

The South Asian Times

excellence in journalism

Vol. 18 | Issue 37 | January 3-16, 2026

NEW YEAR SPECIAL

Follow us on   



Dr Jatin Shah

THE SOUTH ASIAN TIMES PERSON OF THE YEAR 2025

The most eminent Head and Neck Surgeon in the world, Dr Shah has transformed the entire medical discipline in his specialty with innovations, research and fostering collaborations across the world.

Presenting an exclusive and extensive feature on one of contemporary medicine's most distinguished figures.

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

INTERVIEW | LEADERSHIP | CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS | MESSAGES & IMPRESSIONS

Congratulations

DR. JATIN SHAH

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



“Dr. Jatin Shah is the very definition of impact. His brilliance as a surgeon is matched only by his humanity, his mentorship, and his lifelong commitment to advancing care for patients around the world. Being named Person of the Year is not just a recognition of his extraordinary career, but of the countless lives he has touched and transformed. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.”

Michael Douglas



Dr Jatin Shah with Hollywood superstar Michael Douglas and his wife, Catherine Zeta-Jones, also a renowned Hollywood actress, at the Centennial Conference of the Head and Neck Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Presenting Person of the Year 2025

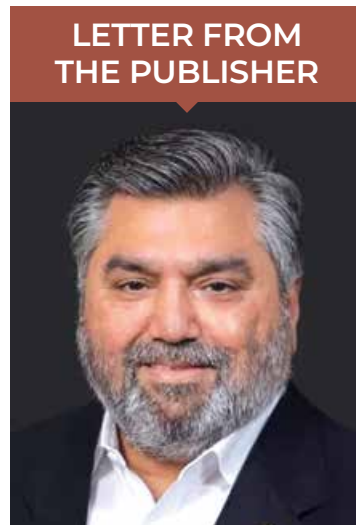
mourned the loss of former US Vice President Dick Cheney, Oscar-winning actress Diane Keaton, fashion designer Giorgio Armani, veteran Bollywood actor Manoj Kumar, and very recently former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, among other noted leaders and celebrities.

For India, a defining moment came in May with the launch of successful military operation Sindoor in response to the brutal killing of 26 innocent Hindu tourist by terrorists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

With the association of NASA the Indian space sector earned a distinction with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla visiting the International Space Station (ISS) 40 years after Rakesh Sharma.

In sports, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, the most beloved players after Tendulkar and Dhoni, retired from Test cricket. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led women's cricket team created history by clinching the World Cup. India is now preparing to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, indicating the remarkable growth of sports in India.

The Team @ The South Asian Times is proud to present its New Year Special issue. As every year, we start with an incredibly special edition by featuring The South



LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Asian Times - Person of The Year, honoring people who have accomplished extraordinary success, and transformed lives with their wisdom, and by generosity in sharing their hard-earned resources.

This year, we are extremely delighted to announce our prestigious annual honor, "The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025", to be bestowed on Dr. Jatin Shah, the best contemporary Head and Neck Surgeon in the World.

Dr. Shah's legendary and loyal associations of over five decades to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, the world's premier institution of oncology, are remarkable dedication and exemplary inspiration to many

surgeons and researchers. His expertise and research, especially in life-threatening tumors, is expounded in his eponymous textbook titled 'Jatin Shah's Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology', considered the bible in the field that offers a compendium for surgeons worldwide for generations to come.

Dr. Shah, an Ellis Island Medal honoree, also founded IFHNOS (International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies), which has the global impact enriching the treatment of critical tumors. His philanthropic contributions to support fellowship programs for surgeons from India and other resource-challenged countries have uplifted many doctors by providing them resources for advanced studies.

Mr Parveen Chopra, the founding managing editor, who has produced all of our 'Person of the Year' specials feature since 2009, once again immaculately prepared the 'Person of the Year 2025' feature, even as he remains committed to his passion, ALotusInTheMud.com.

The graphics and layout of the entire feature is beautifully created by our award-winning graphic designer Mr Shinto Kallattu and his team at Foxview Media. We thank them for working in the busy holidays season and unwavering commitment and dedication.

Our New Year-cum-Person of the Year special issues, print and digital, have been read by well over half a million people in America and the world over, and proudly displayed by many families on their coffee tables and kept in their collectibles.

Please contact us if you wish to have a hard copy, we will gladly mail it to you with our compliments.

Since its inception, The South Asian Times has maintained an immaculate reputation for its excellence in journalism, value-based content, clean display, and qualitative advertising.

Our unique vision has continuously set new trends and standards in the South Asian media fraternity of America, publishing the print edition uninterrupted since 2008.

We, the Team @ The South Asian Times, sincerely thank all our supporters and readers who have been integral partners in our presence and success.

