American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin

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The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) 28th Annual Conference was held at The Gaylord National Convention Center in Washington D.C. from June 23rd-27th 2010. Many attended including physicians, fellows, residents, medical students as well as family. The AAPI Medical Student and Resident Section represents over 10,000 students across the country. This dynamic, bright, and enthusiastic group of future physicians engages in clinical practice, community service, cutting-edge research, and the promotion of Indian culture. Their membership in AAPI is growing faster than any other group. The world renown speakers included Honorable Martin O’Malley, Governor of Maryland, His Holiness Swami Baba Ramdev, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Health, India Hon. Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader, H.E. Meera Shanker, Indian Ambassador to the U.S., and Hon. Kathleen Sebelius, HHS Secretary among many others. The conference had executive lunches with Keynote speakers along with CME courses for physicians and workshops for medical students.

The AAPI Conference undertakes the challenge of combining a professional and cultural group to create a community full of resources and a united mission. It is one of the most unique conferences I have been to in that regard and has successfully conquered this challenge, only to face many more to come. Some of these physicians were fully brought up and trained with the familiar US system of
education and medicine, while many others have a combined background of education and practice both here and abroad. Each professional brings something different to the conference and together it creates an extraordinary learning experience as well as the opportunity to grow from the strength of the members of this group.

I attended this conference as I had the opportunity of being chosen to present my research. This was quite an honor and success as witnessed by members and officers from the organization. Many commented that the projects this year far exceeded, any that had been presented at the conference previously. Furthermore, with a strong US coastal representation, I, as a student from the Midwest, brought a different mindset and helped create diversity at the event. The organization is determined to grow and expand upon its diversity and even offered to financially help us begin one or more chapters in our area. Radiologist Dr. Chirag Parikh, President of the Medical Student, Resident, and Fellows Section is looking forward to seeing this expansion in the near future.

As a proud UMKC medical student and advocate for the advances in education and organized health professionals I think it would be a distinct honor to create an AAPI chapter at UMKC SOM that can have far reaching professional, personal, and even political effects in the years to come. I look forward to helping make this possible.