

# SHIFA COMMUNITY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

Published by: Inara Ali (Publicity Coordinator) & Hadia Lalagul (Alumni Relations Coordinator)



Shifa Community Clinic will be hosting it's 18th Annual Community Banquet virtually on **October 24th, 2020.** 

Please join Shifa Clinic in our 18th Annual Banquet for an impactful night. Our goals for the annual fundraiser are simple, but bold: to raise awareness about the tremendous needs of healthcare services in the underserved communities, and by doing so, to strengthen the community's support. Please join us on this wonderful night and contribute by donating to help Shifa Clinic continue its mission of serving our populations most vulnerable.

Please RSVP at shifabanquet2020.eventbrite.com

For more information, visit: www.shifaclinic.org/banquet

### **Pilot Clinic**

Shifa has been chosen by the Interclinic Reopening Committee as the first Student Run Clinic (SRC) to allow medical students to begin seeing patients in person again, during the pandemic. With collaborative efforts, patients from all SRCs can be seen at Shifa. Along with On-Site appointments, Shifa is continuing to provide patients with Telehealth appointments. Additional to regular Telehealth, our Mind Clinic and Dermatology Clinic are also beginning to see patients via this method.



Shifa Volunteers during Pilot Clinic as featured on UCDSOM's Instagram

"The opening of Shifa as the Pilot Clinic is the culmination of effort from countless medical and undergrad students who are dedicated in serving people who have no other options, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic which closed many of our student-run clinics. I was humbled and excited when Shifa was chosen as the Pilot Clinic, and I am proud to have helped create a system that accepts patients from all backgrounds to provide the best, most efficient care we possibly can. Now that we are up and running, it is time for us to learn how to improve our services week after week and become the model for all other student-run clinics to reopen during the pandemic"

- Armand Garewal, MS2 on his experience with Pilot Clinic

I expect the pilot clinic to reach a point at which we will see patients that need to be seen from all of Sacramento and the surrounding community safely. The goal is to provide access to care for people who do not have access to telemedicine technologies or require care beyond what telemedicine can offer. If we can make the pilot clinic be the epitome of how we deliver care safely and efficiently, then we can pave way for more student run clinics to open their doors in the future."

- Mustafa Shakir, MS2 on his aspirations and goals for Pilot Clinic

# Meet our Alumni Spotlights!

August Spotlight:



Pranaya Venkatapuram Clinical Research Coordinator

September Spotlight:



Shaila Bonanno
PGY1 at UW Pediatrics

August Spotlight:

Gagandeep Dhugga MS3 at UC Davis

September Spotlight:



Eric Ovruchesky MS3 at UCSD

August Spotlight:



Shannel Sosa Nursing Student in Las Vegas

September Spotlight:



Farva Batool Grad Student at UCD

#### **Health Education**

Our Committees and Subcommittees have been working on resources to educate the population about several different ilnesses by the means of quicksheets and brochures.

You can find them on our website: shifaclinic.org



Quicksheets about different illnesses made available on our website https://www.shifaclinic.org/health-education-quicksheets

Shifa Clinic is a nonprofit, studentrun medical facility
dedicated to serving
the diverse, medically
uninsured population
the Greater Sacramento
Area.

We speak: Spanish,
Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu,
Arabic, Farsi, Pashto,
French, Korean, Telugu,

SHIFA
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What is Breast Cancer
HEALTHY REPARTS

SHIFA COMMUNITY

### Meet our Co-D's



Armand Garewal MS2 at UC Davis

"After shadowing at a few clinics as an MS1, Shifa was the one place where I felt most at home. I remember sharing a laugh with a patient in our native tongue, Punjabi. I felt like I was serving the same type of people who helped raise me; I saw my aunties and uncles in the patients at Shifa, and that made me feel at home. My favorite part of Shifa is that we are constantly trying to improve our services and role in the community. After the COVID-19 lockdowns began, we were one of the first clinics to reopen and see patients again on a small scale. Now, we are striving to open up on a larger scale with the Pilot Clinic Project. It makes me proud that we are constantly innovating to provide novel services for those who count on us. The undergraduates at Shifa are outstanding. They are one of the main reasons I chose to volunteer at this clinic. I cannot thank the undergraduates enough for their dedication and hard work they continue to put in day after day, especially given the increased demands we have been asking of them with both in-person and tele-clinic during COVID-19. Shifa wouldn't be Shifa without you all, thank you!"

