



Association of Indian Neurologists in America

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Welcome](#)

[Thank You Sponsors](#)

1 [President's Message](#)

2 [Annual Meeting Recap](#)

3 [Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[Trainee Awards](#)

4 [Indian Trainee Awards](#)

5 [American Academy of Neurology Awards](#)

[Epilepsy Meeting Recap](#)

6 [New Women in Neurology Group](#)

7 [AINA's New Life Members](#)

[Reflecting with AINA Series](#)

8 [Dr. Shri K. Mishra Tribute](#)

9 [Neurologists in the News](#)



Welcome to the Tarang, the Annual newsletter of the Association of Indian Neurologists in America. The Tarang complements our website (www.4aina.com) and monthly update emails to provide information about our organization, medical and professional topics, and upcoming professional meetings of interest to our readers. If you have any interesting events, awards, recognitions, activities to report about neurologist of Indian origin, please email a summary along with photographs to aina@badgerbay.co.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



BETTER TOGETHER

Distinguished members of the Association of Indian Neurologists in America, namaste and greetings. It is an honor and a privilege to serve in the role of president of this organization today. I have been involved with AINA since 2007 and have been enriched by the years of collaboration, mentorship, and friendships I have received through this organization. I am excited to begin my term as president, and I look forward to working with all of you to advance our mission of serving Indian neurologists in America.

Decades of outstanding leadership and support from members like you have strengthened this organization. Our world is facing unprecedented challenges, and medicine itself is evolving in remarkable ways. It is now more important than ever for us to work together to build a resilient and enriching future for ourselves and our organization. Collaboration and camaraderie are essential for us to navigate these changes and create a better world for all. Organizations like AINA can serve as a platform for such collaborations and advocacy.

To that effect, one of my top priorities is to increase member engagement. I want to ensure that all of our members have a voice in our organization and that they feel valued and supported.

- **Get in touch with me:** I would encourage you to reach out to me directly about what we, as a professional organization can do better to serve your professional needs. You can contact me through email or text through the AINA WhatsApp Membership Group. You can log into your member profile to get contact details for both. I welcome your feedback and suggestions.
- **Let us know of your awesome work:** If you have a professional achievement that you would like to share, or know of commendable contributions of another neurologist of Indian origin please let us know. We will love to highlight it on AINA website, social

media channels and include it in our annual newsletter Tarang. You can submit this through [this form](#) also available on our website under latest news.

- **Join a committee:** We have four phenomenal committees to help execute our mission. I will encourage you to get involved with one that speaks closest to your cause of engagement. These committees are a great opportunity to make a difference and to learn and grow as a professional. The volunteer and mentoring committee led by Dr. Shubhi Agarwal connects members with relevant opportunities. The research committee led by Dr. Rajeev Garg is working on creating avenues for research collaborations for AINA members as well enhancing research opportunities in issue pertaining to Asian-Indians. Please look out for some enriching webinars from the education committee led by Dr. Geetanjali Rathore who also creates our podcasts "Reflecting with AINA". Dr. Atul Kalanuria is leading our advocacy committee in boosting our website, online and social media presence. You can contact any of the chairs through our Membership Directory on the website.
- **Join a chapter:** AINA represents a myriad of different clinical interests within neurology represented in our chapters. In addition to the traditional sub-specialty sections, I am excited about the launch of our new Neurologist in Industry section to provide a collaborative platform for meeting the professional needs of this key group of physicians. If you are interested in hosting a section meeting at your sub-specialty meeting to get AINA members together, we want to hear from you and offer you a platform to collaborate with others.

We are also looking forward to opportunities for collaborations with other neurology organizations in USA and in India. Please look out for call for volunteers or other news related to these.

Lastly, AINA established the Sri Mishra fund established in honor of our founding president who moved on to heavenly abode last year. This fund was established to support Indian neurologists in America who are pursuing research or training in neurology. Donations will be used to fund Trainee Awards in Dr. Mishra's name at the our annual meeting that coincides with American Academy of Neurology meeting. I encourage you to contribute to this fund so that we can continue to support the next generation of Indian neurologists.

Medicine is a team sport; so is life. We all are better together. I am confident that together we can make AINA an even stronger and more vibrant organization. I am at your service and will await your guidance and feedback.

