

DR SANTOSHKUMAR MUDHOLKAR

WPA ELECTION STATEMENT

NOMINEE FOR WPA ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE SECTION 6-(WESTERN EUROPE)

I am Dr Santoshkumar Mudholkar and have been nominated by Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych), U.K. as Zonal Representative for Zone 6 (Western Europe).

I am currently Associate Registrar at Royal College of Psychiatrists, London since July 2016 and responsible for engaging with the membership of the College nationally and internationally ensuring that their voice is heard at the highest level in the College. In this role I have led on improving communications between the College and it's membership. I was elected President of British Indian Psychiatric Association (BIPA) which is the second largest body of psychiatrists in the UK with over 3000 members. In this role, I have represented the group on the College committees with a clear two- way communication. In this role, I have worked closely with global Indian psychiatric diaspora to understand different perspectives and share scientific and clinical experience in academic forums. As a forensic psychiatrist as I am sensitive to the issues of mental health law and human rights.

I am sensitive to the needs of marginalised groups who are less well represented and have advocated their views at formal meetings. I have listened to the concerns of these doctors and worked closely to improve their involvement in educational and training activities offered by the College.

As an International medical Graduate (IMG) in U.K. I am fully aware of the needs of low, middle- and high-income countries. As an Executive Committee member of Transcultural Psychiatry Special Interest Group (Transcultural Psychiatry SIG) at the College, I have crafted documents on cultural matters and have led on "Diversity Training" for College members and developed professional links with trainees and psychiatrists from low and medium income (LAMI) countries, largely from South Asia. I am fluent in English and four other Asian languages.

I am President of British Indian Psychiatric Association (BIPA), the largest diaspora organisation of psychiatrists in U.K. as well as International member of American Psychiatric Association (APA). Over the last 5 years I have organised BIPA annual conferences in Psychiatry in U.K. As BIPA President, I have worked closely with global Indian psychiatric diaspora to understand different perspectives and share scientific and clinical experience in academic forums. As a forensic psychiatrist as I am sensitive to the issues of mental health law and human rights.

As a representative of Western Europe Section, WPA I would like to utilise my International experience to forge closer links between Western Europe and psychiatric colleagues in LAMI countries. I will promote psychiatry globally, support those who are unheard and marginalised and improve mental health awareness and advocate for their rights irrespective of resources. Through my links with the College, I will aim to build educational links with other zones.

I consider myself as a candidate for change, bringing new enthusiasm, embracing new ways of working inclusively with diverse groups and fulfilling the WPA vision globally. If elected I look forward to overcoming cultural barriers, advance psychiatry education and respect human rights of those who need our professional services in an inclusive manner.

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