Hope you will enjoy the New Year Special issue. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Kamlesh C Mehta

Chairman and Publisher

Kamlesh@TheSouthAsianTimes.Info

Cover pages of our last 10 New Year and Person of the Year Special Issues

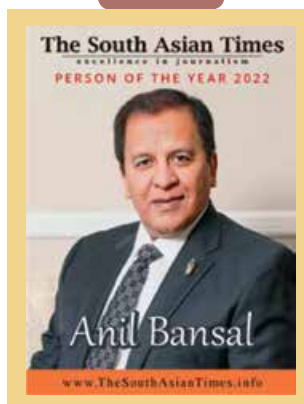
2024



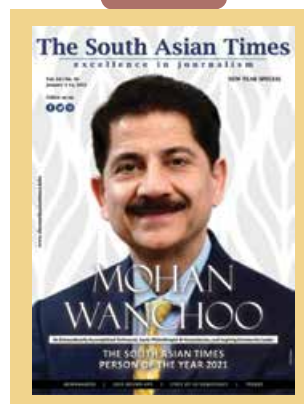
2023



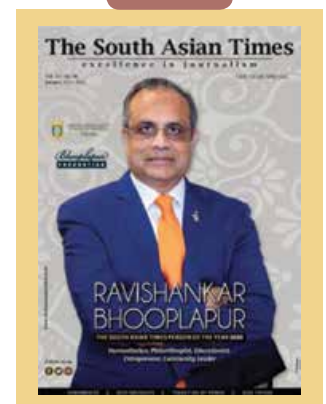
2022



2021



2020



2019



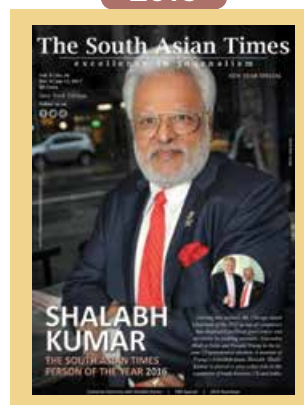
2018



2017



2016



2015



2014 - Pujya Pramukh Swami ji
2013 - Mayor Bill de Blasio

2012 - Mr. Robin Raina
2011 - Mr Kalyan Banerjee

2010 - HE Hardeep Puri
2009 - Hon. Edward Mangano



&

Co-Managing Partner
Jaspreet Singh Mayall
extend their heartfelt
congratulations to this year's
Person of the Year 2025
Dr. Jatin P. Shah.



Scan here to
learn more about
Certilman Balin

f i X in
@CertilmanBalin

The South Asian Times

excellence in journalism

Chairman and Co-Founder:
Kamlesh C. Mehta
kamlesh@thesouthasianimes.info

Co-Founder:
Saroosh Gull

President:
Arjit Mehta
arjit@thesouthasianimes.info

Founding Editor:
Parveen Chopra

Managing Editor:
Meenakshi Iyer
toeditorial@gmail.com

Senior Editor:
Hiral Dholakia-Dave
contacthiraldholakia@gmail.com

Consultants:
Shomik Chaudhuri, P: 646.498.5122
shomik@shomikchaudhuri.com

Ginsmon P. Zacharia, P: 516.776.7061
ginsmon@hotmail.com

Contributing Editors:
Arvind Vora
Melvin Durai
Dr Prem Kumar Sharma
Dr Akshat Jain

Young contributors:
Krishiv Shah & Aashna Shah

Delhi Bureau: Shinto Kallattu

Jaipur Bureau: Amit Mehta &
Prakash Bhandari

Cartoonist: Mahendra Shah

Art and Design: Bharat Bhushan Chopra

Graphic Designing: Foxview Media

Consultants: Bhagwati Creations

News Service: IANS News Service,
HT Media Ltd.

Printing: Five Star Printing, NY

Contacts:
editor@thesouthasianimes.info
info@thesouthasianimes.info

Advertisements:
advertise@thesouthasianimes.info
P: 516.390.7847

Head Office:
Forsythe Multimedia Group, LLC
22 Hemingway Drive
Dix Hills, NY 11746

NYC Office:
62 W 47th street, Suite 905, NY 10036

Website:
www.TheSouthAsianTimes.info
Updated Daily

Printed by: Forsythe Multimedia Group, LLC, with Forsythe Media Group, LLC, ISSN 1941-9333, 95 Broadway, Suite 2, Second Floor, Town Center Building, Hicksville, NY 11801. P: 516.390.7847. Website: TheSouthAsianTimes.info, Updated Daily

Notice: The South Asian Times is published by Forsythe Multimedia Group, LLC & Forsythe Media Group, LLC. POSTMASTER: Send all address notices, subscription orders/payments and other inquiries to The South Asian Times, 95 Broadway, Suite 2, Second Floor, Town Center Building, Hicksville, NY 11801, USA. Copyright and all other rights reserved. No material herein or portions thereof may be reprinted without the consent of the publisher. The views expressed on the opinion pages and in the letters to the editor pages are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of The South Asian Times. The editor/publisher does not warrant accuracy and cannot be held responsible for the content of the advertisements placed in the publication and/or inaccurate claims, if any, made by the advertisers. Advertisements of business or facilities included in this publication do not imply connection or endorsement of these businesses. All rights reserved.

