



The Optimist

Newsletter
Indian American Cancer Network (IACAN)

Volume 6, Number 2, August 2016

We hope all of you had a wonderful, relaxing summer and are energized to start the fall. During this summer, IACAN board and volunteers have been working hard to bring in education programs, survivor activities and helping the community members get access to the various resources that are available to us. Here is a brief summary of such programs:

Recently a couple of our community members affected by cancer and who required Bone Marrow Transplant have contacted IACAN for help with Bone Marrow Drive (BMD). To accommodate their request, IACAN conducted a bone marrow drive at ISKCON On June 5, 2016. Gaytri Kapoor, Raju Nandagiri, Indu and Dhiraj Gosar conducted a very successful drive. Thank you ISKCON for helping us help Indian Community.



IACAN is trying to reach out to other organizations to learn and share vital information and ideas. On June 10, Kumari and Raju attended a seminar on "sustainable funding" presented by Benevon. There was an informative discussion about how to raise funds for non-profit organizations.

On June 12, 2016, along with other community members, IACAN board had the pleasure of welcoming the new Council General, Anupam Ray at the reception at India House.

On July 16, IACAN had a wonderful, therapeutic knitting activity for survivors. Kumari conducted this activity since she is an avid knitter, and the participants had a blast learning to knit, others brushing up their knitting skills and yet other skilled knitters simply enjoying knitting a

On June 23, 2016, IACAN received a grant from IACF. Kumari and Sarvesh participated in this fund distribution dinner conducted at Madras Pavilion. Our sincere thanks to IACF President and board members. The outreach program on Bone marrow Transplant was a great success.



This educational event on June 26, 2016 at the India House was well attended and Dr. Uday Popat and Mrs. Gaytri Kapoor did a fantastic job of educating the audience about the BMD programs, thus removing the fear the people have to come forward to give bone marrow donation.

The icing on the cake was when Mr. Bhakta, the father of a 9 year old recipient explained his journey with his son's successful transplantation and how his son is now a normal 9 year old because someone wanted to be the cure and came forward to help. The Q&A session was so interesting, we ran out of time.



One other project that IACAN wants to get involved is the Spirituality and your donations will be of great help in making this program a reality. This program aims at helping patients who are in the hospitals and require spiritual help.

potholder together with friends. They also enjoyed a healthy lunch together.



The President and Board of Directors of the
Indian American Cancer Network

Invite you to

Gala 2016

“Paving the Path to a Healthy Lifestyle”

Join us for a fun-filled night with food and entertainment at
Crowne Plaza Houston near Reliant-Medical Center
8686 Kirby Drive, Houston, TX 77054

Saturday, September 17th, 2016
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Gala Chair: Dr. Padmini Nathan, MD

Chief Guest: Sri Gaurang Nanavaty
Acharya, Chinmaya Mission Houston

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ronald DePinho, MD
President, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Lifetime of Service Honorees

Dr. Sen Pathak, PhD
Dr. P. G. Parameswaran, MD

Social Hour: 6:00 pm Seating: 6:45 pm

Formal or ethnic attire is appreciated

RSVP by Friday, August 19th, 2016

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IACAN is a cancer resource network that educates
and supports Indian American community.

At present, Kumari is working with Telugu Cultural Association to give a presentation on the need for people to come forward and be Bone Marrow donors, at their 40th Anniversary celebration. Dr. Ravi Pingali and Mrs. Gayatri Kapoor offered to do the presentation.

IACAN welcomes our new President, Mrs. Kumari Susarla, and new board members, Mrs. Deepika Varia, Mrs. Vijaya Sista, Dr. Jaganatha Sastry, Dr. Lakshmi Koyalugunta and Dr. Suresh Agrawal. With the new board members with their extensive, amazing talents along with the current board members, IACAN is looking forward to having a very productive year reaching out to our community so no Indian American has to go through their journey of cancer alone.



We are honored that the IACAN has been named the 2016 Leadership Award recipient by the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP)/Be The Match®, which operates the Be The Match Registry®.

As the largest and most diverse marrow registry in the world, Be The Match® works every day to save lives through transplant. The registry recognizes individuals and groups for outstanding contributions to its mission through an annual award program. Be The Match® recognized IACAN for its exceptional success in promoting bone marrow donor registration and donations through educational outreach and bone marrow drives among the South Asian community in the Greater Houston area.

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