



Season's Greetings from IACCGH

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2025 IACCGH GALA



2025 HONOREES



SMALL BUSINESS SERIES



INAUGURAL & DIWALI EVENTS



IACCGH+CONSULATE EVENTS



WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS



OPEN FORUM



POWER DIALOGUE



Malisha Patel
PRESIDENT

Jagdeep Ahluwalia
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IACCGH Board of Directors: Dr. Subodh Bhuchar, Karen Francis, Sanjay Ramabhadran, Ashok Garg, Rajiv Bhavsar, Malisha Patel, Rimple Mashruwala, Jagdeep Ahluwalia, Joya Shukla, Adlam Tekeste; **2025 IACCGH Gala** Dr. David L. Callender, President & CEO, Memorial Hermann Health Systems, in conversation with Dr. Renu Khator, Chancellor, University of Houston System & President, University of Houston; **2025 Honorees**, clockwise from top left: Jasjit Singh – Business Advocate Award; Musaafer, Michelin-Starred Indian Restaurant – Business of the Year; Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, India – Global Gateway Award; Snehee Chiplot, Founder & CEO, Gallivant Ice Creams – Woman of the Year Award; **Diwali Celebrations:** IACCGH represented at City Hall, The Governor's Mansion, and the Reception hosted by India's Permanent Representative to the UN; **IACCGH+Consulate:** Round table discussion on India and Energy Security; joint event between IACCGH and the Consulate; **Women Mean Business:** Featured Dr. Kim Tran, DVM, Open Forum; clockwise from top left: Sonali Mathotra, Ashish Mahendru, Francisco Sanchez; **Power Dialogue:** Feat. Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey, P.E., Harris County Precinct 3; Mayor Carol McCutcheon, City of Sugar Land; Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (TX-07)

IACCGH INITIATIVES



TRADE MISSIONS

IACCGH has been an essential driver in fostering economic links between the American and Indian businesses- both small and large sized corporations, as well as coordinating efforts between facilitative organizations like sister chambers in India and the US. [Read More](#)



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The Thought Leadership initiative invites eminent speakers highly accomplished & respected in their field of work to share their knowledge and experiences. [Click Here](#)



SMALL BUSINESSES

The small business outreach programs are aimed at providing the small business entrepreneurs with access to relevant knowledge required to establish and strengthen their business. [Read More](#)



WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

Women professionals, from a diverse range of industries and backgrounds, come together to think deeply about leadership challenges, share their professional and personal journeys and provide inspirational learning opportunities. [Read More](#)



NOWGEN

The initiative is an effort to engage with the NOWGENERATION, the under 45 Indo-American young professionals, entrepreneurs to help them connect back to the Motherland, celebrate their contribution, share their stories and inspire each other. [Read More](#)



HEALTHCARE INITIATIVES

IACCGH has been committed to its focus on healthcare starting with the MD Anderson - Tata India Initiative and has continued to engage with and build on the strength of the Texas Medical Center leveraging Houston being the home of the world's largest medical center. [Read More](#)



1 Riverway, Suite 1700 Houston TX 77056 E: info@iaccgh.com

HIGH-SKILL IMMIGRATION AT CROSSROADS

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During IACCGH Business Hour on Open Forum radio, immigration attorney Emily Neumann warned that a proposed \$100,000 H-1B fee could drive global talent elsewhere, affecting universities, hospitals, and research institutions most acutely. With exemptions unclear and litigation pending, employers were encouraged to plan early, prioritize domestic candidates, and closely monitor policy developments. Her conclusion was stark: policy choices will determine where innovation flourishes.



COMMUNITY, CONNECTION, AND CELEBRATION

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IACCGH's 2025 Holiday Party brought together civic leaders, diplomats, and entrepreneurs in a spirit of gratitude and shared purpose. President Malisha Patel emphasized that relationships are the Chamber's true currency, while Mayor Carol McCutcheon praised Indo-American leadership in Sugar Land's continued growth. The evening blended festivity with renewed commitment to collective progress.



CYBERCRIME REALITY CHECK FOR SMBS

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On IACCGH Business Hour on November 15, 2025, Rashmi Sheel outlined how modern cybercrime increasingly targets small and medium-sized businesses—often without cracking passwords. From session-token hijacking to invoice fraud and AI voice spoofing, she detailed a layered, affordable defense strategy designed to reduce risk and accelerate recovery.



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DOING BUSINESS WITH HARRIS COUNTY

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At IACCGH Business Hour, Harris County Equity Chief Tiko Reynolds-Hausman provided a clear roadmap for small businesses seeking county contracts: register as a vendor, track solicitations, and engage the Department of Economic Equity and Opportunity for guidance. She highlighted Harris Hub training programs, \$5,000 grants, low-interest loans, and bonding reforms—making access to opportunity more practical and equitable for local entrepreneurs.



