sixty-fifth anniversary of the Trivandrum Medical College was celebrated in a grand manner in conjunction with the 12th Annual Convention of the TMC Alumni Association held on February 24th and 26th, 2017 at the Diamond Jubilee Alumni Auditorium of Trivandrum Medical College.

The cultural extravaganza on the 17th evening was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of The Kerala Health University Dr. M. K. Chandrasekharan Nair. The dance by the Women's Wing of the Indian Medical Association followed. A grand skit by Dr. Thomas Mathew and team was both entertaining and thought provoking. The star of the evening was Mr. Ramesh Pisharody with his humorous comments. The musical offering by the members of THAARAM, the cultural wing of TMCAA, followed.

The academic deliberations were held on the 19th morning. The sixty-fifth Anniversary Oration on Tuberculosis control was delivered by Dr. S. S. Lal. The annual convention was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Sri Pinarayi Vijayan. He distributed the financial assistance given to the victims of the Puttingal fire tragedy and presented Distinguished Alumni Awards to Dr. M. V. Pillai, Dr. Krishna R. Prasad, and Dr. Majeed Khan. Financial assistance was also given to selected students of TMC. The symposium on "Medical Education in India" was participated by Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Chairman Academic Committee of the Medical Council of India, Dr. A. Marthanda Pillai, our President and Past National President of IMA, Mr. Gouridasan Nair of The Hindu, Dr. Ekbal, former Vice Chancellor of Kerala University and Dr. K. Mohanan, MCI member.

— Submitted by **Dr. John Panicker, Vice President, TMCAA**
and **Dr. S. Vasudevan, Treasurer, TMCAA**



Chicago Convention planning meeting in Michigan



**Register for the 2017 AKMG Chicago Convention & Make Your Hotel Reservations
at the AKMG website: www.akmg.org**

From the AKMG Youth Leaders

(LtoR) Gatha Nair, Anisha Mohandas,
Anupam Kumar and Tracy Paul



We are your new youth leaders and it gives us immense pleasure to invite you to the AKMG Annual Convention in Chicago from July 20th to 22nd, 2017! AKMG has always been a great opportunity to meet new friends, catch up with old ones and connect with young doctors from across the country! We have a great number of youth oriented activities planned for the coming year!

This year, we have organized youth centered mixers with other young doctors on Friday and Saturday night followed by drinks afterwards downtown. On Saturday morning we will have a breakfast for young parents and their children; a chance for young parents and their toddlers to meet new friends! On Saturday afternoon, we have a new youth seminar series; youth members will discuss various topics including women in medicine, getting a job after residency, how to write a CV or personal statement, interview tips, deciphering job contracts, etc. After the youth seminar, we will also have a career advice mixer and have young attendings and older professors giving advice about their specialties to youth members in an informal mixer setting. We are organizing many other events including youth poster presentations and exciting CME activities.

We are moving forward to solidify the youth involvement in AKMG. If you have ideas for the future of AKMG, come discuss them with us! If you want to get involved in AKMG and play a bigger role, come forward and let us know! We're always looking for more youth members!

These are exciting times for AKMG! AKMG is an organization that cherishes our culture and reminds us where we came from. There is a huge increase in youth involvement this year but we need to reach out and encourage more youth to join! AKMG needs members of all ages and we are stronger when together. Let us help AKMG continue to grow into the future! We are excited to meet you all in Chicago,

— Tracy Paul, Anupam Kumar, Gatha Nair, Anisha Mohandas



Prem Menon, MD
Chair, AKMG Humanitarian Services
drmenon@drmenon.com

AKMG-HS

AKMG-HS (Humanitarian Services), our charitable foundation, has supported various causes in the U.S., Canada and Kerala. AKMG continues to initiate and maintain multiple educational and other supportive activities in the various medical colleges in Kerala. This has been an important part of our obligation to give back to the communities in North America and India/Kerala that have supported our clinical education as well as ongoing professional activities. We have also teamed up with various charitable organizations and have supported many other charitable activities including disaster relief in India and in the U.S.

Trivandrum Medical College alumni and AKMG-HS has collaborated for repairing the medical college hostels. Dr. Narendra Kumar has undertaken this project of refurbishing, repairing and installing new lights and sound systems to the TVM Medical College Anatomy Lecture Hall. Please contact Dr. Narendra Kumar at kum73@aol.com for more information.