Disclaimer: All images are displayed with clear understanding that they are free of any conflict and copyrights, unless otherwise clearly stated by/at the providing source. Forsythe Multimedia Group, LLC, Forsythe Media Group, LLC and their associates are not liable or responsible for those images displayed in the newspaper or on the website www.TheSouthAsianTimes.info, which were not clearly specified as copyrighted material at the source. Images are displayed for the relevance, not for any economic gain or for any profit.

There Are So Many Choices in Life

*Jatin P. Shah chose to learn from the best sources
To learn how to improve people's health*

*With this knowledge he improved so many people's lives
both in longevity and in quality of life*

*But that wasn't enough
He contributed to existing knowledge
Improving what is known both in depth and breadth*

*He generously shared his knowledge around the world
Educating physicians and researchers from diverse countries*

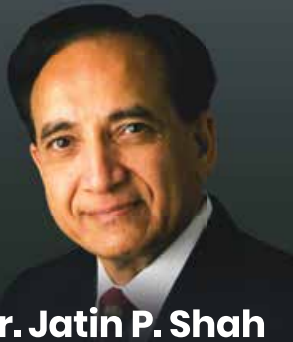
He lives a modest life with his beautiful family



If this is not excellence, then what is excellence?

*The world we live in suffers from conflicts, wars and death
Instead of investing in human capital
Many have chosen avenues in life that lead to destruction*

What are your choices?



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Jatin Shah's Multipronged Work Revolutionized Head and Neck Cancer Care in the World

Earning the title of 'Best Head & Neck Surgeon in the World' is only one part of what he has achieved in over 50 years of his career. Through most-cited breakthrough research, authoring books, surgical innovations, teaching, and fostering organizations of H&N surgeons, Dr. Shah has astronomically advanced cancer care in his specialty and created a legacy that generations of surgeons will benefit from.

The South Asian Times is proud to honor him as our Person of The Year. In this exclusive and intensive interview, he shared his fabulous life story and unparalleled achievements in the field of oncology.

By Parveen Chopra

Founding Editor, The South Asian Times
Founder, ALotusInTheMud.com

His father had some other dream for him, but India-born Jatin Shah not only became a doctor, but he also specialized in oncology influenced by his father's death from cancer. Joining the well-known Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center over 50 years ago, he not only rose to chair the Head and Neck Service, but also "made MSK the world's leading authority on cancer," as acknowledged by Dr. Selwyn M. Vickers, President and CEO of MSKCC, in his message to The South Asian Times.

Dr. Shah's contributions are prodigious and top of class: 15 medical text books including the multiple award-winning, eponymous 'Jatin Shah's Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology', considered the bible in the field, that offers a compendium for surgeons worldwide for generations to come; over 70 chapters in textbooks, hundreds of scientific publications and a very high h-index (a measure of citations of a researcher's work). He has trained over 200 surgeons and given dozens of post-graduate courses all over the world.

He led many national and international organizations in his field. Perhaps the acme of his efforts to foster collaborations is IFHNOS (International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies), that he founded in 1987. He led numerous world tour programs of IFHNOS, impacting and enriching the treatment of critical tumors. In addition, he developed and leads an online fellowship program enabling training of surgeons worldwide.

His philanthropic contributions to support traveling fellowship programs for surgeons from India and other resource-challenged countries have uplifted many doctors by providing them opportunities for advanced training.

Recognizing the body of his work, he has been conferred eight Doctorates and Fellowships. He has also been awarded the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Currently an Attending Surgeon at MSK and holding the E.W. Strong Chair in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology since 1994, he has no plans to put the surgeon's knife in his memento box.

He was fully engaged in the production of this Person of the Year special feature and gave long interviews to Parveen Chopra for The South Asian Times. Over 50 messages came in our mail responding to the announcement that Dr. Shah is the Person of the Year 2025. Those are from his colleagues at MSK, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family and published in this special feature honoring him.

Excerpts from the interview edited for space:



Q Parveen Chopra:
Your father did not even want you to be a doctor, but destiny had some other plan for you. Talk about that first turning point in your life.

A Dr. Jatin Shah: You know how things were in India, in those days parents decided what their kids were going to do. My father, Premanand Shah, principal of a government high school, had decided that my elder brother, Mahesh, would be a doctor. My sister, Sudha, is to be a housewife, and I an IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer. So, I was brainwashed to steer myself to do that in high school.