CYBER RESILIENCE CLINIC AT ELITE RESTAURANT

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At IACCGH's Small Business Series Rashmi Sheel, President of CMIT Solutions of Sugar Land, transformed cybersecurity from a technical abstraction into a practical playbook for business owners. Prompted by a real email administrator incident, the session emphasized resilience: multi-factor authentication, least-privilege access, network segmentation, tested backups, and employee awareness to prevent simple mistakes from becoming business-ending crises.



ART BRIDGING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

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IACCGH opened its 2026 season with a backstage evening at Houston Grand Opera, seamlessly blending culture, commerce, and community. Leaders celebrated Houston's creative capital, HGO's global reach, and its talent pipeline through the Butler Studio. A surprise preview of a forthcoming Sanskrit opera on Lord Krishna energized the audience, while the Consulate and Chamber reaffirmed their partnership in nurturing the next generation of leaders.



PRACTICAL FIXES OVER POLITICS

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Immigration attorney Charles Foster cautioned that America's legal immigration system remains overly restrictive for its economic needs. He described the proposed \$100,000 H-1B fee as "beyond crazy," urged higher visa caps, and criticized decades-long backlogs affecting Indian professionals. His message was clear: replace slogans with systems that protect families, meet workforce needs, and keep the United States competitive.



TRADE, TRADITION, AND TRANSITION

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At Houston City Hall, IACCGH welcomed 2026 with diplomacy, dialogue, and leadership transition. Mayor John Whitmire celebrated Houston's unity, Consul General D.C. Manjunath highlighted U.S.-India ties, and incoming President Rajiv Bhavsar pledged continuity and growth. The evening affirmed IACCGH's role as a vital bridge between culture and commerce.



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY AT IACCGH'S SIGNATURE EVENING



D.C. Manjunath
Indian Consul General - Houston

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston celebrated the second year of its Silver Jubilee on September 27, 2025, with an evening that looked back on a quarter-century of bridge-building while casting a confident eye toward the future.

Opening the program, Executive Director Jagdip Ahluwalia recalled the Chamber's founding conviction that "India had a pivotal role to play in the global economy." For 25 years, he noted, the Chamber "has worked diligently to build relationships across Houston, the United States, and with India—ties that endure not because they're convenient, but because they are rooted in mutual respect and shared benefit." He described the "flywheel" now in motion: "Houston's scale and sector strength, paired with India's talent and ingenuity—that is the India advantage: speed with discipline, innovation with cost-effectiveness, ambition anchored in values."

Ahluwalia recognized public servants and institutional partners whose work keeps that flywheel turning, including D.C. Manjunath, Consul General of India in Houston; county and city leaders; and representatives from federal offices, the Greater Houston Partnership, the U.S. Commercial Service, and sister chambers across Texas and India.

He then invited the audience to look ahead "to the next chapter—stronger together and focused on shared prosperity," before welcoming IACCGH President Malisha Patel to the stage. Patel, who also serves as Senior Vice President and CEO of Memorial Hermann Southwest and Sugar Land Hospitals, placed the milestone in both civic and personal terms. "Our 25th anniversary represents a significant milestone," she said. "We've supported small businesses, developed lasting trade relationships, facilitated fruitful networking among our members, and supplied relevant and timely education and tools."

Thanking predecessors for their guidance, she reflected on her parents' arrival from India in the late 1970s and on an Indo-American community that helped them navigate "the social, cultural, and business complexities" of a new home. "I see this Chamber as akin to that community," she added, urging IACCGH to keep "empowering the next generation of leaders," nurturing the Small Business Series, and continuing to "work together—because when we work together, we build community, strengthen our organization, and help businesses thrive."

On behalf of Mayor John Whitmire, Gigi Lee, Chief of International Affairs for the City of Houston, presented a proclamation declaring September 27, 2025, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston Day, recognizing IACCGH's role in strengthening Houston-India ties and keeping Houston "a diverse and thriving city."



In his remarks, Consul General D.C. Manjunath saluted the Chamber's "25-year journey," calling Indo-Americans "real ambassadors and cultural ambassadors" of the U.S.-India strategic partnership. Pointing to collaboration ranging from an ISRO-NASA astronaut on the International Space Station to joint work in semiconductors, clean energy, quantum computing, and AI, he cited leaders' "\$500 billion target" for trade and expressed confidence in resolving outstanding issues. Borrowing a familiar line, he added with a smile, "As Jagdip-ji says—network is net worth."

