

# Dr. Busharat Ahmad

*A lifetime of public service*

By M. Shahid Yousuf



Dr. Busharat Ahmad with Dr. Cecil Wilson (President American Medical Association 20100) at San Diego American Medical Association meeting on the occasion of the presentation of the Benjamin Rush Award of AMA.

Few expatriates from Pakistan have benefitted thousands of expatriates from all nations in United States. One individual who has done so is Dr. Busharat Ahmad. A retired ophthalmologist from Pakistan, he came in the early 1970s to USA after his professional career in Pakistan became impossible despite of his having credentials from Harvard University , Boston, MA.

Once he returned to the US after a brief tenure at the Civil Hospital, Karachi as an instructor for Dow Medical College, Karachi he began to improve the civic life of his adopted homeland. Serving in numerous capacities including being the President of the Chamber of Commerce of Marquette, MI he served as acting Mayor of Marquette. The list of his civic achievements is too long to be reproduced here.

His contributions to American medicine in the fair treatment of international medical graduates ( IMGs) has benefitted each and every IMG currently in practice in USA irrespective of their country of origin. Medical graduates from countries from Japan on the East to the Americas and all countries in between

have been beneficiaries. The IMGs currently enjoy equal practice opportunities to serve their patients. This has been possible in part but largely due to Dr. Busharat Ahmad's efforts in matters of licensing and thus actual practice.

In 2010 he was awarded the Benjamin Rush Award for his exceptional services at the San Diego meeting of the American Medical Association. Dr. Busharat Ahmad has also been one of the founding members of APPNA ( Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America) where he has served in numerous capacities over the past 33 years. He has participated in numerous relief camps for eye patients held in Pakistan over the years and has served three US Presidents in an advisory capacity in transplantation policies.

In 2001 he won the George Tarjan Memorial Award from the American Psychiatric Association, in 2002 he received the Citizenship Award from APPNA. His academic appointments, list of awards , papers published and positions held are too numerous to be mentioned. He continues to be involved in civic and professional life. He is the Vice Chair of the State of Michigan Board of Medicine and is the Chair of the Liaison with Organized Medicine Committee of APPNA besides other involvements with AMA, Michigan State Medical Society , The Rotarians and other professional and civic organizations.