Unfortunately, Mahesh did not do well in biology at the college level. My dad decided that this is not going to work, so he moved

him to the engineering stream, and overnight, I was shifted to become a doctor. He even started addressing me as a doctor when I was still in high school.

Did I have a choice in the face of dad's decree! So, I went on to do my MBBS and MS from Baroda Medical College, which had a good academic reputation compared to other medical schools in Gujarat, where I grew up.

Q How did you choose to become a surgeon?

A Dr. Shah: In medical school, I got interested in anatomy. That was my favorite subject, which eventually led to surgery, because if you know anatomy, then surgery is child's play. I also had an interest in drawing, and my journals in anatomy had such

perfect art that they still have them at the medical school's museum.

In the third year of medical school, you must start deciding what you're going to do. So obviously, surgery was my choice.

Q In college, you met your future wife. Tall and handsome, did you have to woo her, or she fell for you?

A Dr. Shah: Bharti Gandhi was in medical college with me, and she was my two years junior. I met her when I was in my third year.

However, in India at 18, 19 you're not even allowed to talk to the girls.

The way the love affair began was, there was a bicycle outing to a pond called Ajwa, that supplies water to the city of Baroda. Because I liked her and wanted to be close to her, I became a little naughty. I punctured one tire in her bicycle by pushing a pin in the tube. As she could not ride her bicycle, I offered and made her ride double with me. I was driving my bicycle with one hand and dragging her bicycle with the other hand! (laughs).

Then we started dating – this must be 1962 or '63 – and it went on for four or five years –through her residency and through my residency. Dating in India in those days meant going to a movie. Eventually we got married in 1967.

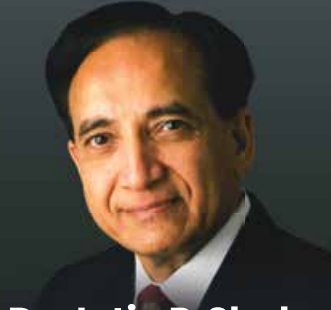
Q I read somewhere that both you and Bharti Gandhi went for pilot training.

A Dr. Shah: Oh yes, India was at war with China in 1962. The government offered that if you volunteer to be drafted into the army, they will give you free pilot training, up to getting a pilot license. The condition was, if India needs you, you must go and volunteer as a fighter pilot. I played a little smart – I was going to be a doctor within a year so I knew the army would want me more as a doctor, rather than as a pilot.

So, yes, both of us took the offer, took training and got our pilot licenses on single engine planes. I put in my 40 hours of solo flying from Baroda to Bombay, and Baroda to Ahmedabad. Bharti also got her license.

The pilot training brought us closer. Both of us are Gujaratis, both of us are Banias, but of different sub castes. So, Bharti had to convince her parents to allow her to marry me. We had the traditional wedding in Baroda and a big function in Bombay, where her family lived.

Q How did you land in the United States and choose oncology as your field?



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

A Dr. Shah: My engineer brother Mahesh was the first to move to the US, in 1958. My parents moved to the US in 1964 while I was still in India doing my surgical training.

After I migrated here, my original dream was to become a reconstructive surgeon, to make new you if you are born with a deformity or deformed after trauma.

My dad passed away here in Philadelphia. He had lung cancer. He was a heavy smoker and paid the price. That influenced my decision to get into cancer surgery.

Q But first you struggled as all Indian immigrants.

A Dr. Shah: I came to the US basically for surgical training. But you must first clear the ECFMG exam to get a training or residency position. I stayed in Philadelphia initially with my sister, Sudha, and approached Dr. John Howard at the Hahnemann Medical College. I had adequate surgical training, so I got accepted as a research fellow. I was there for one year in 1967-68, doing research on septic shock, using dogs for the experiment. I did that for a year and cleared the ECFMG exam.

My salary at that time was \$ 280 every two weeks, of which \$90 went for the apartment rent. My wife, who had joined me by now, didn't have a job. Once in the winter, she wanted to buy snowshoes. I said, "I don't have money for snowshoes." So, we used to cover our shoes in Ziploc bags so that they wouldn't get wet.

Q Getting accepted for Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering was the vital, second turning point in your life, tell us how that panned out.

A Dr. Shah: My research showed that Memorial Sloan Kettering was one of the best, if not the best, cancer hospitals in America. I applied for a residency position there as a junior resident and was selected. So, we moved from Philadelphia to New York. Now, during junior residency you must show some research work and apply for senior fellowship. I did research, published papers and I had surgical experience from India. I applied for senior fellowship at MSK. But I was turned down, maybe because I did not have American training.

They make the decisions by December for the following July. So, I applied for a residency position at some community hospital in Pennsylvania, but did not feel good about it.

