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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Medical Student Receives Endowment for South Asian Students of Indian Descent (ESASID) Scholarship

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Endowment for South Asian Students of Indian Descent (ESASID) scholarship of \$2,000 was awarded to Anup Bhattacharya by The Foundation of the Pennsylvania Medical Society in December. Anup currently resides in Philadelphia as a fourth-year medical student at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University. He is the son of Sara S. Bhattacharya of Springfield, Pa.

In his youth, Anup had many cultural and intellectual experiences that helped guide his interests. His guiding principle of pursuing knowledge and his appreciation for discovery cultivated his passion to learn more. “When I was a child, our family moved to Greece due to my father’s work as a transportation engineer. We lived in Athens for six years, where I attended an international school and learned from the tremendous diversity of my classmates. Apart from our travels across Europe, we visited relatives every summer in Kolkata, India.”

Anup highlights his passion for learning through his study of economics and neurosciences at the University of Pennsylvania. “It was there that I had my first opportunity to get involved with basic science research in a neuronal cell signaling lab, where we investigated the role of iron in the brain, ultimately leading to a publication linking iron to clinical disease. In my final year of undergraduate education, I also had my first exposure to the field of radiology when I took a course on functional brain imaging. Because of that experience, I now appreciate the crucial role that imaging plays in diagnosing disease.”

Following his early introduction to imaging, Anup continues to learn more and more about Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) in medical school. Through his passion and commitment, Anup was given a RSNA research grant to investigate how resting state functional MRI can be used to determine which patients are most likely to benefit from deep brain stimulation in Parkinson’s disease. He adds, “This experience has shown me the transformative power of academic radiology to improve the lives of our patients.”

Through his clinical experiences, research and networking, Anup continues to reaffirm his interest and passion for radiology. “Working alongside radiologists showed me how gratifying it was to make the correct diagnosis after piecing together information from the patient history, exam and imaging. The practice of medicine relies on the radiologist as the master diagnostician to provide accurate and timely readings that have the potential to alter the course of the patient care. I find tremendous satisfaction in knowing that one day I will have the opportunity to make a difference.”

Anup continues to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to become an outstanding radiologist and he aims to serve his community to the best of his abilities in the future. “I will bring my energy and enthusiasm to my community in order to lead, learn and teach for the benefit of the patients we serve. As I look forward to the next steps along my professional medical journey, I am humbled by the opportunities that I have had and for those that await me. I am excited to make a positive and meaningful difference in the lives of those around me.”

In 2002, Jitendra M. Desai, MD, and Saryu J. Desai, MD, of Sewickley, Pa., initiated the ESASID scholarship within the Foundation to provide opportunities for South Asian Indian students who demonstrate academic excellence. Physicians and other friends of medicine support the scholarship.

The Foundation, a nonprofit affiliate of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, sustains the future of medicine in Pennsylvania by providing programs that support medical education, physician health and excellence in practice. It has helped finance medical education for more than 63 years.

For more information about this scholarship, or other scholarship opportunities, please visit www.foundationpamedsoc.org. For questions, contact the Foundation’s Student Financial Services Director, Deborah Monko at (717) 558-7854.

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