I would like to thank those who contributed towards Kollam Fireworks Disaster victims. \$12,000 was distributed among victims at the 65th Anniversary of TMCAA in Trivandrum at the February function by Sri Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala.



Distribution of financial aid to victims/families of the Kollam fireworks tragedy by the Kerala Chief Minister, Sri Pinarayi Vijayan

PLANNED GIVING: Members should consider establishing Donor-Advised Funds through the AKMG- HS, which is a 501(c)3 IRS Tax Exempt Charity, EIN 32-0051235.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE: Since there is no administrative fee involved, 100% of your donations will go to the charity of your choice.

PLEASE DONATE TO AKMG-HS. We need funds to continue our mission of helping those who need it. AKMG-HS, Att: Dr. Prem Menon, 5217 Flanders Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

Pilot for Infosys Foundation Academic Chair at Government Medical College Trivandrum

The 12th Annual Convention of the Trivandrum Medical College Alumni Association (TMCAA), conducted this year from February 24-26, saw the start of a program with a difference. It has always been the dream of TMC Alumni Association to engage our alumni settled abroad to contribute to academic programs on a continuous basis for faculty and student development. This is becoming a reality with the establishment of the Infosys Foundation Academic Chair at the Government Medical College Trivandrum.

After the successful installation of the Infosys Foundation Corridor, connecting the multi specialty block to the main medical college hospital, the Foundation offered funds to establish an Academic Chair with the objective of bringing faculty from other centers to contribute to the academic development of students and faculty. TMCAA has been included as a partner by our Principal Dr. Thomas Mathew. I was assigned the responsibility of coordinating the program from the Alumni side.

We conducted the pilot of this program with Dr. Krishna R. Prasad as the visiting faculty during the TMCAA Annual Convention. Dr. Prasad has been an alumnus par excellence contributing consistently in several ways to the growth of the Association since its formation. We plan to organize many more similar visiting faculty lectures this year.



(LtoR) Drs. S. Vasudevan, Krishna R. Prasad and Santhosh Kumar in the newly built Emergency Room complex

The following is a brief summary of Dr. Prasad's visit:

The newly developed Emergency Room complex was the first visit at 10:30am. It was preceded by a discussion at the Superintendent's Office with the Deputy Superintendent Dr. S.S. Santhosh Kumar regarding the plans and the work done so far. The visit included the review of the work in progress and advice needed to make the facility state-of-the-art.

The meeting at the Omana Mathew Seminar Hall at the Pediatrics department was at 1pm. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Santhosh Kumar, Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatrics. I started the proceedings with the brief introduction of the concept behind the program and introduced the faculty. Dr. Krishna R. Prasad had an interactive session with the postgraduate students and faculty.

The program at the Surgery Seminar Hall was at 7pm, chaired by the



Dr. Krishna R. Prasad delivering a lecture in the Department of Surgery

Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery, Dr. Mohandas, and was attended by residents and faculty of Surgery and Specialty departments. Again, I introduced the concept behind the program. Dr. Prasad talked on various aspects and this was followed by comments from the faculty and interactive sessions.

The pilot episode has given us input on how to proceed with the program. We intend to conduct many such programs this year. We invite all our alumni abroad to participate in the program thus fulfilling our dream. We thank the Infosys Foundation and Mrs. Sudha Moorthy for being the driving force; our Principal Dr. Thomas Mathew for the encouragement; our Alumni Association leaders, Dr. A. Marthanda Pillai and Dr. John Panicker, for assigning me this responsibility; and Dr. Krishna R. Prasad for graciously being the first visiting faculty in the program.

— Submitted by Dr. S. Vasudevan,

Alumni Coordinator, Infosys Foundation Academic Chair @ GMCT

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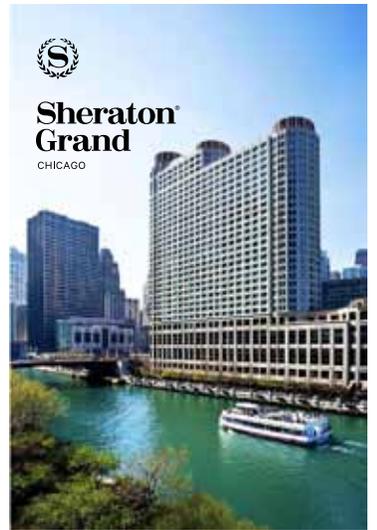
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