In March I was rotated with Dr Harry Goldsmith, Chief of the Gastric service and Director of Fellowship program. One afternoon I was assisting him with a patient who had cancer of the pancreas. Dr Carl Brannan was first assistant, I was second assistant. Carl opened the belly, found the tumor. Dr Goldsmith felt that the tumor is too fixed, it's not operable. He asked Carl, "Carl, take a feel, see what you think." You can't disagree with the boss. So, Dr Goldsmith said with a finality, "Let's close."



Dr. Shah's parents: Premanand C. Shah, who was a high school principal, and Indira Mehta (Sarla ben Shah).

I interjected, "Dr. Goldsmith, can I take a feel?" Now, normally junior residents are not supposed to talk. But I thought, "Let me try." He said, "Oh, sure. Why not?" So, I palpated the tumor. There is a maneuver called the Kocher maneuver where you must mobilize the duodenum to be able to bimanually feel the head of the pancreas. I said, "Dr. Goldsmith, how can we call it inoperable unless we have Kocherized the duodenum and bimanually palpated the pancreas?" So he looks at me as if I'm talking Swahili: "Young man, have you done that operation before?" I said, "Yeah." "Where?" I replied, "In India, where I was a fully trained surgeon."

I know once I have a knife in my hand, it's like a golf club for a golfer. I mobilized the duodenum. I freed up the tumor, and Dr Goldsmith says, "Go on, go on. You are doing good." I did the whole operation in three hours as an operating surgeon with the two of them assisting. By 5:00 PM, we closed the patient's belly.

"What are you gonna do next year?" Dr Goldsmith asked, impressed. I said, "I had applied for the fellowship, but you turned me down. Now I have to go somewhere else." "No, no. Come and see me tomorrow," he said.

So next morning, I go to his office and he looks through his roster and says, "You belong to this place. Unfortunately, I don't have a fellowship position open next year. But if you can invest one year in research, I'll guarantee I'll give you the fellowship the following year." I said, "Let me talk to my wife." I went home.

We were living across the street from MSK in Manhattan. I told my wife, "Listen,

one year is not a big deal, but this could be a career changer, a breakthrough."

She says, "Whatever you want to do, no problem." I told Dr Goldsmith my decision the next day. During that year of research, I published 26 papers on different types of cancer - melanoma, breast cancer, skin cancer, et cetera. There is competition for the fellows for academic productivity. Not a single fellow in history had written 26 papers in one year. I received the Meller Award, given to the most academically productive fellow.

This is how I got the senior fellowship, one of three Indians in our group. As a fellow also, I invested a lot of time in writing and publishing - may have written 60, 70 papers.

Q What made you decide to specialize in head and neck oncology and excel at MSK?

A Dr. Shah: MSK treats all types of cancers from head to toe. During the two years of senior fellowship, you rotate through each department for three months. You have breast surgery for three months, colorectal, orthopedic surgery, gynecology, and head and neck. During those rotations, I found head and neck to be the most challenging. Because the anatomy there is very complex. If you look at the body, from head down -- heart, lungs, liver, stomach are all service organs. The master is the head which controls the rest of the body. It gives you senses, gives you vision, hearing, ability to talk, and the ability to express yourself to the world.

You can have heart transplant, lung, liver or kidney transplant, but you cannot have

head transplant. So, I got attracted to the head and neck because this is the master of the body.

H&N cancer surgery is very challenging because whatever happens here is visible to the world. You could be dying of advanced cancer in the stomach, and nobody will know. But if you get a tiny little cancer on the skin of the face, the whole world will see it. You get a tiny cancer on your tongue, you can't talk. It thus affects your functions. It affects your appearance and the quality of life. Treating H&N cancers requires the ability to retain and restore function and appearance. That's how I got attracted to the head and neck.

When I was finishing my fellowship, I had a great track record academically - a lot of publications, research, and excellence in surgery. Naturally, they offered me a faculty position, but on breast service. I went to Dr. Edward J. Beattie Jr, the chairman of surgery. I said, "I appreciate your offer, but I don't want to be a breast surgeon, there is no challenge there." After some back and forth, he says, "What do you want to do?" I said, "I want head and neck." He suggested, "Why don't you go and talk to Dr. Strong and if he accepts you, we'll take you on head and neck. No problem."

Dr E.W. Strong was the chief of the head and neck service at that time. I went to his office and said, "Dr. Strong, I'm finishing my fellowship in July, and the chairman has offered me a job, but I would like to join the head and neck service." He said, "Jay (what they used to call me here), your track record is excellent, and we would be happy to take you on. We are offering you a position. What are you offering us? In other words, what new things will you bring to the service?" I suggested learning and bringing reconstructive surgery to MSK, which we were not doing then.

I spent three months in Buffalo, learning reconstructive surgery from the master of that art at the time, Dr. Vahram Bakhmajian. From there I went for a month to Philadelphia to learn endoscopic procedures, which we were not doing. Then I found myself in Houston at MD Anderson Hospital for three months to see the integration of radiation with surgery to get the best out of both.

