Home

Welcome to SCIAPA- the South Carolina chapter of Indo American Psychiatric Association.

History

The Indo American Psychiatric association - IAPA was founded in 1979 in NYC by 6 psychiatrists of Indian origin. The first president was Dr. Yosuf Haveliwala and the current president is Dr. Tarak Vasavada. More details at www.myiapa.org

The South Carolina chapter of the Indo American Psychiatric Association was founded by Dr. Geetika Dembla and established on the 16th of September 2023. After visiting the IAPA banquet at the 2023 APA meeting in San Francisco, Dr Dembla decided to create this chapter to bring together psychiatrists of Indian origin in South Carolina with the paramount goal of serving as a unified force to meet the mental health needs of the Indian community. She hopes that the psychiatrists coming together as an organization will serve as a unified force which would help break down the barriers to mental health by working to eradicate the cultural stigma of having a mental illness as well as provide access to resources for treatment of mental illnesses.

Mission and Goals

1. To form an alliance between the psychiatrists of Indian origin in South Carolina.
2. To provide guidance and support to psychiatrists of Indian origin in South Carolina residency programs as well as those early in their career.
3. To promote interest in high schoolers as well as medical students of Indian origin to pursue a career in Psychiatry.
4. To serve as a mental health resource for the Indian community in South Carolina including teenagers.
5. To facilitate awareness of mental health issues within the Indian community by organizing in person as well as virtual events.
6. To collaborate with other mental health organizations in the community like Mental Health of America and NAMI.

Governance

President

Dr. Geetika Dembla, a native of New Delhi, India serves as the first and current president of SCIAPA. She is double board certified in Psychiatry and Sleep Medicine and has additional fellowship training in Integrative Psychiatry. She works at Greenville Mental Health in downtown Greenville. She is a current board member at the National Alliance of Mental Illness - NAMI of Greenville county and is also involved in the South Carolina Psychiatric Association annual meeting planning committee as well as NAMI subcommittee. She has been collaborating with the India Association of Greenville for last few years in organizing community events to raise awareness on mental health issues in the Indian community. In September of 2023, in a joint collaboration with IAG and NAMI she started an annual mental health seminar, DIYA -Discussing issues in youth and adults to raise awareness on mental health issues in the community. She has received several awards in the past including Outstanding Senior Resident as well as the Veterans Affairs sponsored MIRECC TRIPS award during her psychiatry residency. She was honored with the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award during her time as academic faculty at Louisiana State University by the Psychiatry Residency Program.

Vice President

Dr. Renu Bhatia serves as the current Vice President. She is board certified in General Adult Psychiatry and works as a staff psychiatrist at Bon Secours.

Events

The first meeting of SCIAPA will be held on the 11th of April 2024 at Coral Downtown. It is sponsored by Abbvie.

Here is the link to join the meeting virtually-

Contact us - [info@sciapa.org](mailto:info@sciapa.org)

Donate -