Sincerely,
Aarti Sarwal, M.D.,
President - AINA

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The 2023 AINA Annual Meeting was held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at the Marriott Copley Place in Boston, MA. There were over 140 registered attendees who joined us for a evening of AINA updates, Awards Presentations and time to connect with colleagues.

AINA President, Dr. Prakash Kotagal, welcomed everyone and introduced keynote speaker, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. Dr. Sanjay Singh was presented the AINA Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to AINA and the field of Neurology. Dr. Kotagal recognized all of the AINA Life Members and the AINA Trainee Awards were presented to Drs. Akashleena Mallick, MD, Karishma Popli, MD, MBE, and Vaishnavi Vaidyanathan, MD. IAN President Dr. Nirmal Surya presented the Indian Trainee Award to Aminu Aliyar, MD.

Dr. Surya presented an update on the IAN and partnerships with AINA and the meeting concluded with the AINA Annual Business Meeting.

Thank you to Infucare Rx, UCB Pharma and Neurelis for their support of the meeting.



AINA 2023 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



The AINA Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a leader in neurology by her/his peers. The recipient is a North American neurologist chosen based on her/his dedication in advancing the training of North American neurologists of Indian origin and promoting innovation and research in the field of neurology. The recipient will have supported Indian neurologists over a significant period of time in achieving meaningful progress toward expressed goals.

Sanjay P. Singh, MD, FAAN, FANA

WHY THE RECIPIENT WAS CHOSEN

Dr. Singh joined Creighton University at the time when it was a division with one full-time faculty. In less than a decade Dr. Singh has led development of the Neuroscience Institute and Service Line at Creighton University, which now provides the region's most advanced neuroscience care. Dr. Singh was only the second neurologist of Indian origin to be promoted to chairman at a major university, and over the last 11 years he has mentored many other neurologists to rise to a similar level at various institutions. Dr. Singh was also the president at AINA during the COVID-19 pandemic and he not only helped the organization survive during this time, but he also helped establish scholarship funds to help train neurologists from India. He has been a role model for many chairs, faculty, residents, and students in both the United States and in India.

Congratulations again on receiving the AINA Lifetime Achievement Award your dedication to advancing the training of North American neurologists of Indian origin, promoting innovation and research in the field of neurology, and support of Indian neurologists over your career. We are proud to call you one of our own!

THANK YOU STATEMENT

I am very grateful to the American Academy of Neurology/American Brain Foundation and AINA for giving me this award. I consider it my privilege that I have had the opportunity to serve people with neurologic disorders. I dedicate this award to my parents who have inspired me to serve those in need. I have also been fortunate to be able to serve the people of India.



PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE AINA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2022

Aneesh Singhal, MD, FAAN

2021

Seemant Chaturvedi, MD & Manmohan Nayyar, MD, FAAN, MBA, MHA

2020

Prakash Kotagal, MD

2019

Ram Ayyar, MD

2018

Vinay Chaudhry, MD

2017

Kapil Sethi, MD, FRCP, FAAN

2016

Mark Hallett, MD

2015

Pradeep Sahota, MD, FAAN, FAASM, FAES

2014

Avindra Nath, MBBS, FAAN

2013

Sakkubai Naidu, MD, FAAN

2012

Thomas R. Swift, MD, FAAN

2011

Omkar N. Markand, MBBS, MD, FRCP(C), FACP, FAAN

2010

Sudhansu Chokroverty, MD, FAAN

2009

Shrikant Mishra, MD, FAAN

2008

Walter G. Bradley, DM, FRCP, FAAN

Sponsored by the Association of Indian Neurologists in America Fund of the American Brain Foundation

2023 AINA TRAINEE AWARDS

AINA is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 AINA Neurology Trainee Awards. There were 16 abstracts that were reviewed this year! The applications this year were of high quality and the scoring process was very competitive to determine the final winners. These winners were presented during the 2023 AINA Annual Meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023 in Boston, MA.