A featured conversation on healthcare followed between Dr. David Callender, President and CEO of Memorial Hermann Health System, and Dr. Renu Khator, Chancellor of the University of Houston System and President of the University of Houston. Dr. Callender noted that while the United States boasts "the best technology and the best people," it continues to face significant challenges in health outcomes compared with other advanced nations, despite spending "over \$4 trillion per year." He emphasized the need to meet communities where they are and expand prevention and access to care. Dr. Khator highlighted workforce pipelines and university-hospital partnerships that can move the needle.

The awards sequence underscored the evening's theme of enterprise with purpose.

Jasjit Singh received the Business Advocate Award for distinguished leadership in global investment strategy and for leading SelectUSA "during its most successful period, securing \$145 billion in investments" and twice bringing India's largest investor delegations to the United States. "Those investments weren't just numbers," he said. "They were lasting partnerships that continue to strengthen our economies."

Musafer was named Business of the Year, recognized for setting "a new standard for Indian cuisine in Houston and beyond." Its representatives thanked the city for the support that made a Michelin star feel like a shared win.

The Woman of the Year honor went to Snehee Chaplot, Founder and CEO of Gallivant Mawa Ice Creams, lauded for blending South Asian culinary heritage with food science to "revolutionize the ice cream industry." "We are pioneering an entirely new category," she said, noting Mawa's "rich, creamy texture" and "half the fat of premium ice cream," and reflecting on the brand's growth "to more than 350 stores across the U.S."

IACCGH Silver Jubilee Gala - Year Two



The Global Gateway Award honored the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce in India for a partnership that has “positioned India and Houston as vital gateways to global commerce.” Accepting on behalf of IACC India, Pandit Suman Ghosh conveyed thanks, while the organization’s president, in a video message, praised a collaboration that has opened doors for entrepreneurs, supported cross-border expansion, and “built lasting friendships and trust.”



Culture framed commerce as the Houston Grand Opera segment—introduced by Cory Dastoor—reminded the room that “global trade and the arts have always gone hand in hand.” Tenor Demetrius Sampson Jr. and pianist Tsu-Kwong Tan offered poised, eloquent readings from Porgy and Bess and Madame Butterfly, their performance landing like a benediction on the business of bridge-building.

The evening closed as it began — in a spirit of partnership and optimism. Ahluwalia thanked the Chamber’s partners and production team and announced that Twinkle and Chirag Patel of ImmunoGenomics had already pledged as major sponsors for next year’s gala, setting the tone for continuity and commitment.

Another year of work would begin in the morning. But for now, as he had said earlier, the flywheel of Houston’s Indo-American enterprise turned on the quiet strength of relationships.



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Leadership in Dialogue



Dr. Renu Khator in conversation with Dr. David Callender

In an evening defined by celebration and reflection, one of the most engaging moments came when Dr. Renu Khator, Chancellor of the University of Houston System and President of the University of Houston, sat down with Dr. David Callender, President and CEO of Memorial Hermann Health System, for a conversation that transcended ceremony.

Before a captivated audience, the two leaders spoke with disarming candor about leadership, the challenges of modern healthcare, and the shared responsibility of institutions to serve Houston's growing and diverse population. What unfolded was not a formal interview, but an exchange between two visionaries who see health and education not as separate pursuits, but as twin pillars of a stronger, more equitable city.

Leadership and Process

Dispensing with formality — "I'm going to call you David because we decided that," she smiled — Dr. Khator set the tone with warmth and ease, recalling his steady leadership after Hurricane Ike at UTMB: "I saw your steady hand of leadership... how you worked in Austin to get the funding, and how you rebuilt that hospital."

Then came the question that framed the evening's conversation: How does he define leadership?

Dr. Callender answered without flourish. Leadership, he said, is built on relationships and grounded in example and process. Citing *The Leadership Challenge* by Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner, he outlined five guiding principles: Set the example, Challenge the existing process, Inspire a shared vision, Remove barriers so others can succeed and Encourage the heart. "The essence of leadership lies in focusing on the process rather than personality—and ensuring that teams have the tools and support they need to thrive."

A System Under Strain

From there, the discussion widened to the health system itself. "So many things are wrong — are broken," Dr. Callender said, his tone matter-of-fact rather than critical. "We absolutely have the best technology, the best people... but among industrialized nations, the United States is dead last in outcomes." Despite spending over \$4 trillion per year—nearly 20% of GDP, the system, he noted, "is very disconnected." Within Houston alone, life expectancy can vary by twenty years depending on one's zip code. It was a sobering reminder that for the city to thrive, its two pillars — education and health — must advance together.

Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce

The conversation turned to workforce development — nurses, physicians, and allied health professionals — and the crucial partnerships between universities and hospitals that can fill growing gaps. "The outlook is serious," Dr. Callender warned. "Texas will be almost 60,000 short of the number of nurses we need by 2030." With an aging population and rising demand for care, collaboration with UH's Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine, School of Nursing, and Bauer College of Business has never been more essential. He praised the University's "incredible growth in life sciences" and called its alignment with Memorial Hermann's goals "perfectly natural." He added that he and Dr. Khator would soon meet with Dean Tart of the School of Nursing to explore ways to make "a career path to nursing a little bit more accessible."

Technology, Humanity, and Purpose

When asked about technology, Dr. Callender emphasized that healthcare will always remain "a people business."

"AI will be a great tool — it can help us think—but humans will remain the thought leaders." Automation may change certain functions, such as coding or record abstraction, but "AI opens more doors in healthcare than it closes." His advice to young students was both pragmatic and inspiring: "If you enter healthcare, you'll have a job for the rest of your life." Through collaborations with school districts, community colleges, and universities, Memorial Hermann is expanding career pathways and inspiring the next generation to see healthcare not just as a profession, but as a purpose.

A Life of Service

As the conversation drew to a close, Dr. Khator invited him to reflect on his journey. "No bragging for me," he smiled, choosing gratitude instead. He spoke softly of "the opportunity to work with incredible people" at MD Anderson, UCLA, UTMB, and now Memorial Hermann. "It's been a marvelous ride so far. I'm not ready to give it up yet... There are still things I'd like to do. Every day, I work alongside so many smart, talented, and committed people who are helping make Houston healthier."

The applause that followed was not merely polite — it was recognition of a shared truth: leadership, like healing, is a collective endeavor. The conversation closed not with finality but with momentum—an understanding that the future of Houston's health will depend on how deeply its institutions continue to learn from one another, collaborate across boundaries, and show up for the communities they serve.



Texas will be almost 60,000 short of the number of nurses we need by 2030.

A BUILDER'S LEGACY

From resilience to results — a lifetime of building, giving, and leading



BAL SAREEN
PRESIDENT AT BRASK INC.

In honoring Bal Sareen at this year's gala, IACCGH celebrates a builder whose life's work spans classrooms, shop floors, and community halls—and whose quiet discipline turned setbacks into a blueprint for durable success. In 1999, when he set out to launch a manufacturing business, his plan impressed every lender he met; approvals never came. He pressed on, acquiring an equipment plant with an SBA-backed loan and keeping his young enterprise alive long enough for a turning point in 2003, when ConocoPhillips purchased that site for its prime land. Rather than exhale, he reinvested, commissioning a 100,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Sulphur and, in 2011, duplicating the footprint in Pearland. From those hubs, his company emerged as one of Texas's leading makers—and, critically, maintainers—of shell-and-tube heat exchangers.

His path began far from the Gulf Coast, in Delhi, where an early stumble on a Higher Secondary exam could have closed doors. It did not. He sat for two fiercely competitive entrance tests, won a full scholarship to RIT, Jamshedpur, and graduated second in a cohort of 900. A master's at IIT Delhi followed, where he finished first in his class and then,

instead of heading straight to industry, joined the faculty. Teaching was not a detour; it was a conviction. He had seen what engaged instruction could do and wanted to be that catalyst for the next generation. A Commonwealth scholarship carried him to McMaster University for a second master's, and in 1976 he immigrated to the United States, sharpening his expertise at respected manufacturers before stepping out on his own.

He named his company Brask, Inc. after the initials of his family, a signal that legacy and stewardship would guide decisions as much as growth. Strategically, Brask was designed as a "cradle-to-grave" partner for the petrochemical sector, serving both upstream and downstream needs. The team builds new heat exchangers, but the company's backbone is repair, maintenance, and replacement—the essential, unglamorous work that keeps refineries safe and productive through cycles. He favored steady, recurring orders over splashy one-offs, an operating cadence that yielded roughly 20% annual growth for 15 consecutive years and revenues surpassing \$60 million. It is a story of compounding: skills, trust, and relationships, layered year after year.

Even as the business scaled, the teacher in him never retired. He remains known for opening his technical lectures to refinery teams, for answering an engineer's question with patience and precision, and for insisting that everyone on the floor understand the "why," not just the "how." That ethic—share knowledge, lift standards—extends beyond industry. Across Houston, his generosity is felt in ways both visible and quiet. The Bal and Rita Sareen Clinic at India House Houston, established with a \$250,000 gift, offers low-cost care to neighbors who need it most. At the Hindu Worship Society, where he serves as President, he is investing time and energy to restore a cherished institution to its former vitality. Those choices reflect family formation: a father who was a scholar of the Ramayana and lived its precepts of duty and service, and a son who chose to do the same in the city he now calls home.

