

Let us keep moving forward to meet the challenges of future of nursing!



Dear fellow nurses of Indian origin,

I have been privileged to be a part of Indian American Nurses Association North Carolina (IANA-NC), the state chapter of National Association of Indian Nurses of America (NAINA) since 2011. Now I am excited to have the chance to lead this great chapter as President for the next two years.

In 2010, a group of professionally motivated nurses in North Carolina who were originally from different parts of India came together with the idea of beginning a state chapter for NAINA in North Carolina and thus IANA NC came into existence. As a professional nursing organization, IANA NC with the parent organization NAINA provides an opportunity for enhancing professional competence by supporting educational initiatives, encouraging mentoring, keeping members updated on the latest evidence in practice, and disseminating standards of quality and safety in nursing. It is a venue for developing nurse leaders who are prepared to meet the contemporary health care challenges and to embrace IOM's future of nursing.

Nursing as a profession is rewarding, at the same time heart breaking. It is inspiring, at the same time challenging. We come across people at various stages of life. We see the beginning of life as well as the end of life. We meet people from different cultures and people with different values. We face many dilemmas during our efforts to prevent illness, promote health, manage health care needs, alleviate suffering and be patient advocates. In today's dynamic and challenging health care environment, our clinical knowledge, judgment, and skills alone will not make us the best nurses. We need to be leaders and change agents.

Nursing, as a profession faces lot of challenges. We, as nurses of Indian origin face unique challenges. As the one and only professional organization for nurses of Indian origin in the United States, our organization unites us under one professional body to support our unique professional needs and challenges. Nurses from India have made an impact in US health care. The history of Indian nurses in America goes back to 1960 and beyond. In North Carolina, the state of 'first in nursing' our history goes back to the beginning of this millennium.

As president of IANA NC, when I look toward the future of our organization, I focus on our members' professional development and our need to foster the growth of our chapter. My goal is to energize our chapter and engage and support the members. I feel a sense of purpose as President of IANA NC to keep our mission alive and to be visible as a professional community to serve the health related needs of our community where we live today. Our people, Asian Indians face increased and unique risk for chronic diseases and as nurses we do have a responsibility to prevent the tsunami of these diseases among our ethnic population.

When you join IANA-NC and thereby NAINA, you demonstrate your commitment to the nursing profession, proclaim solidarity to fellow nurses of Indian origin and pledge to engage in activities to promote the mission of the organization. So I invite all nurses and nursing students of Indian origin, currently living in North Carolina to be an active part of the organization. Together we can move forward.

As I conclude, let me quote Martin Luther King Jr., "If you cannot fly, then run; if you cannot run, then walk; if you cannot walk, then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Wishing you success in your professional journey!

Letha M Joseph, MSN, RN, AGPCNP-BC

President IANA-NC, 2015-2016