1ST PLACE WINNER

Akashleena Mallick, MD

Postdoctoral Fellow, Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital

Abstract Title: Cerebral Small Vessel Disease Subtypes and Blood Pressure Control after Intracerebral Hemorrhage



2ND PLACE WINNER

Karishma Popli, MD, MBE

PGY-1 Neurology Prelim at Johns Hopkins Medicine

Abstract Title: Transcranial Alternating Current Stimulation Modulates Motor Network Connectivity in Patients with Blepharospasm



3RD PLACE WINNER

Vaishnavi Vaidyanathan, MD

Chief Pediatric Neurology Resident, PGY5 Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital

Abstract Title: Distinct Etiologies of RANBP2-negative Acute Necrotizing Encephalopathy of Childhood

Director of Mentorship Leadership Program

Ajitesh Ojha, MD
UPMC, Pittsburgh, PA

Annapoorna Bhat, MD
University of New Mexico
School of Medicine
Albuquerque, NM

Kavitha Tirumalasetti, MD
Phoenix Children's Hospital
Phoenix, AZ

Kapil Arya, MD
UAMS - Pediatric Neurology
Little Rock, AR

Zain Guduru, MD, FAAN
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

Thomas Vincent
Kodankandath, MD
Virginia Tech Carilion School
of Medicine
Roanoke, VA

INDIAN TRAINEE AWARD

ABOUT THE AWARD

For the second year AINA presented, the Indian Trainee Award. This award is for any in-training neurologist currently enrolled in a training program in India and who is also a first or senior author on an abstract accepted to the American Academy of Neurology.

2023 WINNER

Aminu Aliyar, MD

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Abstract Title: Radiological Profile of Patients with Wilson's Disease Attending Tertiary Care Neurology Centre

2023 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY AWARD RECIPIENTS



MRIDHA SPIRIT OF NEUROLOGY AWARD

Sponsored by the American Brain Foundation and funded through the philanthropy of Dr. and Mrs. Mridha.

Bhim Sen Singhal, MD, FAAN

Bombay Hospital Institute of Medical Sciences

This award acknowledges the tireless hard work of the employees, donors, and trustees of two non-profit organizations that we established nearly three decades ago: the Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Society of India, and Neurology Foundation India. The Mridha Spirit of Neurology Award will motivate us and many others to work harder for the benefit of underserved populations in India and other countries.



KENNETH M. VISTE, JR. MD PATIENT ADVOCACY AWARD

The Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD Patient Advocacy Award recognizes one neurologist who exemplifies Dr. Viste's leadership and commitment to advocating for the patient community.

Geetanjali Rathore, M.D., FAAN

Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Omaha, NE

The 2023 winner is Dr. Geetanjali Rathore, MD, FAAN, a child neurologist who revolutionized pediatric care and access by developing Nebraska's first comprehensive pediatric neuromuscular clinic and 24-hour pediatric epilepsy monitoring unit. Dr. Rathore has also been a tireless advocate at the state level and within her own hospital.

Congratulations to the following AINA Members on receiving the A.B. Baker Teacher Recognition Award

Anishee Undavia, MD
Einstein Healthcare,
Philadelphia

Divisha Raheja, MD
St Luke's University,
Lansdale, PA

Vishwanath Sagi, MD
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY

Prachi Mehndiratta,
MD, PhD, FAAN
University of Maryland
School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

Shitiz Sriwastawa, MD, FAAN
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV

Sita Jayalakshmi
Sattaluri, MD
Krishna Institute of
Medical Sciences
Secunderabad, India

Prasanna Venkatesan
Eswaradass, MD
University of Kansas
Health System
Kansas City, KS

EPILEPSY MEETING RECAP

The AINA Epilepsy Chapter met during the American Epilepsy Society's meeting December 2022 in Nashville, TN. The meeting included AINA updates and time for networking and connecting with colleagues. Thank you to SK Life science for their support.

