

IACCGH Young Achiever's Reception with Dr. John Mendelsohn

January 12, 2010, Westin Galleria

Participant Bios

1. Samina Afzal

Samina Afzal holds a Bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration and an MBA in Management from New York. Ms. Afzal has been working in the healthcare industry for past 10 years. Currently, she is working as a Project Manager with United Health Care's South Asian initiative. After a successful launch in NY and NJ, she is currently working in the Houston and Illinois South Asian markets to expand the initiative.

2. Manny Chana

As the Managing Director of a thriving Houston-based healthcare management company Mr. Chana knows the healthcare industry well. Areas of focus include patient acquisition and retention, physician recruitment and retention, revenue management, process optimization, network development, legislative planning, as well as financing and funding.

His background as a consultant for McKinsey and Company and as a derivatives trader for Bank of America, give him a uniquely strong foundation in management and finance. While at McKinsey, Mr. Chana graduated from an internal MD training program giving him knowledge of all major operating lines of hospital systems. He was also directly responsible for several projects suggesting ways to improve focus and profitability for major hospitals and systems in the US resulting in tens of millions in increased annual profitability.

As a lifelong Houstonian, he, his wife and his family are committed to improving the Houston community and the healthcare industry. Over the past month his contributions to Houston organizations have equaled over thirty thousand US dollars showing his commitment to the community and quality of life of Houstonians. He hopes to continue to build and develop his healthcare expertise to have a significant and lasting impact on the area and industry.

3. Payal Chana

Payal Chana is part of the corporate team at Memorial Hermann healthcare system. She has transformed web marketing from a cost center to a profit center. To do this she created a data driven decision making culture by utilizing analytics and adwords

reports. She holds a biomedical engineering degree from Vanderbilt University and an MBA from Rice University.

Her past experiences include marketing research and strategy at a physician's clinic, marketing research at a design firm, marketing and sales at a wholesale jewelry firm and consulting as an engineer for an engineering firm.

She earned a six sigma green belt and is interested in moving into hospital operations and hopes to simultaneously earn a six sigma black belt. She is also interested in improving patient satisfaction at hospitals.

4. Leona Christy

Leona Christy is Program Director for Pratham USA, the US-based fundraising arm of Pratham. Pratham is one of the world's largest non-profit organizations in the area of primary education with a range of low-cost and effective education programs for underprivileged children in India. She joined the organization in August 2007 and is currently responsible for managing its operations, providing fundraising support to its chapters and liaising with Pratham's India office.

Leona's professional experience is primarily in new business development and marketing. She has previously worked with Unilever in India for five years. In one of her roles as Key Account Manager, Leona was responsible for conceptualizing and setting up a new distribution channel targeted at large self-service stores. She has also worked with the South Asia Energy and Infrastructure Group at the World Bank, where she was instrumental in evaluating and comparing the operational efficiencies of government-run utilities across South Asia.

Leona has done her Master's in Public Policy and International Development from Duke University and has an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore. Her undergraduate degree in economics is from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University.

5. Pallavi Thakur Dinesh

Pallavi Thakur Dinesh is Founder and COO of Fommy.com, a global retailer, manufacturer, and distributor of mobile wireless products & accessories with affiliates in UK, India, and China, and headquartered in Sugar Land, Texas.

In the course of the last 6 years that Fommy.com has been in existence, the mobile wireless industry (and smartphones in particular) has become a necessary part of our lives. Pallavi focuses on creating an "out of the box" web experience for 30 million+

unique visitors annually to Fommy.com. She established Fommy.com's Marketing Division which includes Direct Mail, Social Networking, Blog, Video, and other Web 2.0 tools.

Pallavi & her company have been ranked on Inc 5000's fastest growing private companies in America (2008). In addition, Fommy.com was ranked as one of the fastest growing companies for 2009 by Houston Business Journal (Fast 100). To top it off, Fommy.com was honored with a special Enterprise Champion Award at the ceremony for being the 'best of the best.' Their most recent award, announced just a few weeks ago, is being ranked on HBJ's Top 50 Minority Businesses in Houston. Pallavi has a B.A. in Psychology from University of Houston and M.A. from American University (D.C) in Anthropology.

6. Pinakin Dinesh

Pinakin Dinesh is Founder and CEO of Fommy.com, a global retailer, manufacturer, and distributor of mobile wireless products & accessories with affiliates in UK, India, and China. The company's headquarters are in Sugar Land, Texas.

For Pinakin it's not just about running a business, it's about building a brand and establishing a company with a unique presence. In the course of the last 6 years that Fommy.com has been in existence, the mobile wireless industry (and smartphones in particular) has become a necessary part of our lives.

