



## 2008 Physician Service Award (cont.)



Rajendra G. Desai MD, Ph.D.  
Hematology & Oncology

Dr. Desai was born in Gujarat, India. He obtained a Bachelors of Science degree from Fergusson College in Poona and his Medical degree (M.D.) from Grant Medical College and Bombay University. He completed postgraduate training at Tata Cancer Hospital in Bombay. He was awarded a Fulbright fellowship for 3 years in order to pursue specialized training in hematology under the guidance of Dr. William Dameshek at the New England Medical Center in Boston. During this time he also obtained a Ph.D. in Biology from Boston University. Dr. Desai then received Damon Runyon Fellowship for Cancer Research and a Burroughs-Welcome World Travel Award.

While at Stanford University, he was awarded the Anna Fuller Fund fellowship to travel to Japan to investigate the cause of the high incidence of stomach cancer among the Japanese. Dr. Desai was a distinguished visiting professor at the Bangalore, India and also a visiting scientist at the Hospital Broussais (Pasteur Institute) in Paris, France. He started as a research fellow at the New England Center Hospital in Boston and eventually became Head of the Department of Hematology/Oncology in Orange County Medical Center in Orange, California.

In Orange County California, Dr. Desai pioneered the start of several comprehensive cancer care facilities in the 1970's. He was also elected President of the American Cancer Society, Orange County Branch and was Founding President of the Southern California Association of Indian Physicians. He was also instrumental in the start of the Oncology Nurses Association in Orange County.



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Dr. Desai has educated medical students, doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. He was elected to the membership of the American Association of Cancer research and is also a member of many national and international societies of Hematology, Oncology and Transfusion Medicine. As a community service he produced two videos for cancer patients and their families. These videos about coping with cancer and supportive care of cancer patients have served as excellent teaching tools for physicians and patients alike. These videos are available in medical libraries of cancer centers all around the world.

In 1998, Dr. Desai founded "Project Deaf India," a humanitarian project dealing with the prevention of deafness and the education of the deaf in India. He produced a documentary "Silent Village" which focuses on the various causes of deafness in India. He joined Rotary International and is a member of the Newport-Balboa Rotary Club in Newport Beach, California. His major goals for the "Project Deaf India" are MMR vaccination for the whole of India, and

the early detection of newborn deafness and early intervention (EHDI). Dr. Desai met with Abdul Kalam, the ex-President of India, in January of 2007 in New Delhi and presented to him with above goals. This has resulted in a major project by the Health Ministry, a project called National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) which has been started in 10 States and 25 districts in India. Also, by the end of 2009, an adequate number of ENT doctors, audiologists and grass root workers will be trained in early detection of new born deafness and early intervention (EHDI). It is hoped that all of India will achieve EHDI by 2010.

The Indian Medical Association of Southern California applauds Dr. Desai for his great commitment and humanitarian efforts to prevent and control deafness among the children of India. We wish him continued success.



With ex-President of India

I.M.A.S.C. & I.M.A.L.A. are proud to present  
PHYSICIAN SERVICE AWARD to DR.  
RAJENDRA G. DESAI, Ph.D.