What makes this honor fitting is not a single headline but a pattern of decisions. When credit was scarce, he relied on craft and credibility. When a windfall arrived, he poured it back into people, plant, and process. When growth accelerated, he kept attention on repeatable excellence rather than short-term spikes. And when success finally gave him latitude, he widened the circle—supporting cultural, educational, and health initiatives that strengthen the civic fabric Houstonians share. As a longtime member of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH), he has embodied the best of Houston's business community: ambitious yet grounded, exacting yet generous, focused on building enterprises that endure and communities that flourish.



This gala is IACCGH's chance to say, simply and clearly, that such leadership matters. It matters to employees who find careers, not just jobs; to customers who count on workmanship they can trust; to students who meet a mentor who makes engineering come alive; and to families who walk into a clinic and are welcomed with dignity. In honoring him, IACCGH holds up a model for the next generation: do the hard things well, reinvest when it would be easier to coast, and remember that the true measure of a life's work is how many others it equips to thrive.

CHAMPION OF CARE

Driven by science, purpose, and a desire to make healthcare more proactive rather than reactive, the founder of Immunogenomics, Twinkle Patel, shared her professional journey and vision for the future of personalized medicine during a recent conversation ahead of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston's Gala.

Reflecting on her path, Twinkle described how her career has always been shaped by both scientific rigor and entrepreneurship. Early in her professional life, she observed that diagnostics and biomarkers in healthcare were largely used after illness had already emerged, rather than as tools for prevention. This realization became the catalyst for founding Immunogenomics. She envisioned a company that could harness data-driven insights to help individuals better understand their health, make informed decisions, and ultimately shift the focus of care toward prevention and wellness.

Explaining the company's role in advancing innovation in genomics and personalized medicine, she emphasized that lifestyle choices must be informed choices. While habits largely determine health outcomes, she noted that many people lack the scientific insight needed to guide their daily decisions. Immunogenomics seeks to bridge this gap by integrating cutting-edge science with holistic and integrative approaches to health. By combining genomics with evidence-based wellness solutions — including elements inspired by alternative medicine — the company aims to provide practical, personalized guidance that empowers individuals to take control of their well-being.



TWINKLE PATEL
FOUNDER - IMMUNOGENOMICS



Twinkle's commitment to community engagement was evident as she discussed her motivation for supporting the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston as an underwriter for the upcoming Gala, 2026. She described the Chamber as a vital platform representing a diverse, multicultural entrepreneurial community.



In her view, the Chamber embodies collaboration, opportunity, and shared values — principles that align closely with Immunogenomics' own mission. Supporting the organization, she said, is both a strategic partnership and a meaningful way to contribute to the broader community.

On leadership, Twinkle reflected that innovation has always been central to her approach. Her entrepreneurial journey has strengthened her leadership philosophy, teaching her to navigate both rewards and challenges with resilience. She acknowledged that building a pioneering company is not without obstacles, but these experiences have shaped her into a more thoughtful, adaptive, and purpose-driven leader. Looking ahead, she outlined ambitious plans for Immunogenomics in 2026, with a strong focus on clinical research and the development of science-backed technologies. The company is also exploring integrative medicine solutions — including Ayurveda-inspired products — that complement clinical decision-making rather than replace it. These initiatives, she said, are aligned with Immunogenomics' broader vision of merging modern science with time-tested wellness traditions.

Addressing Chamber members and Gala attendees through the IACCGH newsletter, she encouraged everyone to view healthcare through the lens of lifestyle medicine. She reiterated that habits ultimately drive outcomes and urged individuals not only to care for their own health but also to consider the well-being of their community. Meaningful, informed lifestyle choices, she emphasized, can create a ripple effect that benefits society as a whole.

Sharing more about her background, she revealed that she began her career as a laboratory professional, working in hospitals across the country in both consulting and leadership roles. She later earned a master's degree in medical informatics, deepening her interest in the intersection of data, medicine, and innovation. This blend of clinical experience and informatics, she said, laid the foundation for her entrepreneurial journey.

Finally, as a woman leader, she offered an inspiring message to young women and aspiring professionals. She noted that women naturally possess strong multitasking abilities but stressed the importance of staying aligned with one's purpose. Clarity of vision, she said, enables individuals to navigate their careers with confidence, resilience, and authenticity. Her story — one of science, leadership, and community — underscores the transformative potential of genomics and personalized medicine, while highlighting the power of purpose-driven entrepreneurship.