Pinakin & his company have been ranked on Inc 5000's fastest growing private companies in America (2008). He was also recognized by the Houston Business Journal in their inaugural 40 Under 40 selection earlier this year. In addition, Fommy.com was ranked as one of the fastest growing Companies for 2009 by Houston Business Journal (Fast 100). To top it off, Fommy.com was honored with a special Enterprise Champion Award at the ceremony for being the 'best of the best.' Their most recent award, announced just a few weeks ago, is being ranked on HBJ's Top 50 Minority Businesses in Houston. Pinakin has a B.A. in Economics from Delhi University and M.B.A. from Leeds University (UK).

7. Bijay Dixit

Bijay is a professional photographer and owns a small photography business Unique Photo Images. He is passionate about photography and has been doing social and few commercial events since 2004. He would like to diversify and understand how to work more for large corporate and entities like M D Anderson. He look forward to insights into what helps people succeed in the healthcare and medicine industry.

8. Sabrina Singh Gilmore

Sabrina Singh Gilmore is a NASA engineer and trains astronauts on spacesuits and spacewalks to build the International Space Station. The training environment utilizes virtual reality laboratories, underwater simulations, and microgravity flights.

Sabrina's professional development includes completing a national leadership program called NASA FIRST (Foundations of Influence, Relationships, Success, and Teamwork). Outside of NASA, she leads expeditions to remote areas of the Himalayan Mountains to conduct medical care and education outreach in underserved areas.

She is the founder and director of DUNK IT! which uses sports culture to foster education on humanitarian crises. She was selected as a US delegate to the 2009 Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit in Malaysia and is in the 2010 Class of Asia 21 fellows. She serves on the young professionals advisory board for the Houston World Affairs Council. Sabrina is also an alumna of the Rotary International Group Study Exchange to Egypt.

9. Divya Gupta

I am a physician from India, currently pursuing my Masters in Healthcare Administration at Texas Woman's University, Houston, Texas. I completed my degree in medicine from Sri Siddhartha Medical College, Tumkur, India. I worked for a couple of years in a private nursing home before I decided to pursue my higher studies in the US.

My reason behind pursuing a masters in healthcare administration was, while working in India, I realized the massive chasm between the administration and the clinical staff. I believed that as a physician, a degree in healthcare administration will help me bridge this gap. I am expected to be graduating in Aug 2010 from the masters program. I had pursued an internship in the summer with a physician group practice, as an administrative and clinical intern.

I am very much interested in pursuing a clinical residency in internal medicine as a next step in my career and I am currently involved in the application and interviewing process for the same. I am very much interested in research activities and am currently involved in a poster presentation on Using Appreciative Inquiry (AI) to Increase Trust and Collaboration in a Health Clinic Serving a Medically Underserved Community to be held May in Portland, Oregon under Dr. Anne Selcer.

10. Sima Gupta

11. Anita Jain

I am a primary care physician from India with a keen interest in improving healthcare outreach to underserved communities. To pursue my dream, I did my Masters' in Health Services Administration from University of Michigan. After graduation in 2009, I have taken up an administrative fellowship at St. Luke's Episcopal Health System, Houston. Currently, I am working in the Charities division on community based research to identify interventions that would help improve community health. Once identified, organizations are funded to meet these needs.

My work has offered me opportunities to lead interdisciplinary teams in organizing campaigns and devising programs to improve healthcare quality. In the future, I hope to design and implement care delivery models in rural settings in the developing world. To be successful, this role would involve working with people from different backgrounds, building trust, driving them towards change and giving them hope while not losing courage despite hardships.

Taking a leadership development class in graduate school got me started on this path of discovering my strengths and being more effective as a leader. I believe leadership skills not only offer the promise of success professionally, but are essential as I seek to lead a fulfilling and worthwhile life.

12. Julie_Nangia

Julie Nangia is a 3rd year hematology/oncology fellow at Rush University in Chicago. She grew up in Houston and went to University of Missouri-Kansas City where they have an integrated 6 year BA/MD program. During medical school she was in the Summer Scholars Program at MD Anderson and worked with Dr. Pudevalli's lab in neuro-oncology. She did her residency at University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston which she completed in 2007. During that time she did a one month rotation through the breast department at MD Anderson where she worked with Dr. Valero in clinic and did research in the preventive care center.

She is currently working with Dr. Melody Cobleigh at Rush and is doing research and extra clinical work in breast cancer. She just presented a poster at the San Antonio Breast Conference. She is hoping to pursue a career in clinical breast cancer seeing patients and doing research.