I came back to MSK to start as staff surgeon on January 1st, 1975. I was the youngest person on the service. There were 11 other surgeons, all white, and old-fashioned. Not accepting anything new - or me. "Let him work on whatever is left over," was their attitude. But that would change in time.

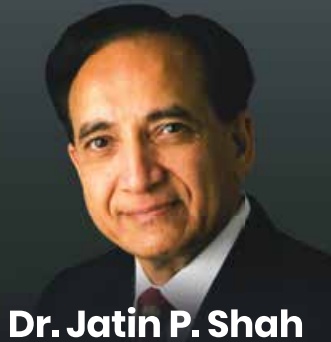
(Continued on page 8)



Currently Attending Surgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Jatin Shah holds the E.W. Strong Chair in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology.



Dr. Jatin Shah and Dr. Bharti Shah were married for 52 years till she passed away in 2019.



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

(Continued from page 7)

At that time microsurgery was developing around the world. Microsurgery is applied, for example, to reconnect chopped off fingers, reconnect them with the arteries and veins.

I wanted to develop microsurgery to bring one part of the body to the other, to reconstruct surgical defects after removal of cancer. In the absence of any available training programs in microsurgery, I acquired a microscope and started with rats in the laboratory. Under anesthesia, we'd take a knife and cut off their legs. Magnify and hook up the artery and the leg back. Out of 100, my last 30 rats survived with their legs intact. It was now time to take this technique to the operating room. Microsurgery was never done at MSK before.

Reconstruction is a component of surgery for head and neck cancer because removal of any significant part requires replacement. You can't remove a part of the tongue and not reconstruct or replace it because the person won't be able to talk or eat. You cannot remove your nose and not reconstruct. That's where my reconstructive instincts merged with head and neck surgery.

Microsurgery is the fundamental basis of modern-day reconstructive surgery. In the past, we used to move tissues from the forehead or the chest to the mouth or neck in multiple stages. It took a long time and looked ugly. Now, we can take a part of the jaw bone or swallowing passage and reconstruct with a piece of bone from the leg or a segment of intestine with its artery and vein and reconstruct the defect in a single stage on the same day when the cancer is removed. That was not possible in those days.

These are all new technologies, serving the increased emphasis on restoring the quality of life, not just curing cancer.

Q How were you selected as chief of Head and Neck Service at MSK?

A Dr. Shah: I joined the department in 1975. Dr. Strong stepped down in 1991. There was



Dr. Jatin Shah in his office standing next to a shelf of medical textbooks authored by him.

a search committee for his replacement. Originally, there were 30 candidates. I was the only internal candidate. They narrowed the list down to six people, me and five others, one Canadian, three Americans, and one German guy. I met with the members of the search committee. Eventually, my name was proposed to the president of the center, Dr Paul Marks. He called me and said, "Jay, the search committee has recommended you. What do you want?" I had already prepared a list of items which I would need to be a successful and effective chairman. I needed more laboratory space, ability to recruit surgeons, and ability to recruit PhDs for the labs, and so on.

Dr Marks said yes to all my requests. Then he asked me, "You didn't ask for a raise in your salary."

I said, "Dr. Marks, I presumed it would be natural. I didn't want to belittle the intelligence of the institution by asking for it."

The next day, I got a letter of my appointment doubling my salary.

When I took charge as chairman of the department, we had four surgeons. When I stepped down, there were 12, so I had recruited eight surgeons.

All of them were trained by us here, meaning they are the best of the best. Because when we take them for training for fellowship, we pick the best candidates in the country. And the best from those we recruit on the faculty. I can vouch that not a single member of the faculty that I have recruited has left the department.

Q What was Dr Bharti Gandhi's speciality?

A Dr. Shah: She was a gynecologist by training in India. When we came to the US, we had to decide. Both of us cannot be in academics, because then we would have no family life. Academic surgery means you are out 18 hours a day. So, she chose to be the partner to support me and changed her specialty from gynecology to anesthesia. Anesthesiologists have a short workday.

We built a dream house in New Rochelle, NY. She ran the house, and raised our daughter, Mili. She also worked initially here at Memorial for three years, and then in a private office in Westchester County.

She quit working in 2016, when signs of Alzheimer's started to appear. Yet, she participated in social activities, women's organizations and such. By 2018, pre-COVID, her condition was getting even worse. In 2019 she departed for her heavenly abode.

Q Tell us about your second wife, Dr. Ivana Petrovic?

A Dr. Shah: After Bharti passed away, I was obviously in grief for quite some time and decided to live alone in my big house. It was me and the housekeeper who had been with us for 40 years. Living alone was not very healthy because I would come to work, keep myself occupied. I go home and I look at the ceiling, and I have no interest in watching TV. So, I decided to get remarried a year and a half later.

