

Sujal Parikh Memorial Symposium

March 24-25, 2012



Symposium Honors Former UMMS Student

Sujal Parikh was an M4 student participating in a one-year Fogarty International Fellowship in Uganda when a tragic road accident claimed his life on October 10, 2010. He had been in Uganda for just a few months working to address medical education issues and tackle critical problems associated with pediatric HIV/AIDS at the Joint Clinical Research Centre in Kampala. Sujal was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, the only child of Manoj and Sita Parikh. He received his undergraduate degree in public health and neurobiology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Sujal's passing had a profound effect on the University of Michigan Medical School community – even those who didn't know him well. Sujal joined our community in 2007 as a first year medical student, and he instantly became an active, vibrant, and inspirational member of our UMMS family.

Sujal was passionate about social justice as exemplified by his research and advocacy on health and human rights, access to medicines, medical education, and infectious disease issues in the US, Sub-Saharan Africa, and India. His passion, as well as compassion for others, led to his active involvement in several groups addressing human rights and health care disparities across the globe.

He provided dedicated service and inspirational leadership to many groups including the Student Advisory Board for Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), Student Advisory Committee for the Global Health Education Consortium, Universities Associated for Essential Medicines, American Medical Student Association (AMSA) AIDS Advocacy Network Steering Committee, and Board of Trustees for Uganda Village Project. He was also the Associate Editor-in-Chief of, and a writer for, *Global Pulse*, the AMSA International Health Journal. A passionate believer in the collective power of committed individuals to advance health and social justice, Sujal leveraged his networks within these organizations to make each of them stronger.

Full of charisma and compassion, Sujal forged communities of friends and colleagues around the world. In the wake of his untimely loss, those who loved him, and were inspired by him, came together to honor his work by creating the Sujal Parikh Memorial Symposium for Health and Social Justice. The 2011 symposium, 'The Social (Justice) Network,' brought together a diverse group of students and professionals to learn from one another, create lasting connections, and generate new ideas for the advancement of health and social justice. The 2012 symposium was propelled forward by the momentum of the inaugural event and collaborated with the annual PHR meetings to build an even larger network of conference supporters.

Sujal's legacy continues through the tireless efforts of those who want to see his dreams of a more just world become a reality.

**Global REACH
provides a venue for
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best practices**

**It supports faculty-
and student-driven
opportunities for
educational exchanges**

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Second Annual Sujal Parikh Memorial Symposium for Health and Social Justice: Sustainable Connections & Collaborations for Health and Human Rights

A joint conference of:

The University of Michigan Sujal Parikh Memorial Symposium for Health & Social Justice and The Physicians for Human Rights National Conference

Keynotes and Remarks by:

Frank Anderson, MD, MPH

Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Michigan Medical School; Associate Professor, Health Behavior Health Education, University of Michigan School of Public Health

Arash Alaei, MD and Kamiar Alaei, MD

WHO/PAHO consultants on health and human rights (Iranian brothers imprisoned for more than two years for their work fighting HIV/AIDS)

Cynthia Ho, JD

Clifford E Vickrey Research Professor, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Joseph Kolars, MD

Senior Associate Dean for Education and Global Initiatives; Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School

Evan Lyon, MD

Senior Clinician, Partners in Health; Assistant Professor, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Susannah Sirkin, MEd

Deputy Director, Physicians for Human Rights

Sujal's friends have established a community committed to carrying on his work and ensuring that his spirit continues to inspire a better world. Learn more at <http://sujalsymposium.org/about/>

SAVE THE DATE: The Third Annual Sujal Parikh Memorial Symposium will be held March 23, 2013



A morning gathering at the 2nd annual symposium



Mr. Parikh (left) with Dr. Kolars



Mrs. Parikh greeting a symposium participant



Afternoon poster session