13. Jaspreet (Rick) Pal

Rick Pal is the co-founder and President of AirGenerate, a manufacturer and distributor of patented energy saving devices with offices in Houston and Guangzhou (China). The flagship product, AirTap™, is rated as the most energy-efficient water heater. It recently won the hot water contest at 2009 Solar Decathlon.

He is also the former Master Franchisee for Liberty Tax Service in Greater Houston Area where he managed 27 franchisees and 44 offices with 22,000 tax customers and 800 seasonal employees. His other entrepreneurial investments include marketingO, Uniperks, Integrity Bank, Wings Over England, and Direct Marketing Experts.

He is the founder of Ek-Disha Non-Profit, Inc. that funds high-impact humanitarian projects in India. He has also created, 'Pal - Make a Difference' endowment at his alma mater - The University of Texas at Austin - to award an annual scholarship to students making a difference in their community. He is a board member of Texas Union Advisory Council, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Asians Against Domestic Abuse, Indo-American Forum, and City of Sugar Land's Building Standards Commission. He was an Asia 21 delegate, TEDIndia participant, and graduate of Fort Bend Leadership Forum. His accolades include Houston Business Journal's "40 under 40", IACCGH's and Asian Chamber's Outstanding Entrepreneur, MLK Foundation's "Keeping the Dream Alive", and AABDC's Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business Award.

14. Purva Patel

Purva Patel is a business reporter for the Houston Chronicle, where she currently focuses on technology and consumer affairs coverage as well as general assignment. Prior to joining the Chronicle in 2004, she covered property insurance and banking for the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale.

Patel graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2002, with degrees in business administration and journalism.

15. Siddhartha Sachdeva

16. Nina Shah

My name is Nina Shah and I am a third-year medical hematology-oncology fellow at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. I received my undergraduate degree at Harvard University in cognitive neuroscience. I went on to attend the New York University School of Medicine and then completed my residency in internal medicine at Columbia University. After residency I dedicated two years to basic science immunology research at Columbia University, under the mentorship of Dr. Raphael Clynes. There I developed an interest in immunotherapy and began to cultivate my ideas of translational research.

As a fellow at M.D. Anderson I have found my clinical focus in multiple myeloma and my research focus in cellular therapy. My primary project study of umbilical cord blood natural killer cells as an adjunct therapy for relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma. I am currently working in the laboratory of Dr. Elizabeth Shpall to complete the pre-clinical studies and then hope to pursue a phase I/II study of this therapy in the near future. My eventual goal is to become a leader in the field of myeloma, with specific focus on novel immunotherapeutics.

17. Vibhu Sharma

- Entrepreneur and executive with over 13 years experience in Energy and Refining industry in the areas of process simulation, process supply chain, & training solutions.
- **Co-Founder and CEO** of Ingenious Inc. www.ingeniousinc.com
- Awarded “**Outstanding Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2008**”, by Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston.
- Ingenious awarded the **6th fastest growing technology company in Houston** for 2008 and 2009 by “FastTech 50”
- Ingenious awarded the **23rd fastest growing technology company in Houston** for 2007 by “FastTech 50”
- Average company growth rate of > 100% per year for last 4 years.
- Elected to the board of **Pratham Houston**, a leading non-profit focused on providing education to children in India. www.prathamusa.org
- Successfully graduated from **Houston Technology Center** as a graduate client company. www.houstontech.org
- Invited **Columnist for Chemical Weekly**, India’s largest chemical industry journal. www.chemicalweekly.com
- Interviewed by **The Business Makers Show** in Houston, as a “make it happen” executive in the city of Houston.
- Brown belt in Taekwondo, avid drum player.

18. Dhiren Shethia

Dhiren Shethia, managing partner and co-founder of Enaxis Consulting, brings more than 15 years of high-level experience in consulting and advisory services to executives of Fortune 500 companies.

Enaxis Consulting is the premier provider of management consulting and technology advisory services to Fortune 500 clients across various industries. Enaxis Consulting's primary client offerings include management consulting, outsourcing advisory services, and business technology consulting. Enaxis Consulting drives successful outcomes using a simplified, structured methodology coupled with proven rigor and depth of experience.

Before founding Enaxis Consulting, Dhiren was a leader in the Texas practice of Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group. He earned his MBA in Finance from the University of Texas in Austin and received a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from Angelo State University.

Dhiren is a regular speaker at various business forums and is quoted by the media (CNN, Wall Street Journal and local publications) on his views on IT, outsourcing and business.