I knew Dr Ivana Petrovic, a dentist, since 2013 when I met her in Germany. She was my research fellow from 2014-16 at MSK. During that time, I came to know her better, and then she decided to live in the United States.

She had to do her dental degree again at NYU and three years of residency in prosthodontics - implants and crowns and things like that. She had just started working when I called her one day and I asked, "Do you want to get married to me?" She sat back for a moment and said "Yes." This was in the peak of COVID. We decided to get married in February 2021. The wedding ceremony was on zoom, with friends joining in virtually. It may look odd, I married a woman nearly half my age. She was 38 then. We also planned a baby soon after. Her name Nia means "brightness" in Welsh, and she has indeed brought brightness to my life. She is 4 and half years old now.

Hand and neck cancer surgery is very challenging because whatever happens here is visible to the world. It affects your appearance and the quality of life. Treating H&N cancers requires the ability to retain and restore function and appearance. That's how I got attracted to this field of oncology.

Q Tell us more about your contributions in the Head & Neck department.

A Dr. Shah: There is increasing emphasis now on doing less and less radical surgery but still maintaining equal effectiveness in controlling cancer. For example, in the past, we were doing an operation called radical neck dissection, where we remove lymph glands from the jaw to the collarbone and from midline to back. And patients wound up with significant functional deformity afterward with drooping of the shoulder and limited range of motion, because we did not know which lymph nodes to remove. So we removed all.

In 1980, I published a research paper called 'Patterns of Neck Metastasis, from Head and Neck Cancer', which tells you which lymph nodes are involved early during the progression of the disease.

(Continued on page 10)



Dr. Jatin Shah was preceded by Dr. E.W. Strong (middle) as the Chief of the Head and Neck Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering and succeeded by Dr. Richard Wong.



In 2021, Dr. Shah married Dr. Ivana Petrovic Shah, a prosthodontist.

Behind every title and achievement is the man I see every day — thoughtful, generous, and deeply kind. Your strength has always been quiet, your excellence never loud.

Nia is growing up watching what it truly means to lead with integrity and love.

Being beside you is my greatest privilege.



To many, he is a visionary and a leader. To us, he is home. Our daughter and I are proud beyond words – not just of his achievements, but of the grace, kindness, and quiet strength with which he lives every day.

Ivana Petrovic Shah



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

(Continued from page 8)

I recommended we remove only that group of lymph nodes that are likely to be affected. I co-wrote a book on refinements in surgery. This work on Patterns of neck metastases, shifted paradigms from radical neck dissection to function preserving modified and selective neck dissections.

I have also published over 150 articles on thyroid cancer. The philosophy earlier was to remove the whole thyroid gland in all patients and give radioactive iodine treatment after that. That was totally unnecessary for small cancers. I wrote a paper on limited thyroidectomy in 1974. At the time some surgeons thought "This is stupid." Today, that is the standard of care.

So, it takes time for people to accept things. We live in a data-driven society. Unless there is data, nobody will believe you. Fortunately, in a place like Memorial Hospital, we have thousands of patients, so we can produce data.

When you put all this knowledge and understanding into training your fellows, it has a ripple effect because when they go home, they're going to practice what they have learned here. The message spreads and paradigm shifts. The approach ricochets across the world and becomes the standard of care. In that way, Memorial is the gold standard that if you're doing something here, and saying something here, that would be Accepted globally. But the issue is that Memorial itself cannot push it to the globe. Somebody has to pick it up and make it a mission.

Q And you made it your mission.

A Dr. Shah: At Memorial Hospital, we get many young doctors from all parts of the world who come as observers to watch and see what we do. They spend from two weeks

to three months, and take home the ideas, the concepts, the techniques, and improve the quality of care that they deliver. But that is on their initiative.

There was no global platform where experts from all over the world can get together in one site, one location periodically to exchange ideas, share research, and share experiences. There was a need for an international body to put everybody on the same platform.

So in the mid-1980s, I thought of developing an international organization like that. At that time, I was secretary of the Society of Head and Neck Surgeons in the United States. I proposed my idea to the executive committee. They were supportive and approved the concept and let me execute the idea myself.

I began by sending out 50 aérograms to people whose contacts I had. The steering committee meeting in London was attended

If it is early-stage cancer, surgery or radiation is enough. You don't need chemotherapy. If the cancer is in an advanced stage, then you need surgery, radiation, and chemo, all three. Surgery and radiation to control where it occurs and chemotherapy to prevent it or treat microscopic disease all over the body.

by 16 people. I proposed an international federation to develop as a means of communication. An initial mission was to create a world directory of head and neck surgeons in every part of the world. A second mission was to have quadrennial world congresses.