"Understanding the cultural backgrounds of our patients as future physicians is fundamental in providing effective patient-centered care and developing strong patient-physician relationships. Therefore, I saw joining Shifa as an opportunity to learn about cultures outside of my own and to also help provide care to those in need. My passion for serving underserved populations pushed me to join Shifa as a Co-D so that I could more directly shape the way that Shifa delivers care. My favorite part of working at Shifa is being able to make a difference in our patients' lives with long-term care. Many of our patients we serve have been coming to our clinic for years which goes to show how strong the relationship between Shifa and its community is. I feel honored that our patients trust us as medical students, giving us an opportunity to learn from them both culturally and medically. Our volunteers at Shifa are all amazing in so many ways. They are all incredibly helpful, compassionate, and intelligent, and it's such a pleasure to be working closely with them. They are truly the backbone of Shifa clinic and their hard work is greatly appreciated."



Summer Meyer MS2 at UC Davis



Darshna Anigol MS2 at UC Davis

"I was initially drawn to Shifa because it focuses specifically on culturally tailored, patient targeted interventions. Due to experiences I have had in clinics, I recognize how important it is to take a person's culture into account when providing care. Therefore, my interest in becoming a Co-D at Shifa stems from the holistic care provided to patients as well as the patient population that Shifa serves. My favorite part about Shifa is the patient interactions that I have. The patients are always so appreciative and kind and it makes me treasure the experiences that I have with them. Additionally, all the preceptors are so kind and willing to teach and I always leave the clinic having learned something new. Shifa truly feels like a community that I am so grateful to be a part of. I could not ask for a better experience working alongside the undergrad volunteers. The amount of time and dedication that they place into the clinic is inspiring and I know that I can always count on them if I have any concerns or questions. They always have a smile or a kind word to say whenever I see them, which is part of the reason that the clinic runs so smoothly and feels like a community."

## **Legal Clinic**

Shifa's Legal Clinic serves as the intersection between healthcare and legal aid. With the dedication of our two lawyers, John Tan and Clarisa Reyes-Becerra, we are able to provide our patient population the opportunity to address their legal concerns or questions in a consultation, pro bono. This includes concerns such as applying for health insurance, applying for disability, employee-employer relations, immigration, and more! The beginning of Legal Clinic dates back to May 2017, in which two hardworking undergrads, Jwon and Evelyn, were able to gain the support of John Tan from the Legal Services Northern California, to launch Legal Clinic every third Sunday of the month. Since then, we have expanded and are grateful to welcome Clarisa Reyes-Becerra and Ismah Ahmad to the team!

#### **Work by Legal Clinic**

Due to the impact of COVID-19, Shifa's legal team had been able to provide unemployment benefits consultations, allowing our community to assess their options and move forward with a plan. We are also working on providing public charge training to our volunteers.

Additionally, we are launching a "My Rights" campaign in which the committee explores various topics such immigration, voting rights, employeremployee relations, patients in healthcare, housing, highlighting important laws that are beneficial to understand and be aware of!

The goal of our subcommittee is to continue to enhance access to our legal services and referrals. Our subcommittee contributes to the support and growth of our Legal Clinic by expanding community awareness and resources.

# CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS Need Help filing for Unemployment Benefits due to COVID-19? SHIFA COMMUNITY CLINIC IS OFFERING FREE VIRTUAL SESSIONS WITH A LAWYER TO HELP YOU FILE AND ASSESS YOUR OPTIONS! SIGN UP ONLINE OR LEAVE A MESSAGE TINYURL.COM/COVID19LEGAL SESSION TRANSLATORS AVAILABLE IN: ARABIC, HINDI, PASHTO, FARSI, URDU, SPANISH AND PUNJABI

#### **Legal Clinic Team**



Lead: Ayantu Mume



Lawyer: John Tan Legal Services of Northern California



Lawyer: Clarisa Reyes-Becerra California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation



Lead 2019-2020: Karima Alghannam

Other Members not pictured: Ismah Ahmad (Lawyer) Hosna Mohabbat (Lead, 2017-2019), Yi Jen Chen, Desiree Rafizadeh, Kunga Yangzom