19. Sapna Singh

Sapna Singh is a Board Certified Pediatrician practicing medicine in Sugar Land, TX. Prior to this, she served as a Faculty Clinical Instructor for Baylor College of Medicine's Pediatric Emergency Medicine Department working at both Texas Children's Hospital and Ben Taub General Hospital. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at BCOM and received her MD from Texas A&M University HSC-COM, where she was awarded the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award at graduation. Her undergraduate studies in the Plan II Honors program were completed at the University of Texas at Austin with special honors for her thesis and research on domestic violence in the South Asian immigrant community.

She is happily married to Mehul Parikh, her husband of six years and has two beautiful children, Savan and Surina. She also holds a degree in Indian Classical Dance and enjoys donating her time to various charities and religious organizations. In the past she has served as the President of the Indian Student's Assoc., Vice President of the TMA chapter of Texas A&M and co-founded the STAT program for 7th graders in College Station/Bryan, TX. Her passion is children's advocacy and health issues regarding access and education.

20. Namrata Sinha

Namrata is an Associate Member of Indian Institute of Chartered Accountants, with over 11 years of experience in auditing and finance. She worked in Public Accounting for 5 years for KPMG in India, working on various audit assignments for the IT and Banking sectors. She joined Accenture in Sept 2003 to set up their Client Finance Management team there. In 2007, she moved to Accenture US and is a part of their in-house Financial Consulting team.

21. Vivek Sinha

Vivek is the Global Compliance and Control Manager for the Hewlett Packard and has been responsible for setting up, developing the strategy and the global operating model for the Asset Protection team. He joined HP in December 2003. He is also the Business Controls Manager for Americas shared service centers. His current responsibilities include being, the GBS Program Manager for the HP-EDS Integration responsible for Integrating the shared services organization of EDS with GBS impacting over 2,000 employees worldwide, identifying opportunities and ensuring achievement of synergies through process improvement and work force alignment across 11 locations around the world

Vivek is a Chartered Accountant and a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners with over 12 years of experience in the field of audit, finance and financial management. Before Joining HP, Vivek headed the Forensic Accounting Practice of KPMG in South India where he was involved in several fraud investigations, fraud control diagnostics and financial due diligence.

Away from work, he enjoys traveling with his wife Namrata, going to movies and watching cricket

22. Neeraj Verma

Neeraj "Neil" Verma is an attorney in the Houston office of Greenberg Traurig. He is a 2000 graduate of the University of Michigan School of Law where he was managing editor of the Michigan Journal of International Law. He has assisted clients on a wide variety of matters including corporate and securities, litigation and bankruptcy. Mr. Verma has also worked on India-related commercial litigation and transactional matter, including having worked in the New Delhi office of the largest law firm in India for several months as a visiting consultant with an arbitration and transactional practice

group. He has been selected by Texas Super Lawyers magazine Rising Stars Edition, 2009 for his corporate and securities practice, and selected by H Texas Magazine as a lawyer on the "Fast Track" in 2004, 2007 and 2008 for his litigation work.

23. Indira Vishnampet

Ms. Vishnampet is a Board member and was IACCGHs "2007 Woman Entrepreneur of the Year". She currently holds the position of CEO of Hydus, Inc., an Information Technology firm focused on strategic IT solutions in Enterprise Information Management including Enterprise Integration, Business Intelligence and Data Warehousing. In addition, Ms. Vishnampet has also been a founder/co-founder of 3 start up corporations.

Ms. Vishnampet is also very active in the local community. She recently has been nominated to the Board of St. Lukes Sugarland Hospital which is part of St. Lukes Episcopal Health Systems. She is an active volunteer with the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston and heads various activities including initiating and moderating a panel discussion on Professional Women. She is also an active member of the Executive Women Partnership which is part of Greater Houston Partnership. Ms. Vishnampet is married and is a proud mother of 2 girls

24. Mihir Wanchoo

Mihir Wanchoo is a Physician from Mumbai, India who is currently working as a research coordinator for University of Texas, Houston in the department of Neurology, Multiple Sclerosis research. He's also a student who is in his 5th semester at Texas Woman's University completing his Masters in Health care Administration. His current job has him working in the field of MS research and in the testing of a new oral drug for treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. This research is revolutionary in the sense that there are no oral drugs currently available in the market globally for Multiple Sclerosis and the only alternative is drugs in injectable forms.

When he's not working or studying, he also likes to indulge his passion of reading and collecting books. He has a personal library of more than 2500 books and he hopes to keep expanding it till the very end. He's also a reviewer at www.FantasyBookCritic.blogspot.com, one of the premier speculative fiction blogs online, since the past year, wherein he gets to review books & also interview authors on a regular basis. He can be contacted at Mihirwanchoo@gmail.com or at 713-530-0969.