**REGISTER NOW FOR
THE AINA EPILEPSY
CHAPTER MEETING**

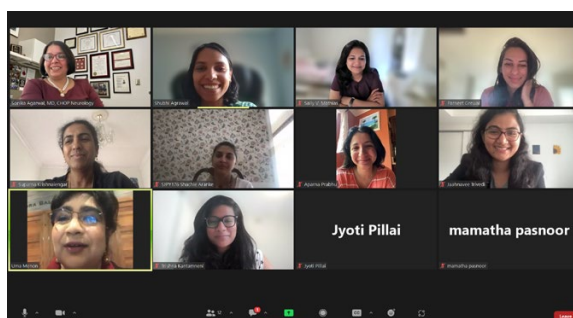
Sunday, December 3, 2023

6:30pm-8:30pm

Hyatt Regency, Orlando, FL

NEW WOMEN IN NEUROLOGY GROUP

The idea of a women's chapter of AINA took shape around mid to late 2021. Since then, Chapter Chair, Shubhi Agrawal, MD, has organized quarterly virtual "chai parties" to engage the chapter. Members from US and India have taken the time on weekends to join-in and bring engaging discussions on topics of finding your path, burnout, biases in the workplace among others. It has been an absolute pleasure to get to know some of the wonderful ladies in this group, both in the US and India. Members of the group have found a new group of friends who we can relate to on social, cultural, and professional levels at the same time. Some members were even able to meet-up in person at other neurology events! They started a messaging group to build more camaraderie. As we continue to grow, this group will be a very meaningful mentorship and collaboration resource.



AINA WELCOMES NEW LIFE MEMBERS

**These individual members are new since November 1, 2023*

Madhureeta Achari, MD;
Integrated Neurology PA

Jayant Acharya, MD;
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

Parmpreet Dhillon, MD;
NYU

Shanker Dixit, MD;
Neurology Center of LasBegas

Cheran Elangovan, MBBS;
University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Latha Ganti, MD;
University of Central Florida and Brown University

Ravi Garg, MD;
Loyola University Chicago

Parneet Grewal, MBBS;
Medical University of South Carolina

Rashmi Halker Singh, MD;
Mayo Clinic

Atul Kalanuria, MD;
Penn Medicine

Jasdeep Khurana, MD;
Reading Hospital

Abhishek Lunagariya, MD;
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Manisha Madhoo, MD;
Takeda Pharmaceuticals

Sally Mathias, MD;
University of Kentucky

Vishakhadatta Mathur Kumaraswamy, MD;
University of Kentucky

Aniket Natekar, MD;
Ohio Health

Mamatha Pasnoor, MBBS;
The University of Kansas Medical Center

Jyoti Pillai, MD;
Tower Health/Reading Hospital

Aparna Prabhu, MD;
Einstein Medical Institution

Palak Shah, MBBS;
Minnesota Epilepsy Group

Priya Sharma, DO;
Mayo Clinic, Florida

Mithilesh Siddu, MD;
Medical College of Georgia/Augusta University

Abhishek Singh, MD;
Creighton University

Priti Singh, MD;
Christ Hospital and Medical Center

Tejinder Singh, MD;
Reading Hospital

Laveena Singla, MBBS;
UMMC

Thyagarajan Subramanian, MBBS;
University of Toledo

Prasanna Tadi, MD;
Geisinger

Anil Yallapragada, MD;
Locums Neurologist

Chethan Venkatasubba Rao, MBBS
Baylor College of Medicine

Upinder Dhand, MD
University of Tennessee Knoxville Graduate
School of Medicine

Anuradha Singh, MBBS
Mount Sinai Health System

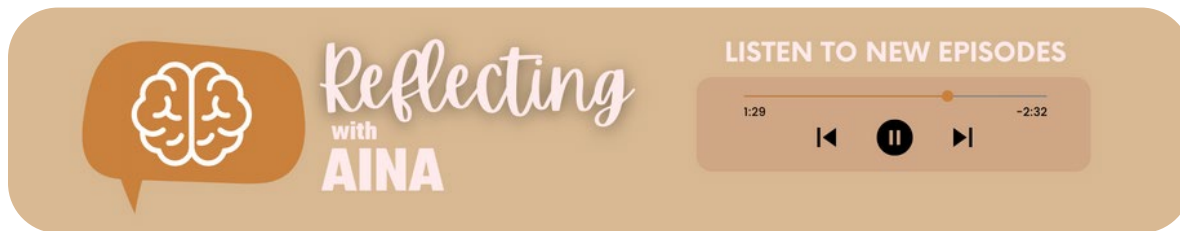
Abhinav Ohri, MBBS
Kingman Regional Medical College, Arizona College of
Osteopathic Medicine

Mithilesh Siddu, MD
Medical College of Georgia/Augusta University

Sheetal Shroff, MD
Houston Methodist Hospital

REFLECTING WITH AINA SERIES

In 2022 Dr. Geetanjali Rathore started the series of 'Reflecting with AINA'. AINA is a unique organization, overflowing with talent and experience among its members and through the medium of these episodes, Dr. Rathore introduces and interviews these members for viewers. There have been five episodes so far interviewing AINA Leaders.



VIEW CURRENT EPISODES ON THE AINA WEBSITE

- Episode 1: Reflecting with P.N Sylaja, MD, FRCP, FESO, FIAN
- Episode 2: Reflecting with Vineeta Singh, MD
- Episode 3: Reflecting with Sanjay Singh, MD, FAAN, FANA
- Episode 4: Reflecting with Prakash Kotagal, MD, FAAN, FAES
- Episode 5: Reflecting with Nirmal Surya, MD
- Episode 6: Reflecting with Aarti Sarwal, MD, FNCS, FAAN, FCCM, RPNI

TRIBUTE TO DR. SHRI K. MISHRA



It is with great sadness that AINA remembers Founding President, Dr. Shri K. Mishra. Through his spirit of generosity, Dr. Mishra has shared his knowledge and friendship over the years to hundreds of neurology fellows, residents, medical students, researches and more. AINA is forever grateful for Dr. Mishra's leadership and dedication to the field of neurology. He is responsible for connecting hundreds of neurologists from both India and the United States through AINA and the association's activities.

NEUROLOGISTS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN THE NEWS

MIZZOU'S SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NAMES AWARD AFTER AINA MEMBER, PRADEEP SAHOTA, MD

The Mizzou's School of Medicine names Pradeep Sahota Aspiring Leadership Award after AINA Member, Dr. Pradeep Sahota.

Dr. Pradeep Sahota has served as chair of the Department of Neurology for the past 25 years. He has been a guiding light for the department, medical education, research, innovation, and patient care. As chair of the Department of Neurology, Dr. Sahota was a servant leader who led by example and with kindness, concern, fairness, vision, wisdom, patience, and collegiality.

Pranav Suri, M3 receives inaugural award.

AINA MEMBERS ELECTED AAN SECTION CHAIRS

Congrats to the following AINA Members on being elected for AAN Section Chairs!

Sayonna John, MD - Chair of Critical Care and Emergency Neurology Section

Rajneesh Kiran, MD - Chair of Pain Section

Aarti Sarwal, MD - Vice Chair of Critical Care and Emergency Neurology Section

Deepak Gulati, MD - Vice Chair of Stroke Section

Sonika Agarwal, MD - Vice Chair of Child Neurology Section

DR. GEETANJALI RATHORE SELECTED AS CASTLE CONNOLLY'S EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN IN MEDICINE FOR 2023!

Congratulations Dr. Geetanjali Rathore for being selected as one of Castle Connolly's Exceptional Women in Medicine for 2023! Castle Connolly's Exceptional Women in Medicine as a special recognition based on the outstanding accomplishments and dedication to the field of medicine, recognizing women who contribute to the advancement of healthcare through clinical care, research, community services, education and leadership.



DR. DILEEP YAVAGAL FEATURED IN NEW YORK TIMES FOR MECHANICAL THROMBECTOMY GLOBAL ACCESS FOR STROKE (MT-GLASS): A MISSION THROMBECTOMY (MT-2020 PLUS) STUDY

A new global study shows that greater use of interventional procedures to remove large brain blood clots causing stroke paralysis could potentially benefit millions of patients a year, according to Dileep R. Yavagal, M.D., professor of clinical neurology and neurosurgery at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

[Read More](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVA MISTRY ON THE SIEKERT NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD!

Eva Mistry, MBBS, MSCI, FAHA received the Robert G. Siekert New Investigator Award in Stroke from the International Stroke Conference. The Award is in recognition of Dr. Robert G. Siekert, founding chairman of the American Heart Association's International Conference on Stroke and Cerebral Circulation, this award encourages new investigators to undertake or continue stroke-related research. Congratulations to Dr. Pooja Khatri for their mentorship!

[Read More](#)

SANDRA NARAYANAN, MD, WAS ELECTED AS A FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY (FAAN) IN 2022.

She joined the Pacific Neuroscience Institute in August 2022 and serves as the Director of the Neurointerventional Program & Co-Director of the Comprehensive Stroke Program for Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California.



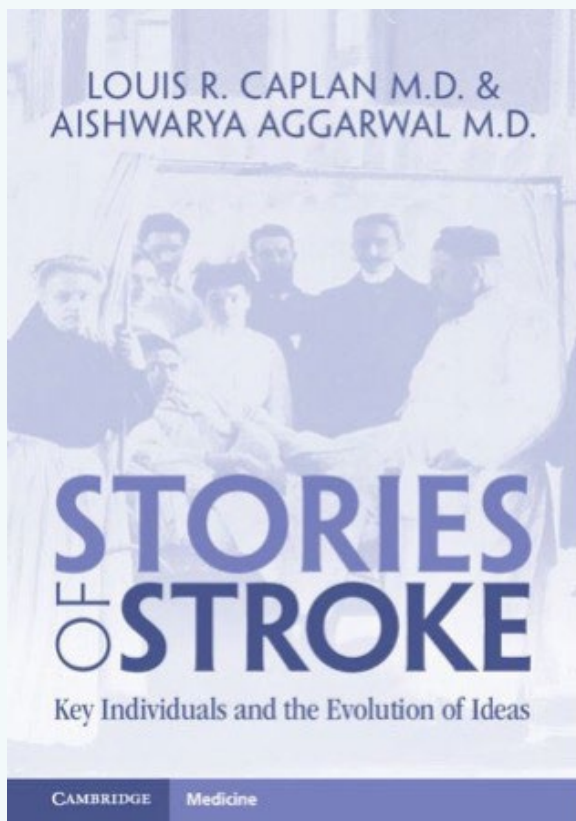
SUNIL SHETH, MD CO-AUTHORS PAPER ON LATE WINDOW EVT GUIDELINE

Congratulations Dr. Sunil Sheth, MD on co-authoring the paper "Vessel Occlusion Stroke: A Guideline From the Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology Guidelines and Practice Standards Committee"

[Read Here](#)

DR. AISHWARYA AGGARWAL PUBLISHES A BOOK ON STROKE; "STORIES OF STROKE, KEY INDIVIDUALS AND THE EVOLUTION OF IDEAS"

Congratulations Dr. Aggarwal on the publication of your book along with Dr. Louis Caplan!



DRS. EVA MISTRY AND THANH NGUYEN PUBLISH EDITORIAL IN THE LANCET

Congratulations Drs. Drs. Eva Mistry and Thanh Nguyen on the publication of an editorial "Blood pressure goals after mechanical thrombectomy: a moving target" in The Lancet.

[Read Here](#)

DR. RUCHIRA JHA PUBLISHES EDITORIAL IN JAMA NEUROLOGY

Congratulations Dr. Jha on the JAMA Neurology Editorial "Monogenic Stroke—Can We Overcome Nature With Nurture?"

[Read Here](#)

DR. SONIKA AGARWAL RECOGNIZED FOR HER WORK AT THE CNS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Congratulations to Dr. Sonika Agarwal!

- She developed the Fetal Neurology Consortium as part of the AAN leadership program (Transforming Leadership Program 2021) and collaboratively led the work to:
- Develop a Child Neurology Society Fetal Neurology Special Interest group launch meeting at the CNS Annual meeting 2022 at Cincinnati
- Hosted and organized a Breakfast Seminar on Fetal Neurology: advances and future landscape - as part of the initiative under the Fetal Neurology Consortium.
- Dr. Agarwal's accomplishments were shared in a recent AAN news article. [Read more.](#)

DR. GEETANJALI RATHORE, MD, FAAN FOR GRADUATING FROM THE AAN TRANSFORMING LEADERS PROGRAM!

Congratulations to Dr. Geetanjali Rathore, MD, FAAN for graduating from the AAN Transforming Leaders program, September 2022! Dr. Rathore were selected because of her impressive accomplishments, and more importantly, for your outstanding potential as a future leader. Dr. Rathore was the only pediatric neurologist to be selected internationally to participate in this leadership course this year. She was also elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology in recognition of her valuable contributions to the Academy and the global Neurology community in large.

DR. KIRAN T. THAKUR HONORED WITH 2022 RICHARD MAYEUX AWARD

Named after accomplished clinician-investigator Dr. Richard Mayeux, professor and chair of the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons Department of Neurology, the annual Richard Mayeux Award honors a current faculty member who has made truly notable contributions to the clinical, research, and educational mission of the department over the past academic year. This year, Dr. Kiran T. Thakur, Winifred Mercer Pitkin, MD Assistant Professor of Neurology, was selected by a committee of her peers for her innumerable contributions as a clinician, educator, and investigator.