The International Federation of Head and Neck Oncological Societies (IFHNOS) was formed in 1987. Today, we have 72 national societies from 58 countries in the world as members. And we can reach over 45,000 head and neck surgeons around the world. The quadrennial world congresses were held in Bombay, followed by Rio de Janeiro, Prague, Seoul, New York, Buenos Aires and Rome.

I continue to serve as the CEO of IFHNOS.



Dr. Jatin Shah has delivered tens of named Orations, Eponymous lectures and keynote addresses in India and many parts of the world.

Q For the public who may not know, what is the difference between chemotherapy and radiation in cancer treatment?

A Dr. Shah: Surgery and radiation therapy are treatments focused in that part of the body where the cancer is. For example, surgery doesn't prevent cancer from spreading elsewhere. It can take out from the part where you see the cancer. Similarly, radiation can kill cancer cells where you give the radiation. It has no systemic effect.

Chemotherapy entails a drug or drugs that travel through the blood all over the body and therefore, theoretically, it would affect any cancer cell anywhere in the body.

Now, if that is all true, then everybody should get chemotherapy. But the answer is no, because chemotherapy drugs are toxic. Unless you have disease, which has already spread to other parts of the body, or is likely to spread to other parts of the body, you don't recommend chemotherapy because you will inject the toxicity without the benefit.

If it is early stage cancer, surgery or radiation is enough. You don't need chemotherapy. If the cancer is in an advanced stage, then you need surgery, radiation, and chemo, all three. Surgery and radiation to control where it occurs and chemotherapy to prevent it or treat microscopic disease all over the body.

If you need chemotherapy, the probability of cure drops down to 10-15%.

Q How does cancer develop? How to prevent it?

A Dr. Shah: The biology or the process of genesis of cancer is impossible to convey in a brief conversation. Basically, continued irritation, whether it is chemical irritation, biochemical or mechanical irritation to a cell, will lead the cell to multiply in an uncontrolled manner and start growing in response to that trauma. That unlimited growth is cancer.

Not many would know that alcohol affects the surface lining where it touches the body. All areas from lips to mouth, to throat, to esophagus are chemically irritated by alcohol. Together with tobacco, whether chewing or smoking, is like adding fuel to fire, inviting cancer.

So, one proven means of preventing cancer is cessation of smoking and drinking, if you indulge. And if you don't consume, then don't start.

There are certain types of cancer which are hereditary. But they are in a minority. For example, breast cancer has a gene that can be inherited. But not all breast cancers. Similarly, there is one type of thyroid cancer called medullary carcinoma, that is often inherited. And some ovarian cancers are inherited.

Q Can you talk about the contribution of Indian origin doctors in America.

A Dr. Shah: They have made a huge contribution. Indian doctors form 33% of the medical workforce in the United States. Many of them are now in academic practice. Early on, when I came to this country in the '70s, most of them were in private practice because that's where the money was and many stayed in private practice. But as the years went by, the bright people realized that private practice is not their milieu. They need to be in academia, at universities. And now in every university medical center, you have an Indian person leading one or the other group.

Q When people with diseases like cancer lose hope, they try out alternative medicine. We come from India and take naturally to ayurveda, nature cure, yoga and meditation. Do these therapies help?

A Dr. Shah: We are in 2025. We live in a scientific world. We are in a data-driven world. Unless there is an approach, a treatment, or a program, or a supplement which has scientific basis, and supportive data, it is all hocus pocus.

IFHNOS.net, website of the organization founded by Dr. Shah, has educational material available such as lectures, videos of operative procedures.

Thanks to Dr. Jatin Shah, his office and all contributors for providing the photos in the feature & displays.



Dr. Shah says that his daughter from Dr. Ivana, named Nia (meaning "brightness" in Welsh) has brought brightness into his life.

Mr Ali Dogramachi is the esteemed contributor of the page/tribute on page 5.



A father is someone for whom you never outgrow your need.



Always remember - I love you, Dad. ❤️

FROM MILI



THE FAMOUS FIVE FAMILIES



Pravina Mehta, Dinesh Mehta, Bhupendra Tolia, Mamta Shaha, Saroj Shah, Jatin Shah, Indravadan Shah, Chandrika Tolia, Ashok Shaha and Bharti Shah.



The South Asian Times

excellence in journalism



Dear Jatin,

CONGRATULATIONS FOR THIS WELL DESERVED RECOGNITION OF YOUR CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS. WE TAKE PRIDE IN THIS HONOR AND WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE. THE BOND OF OUR FRIENDSHIP HAS LASTED OVER HALF A CENTURY. NOW WE PRAY THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL CONTINUE THIS FRIENDSHIP FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Pravina, Chandrika, Mamta, Indravadan, Bhupendra and Ashok



The second and third generations



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

Grateful for Dr. Shah's role in making MSK world's leading authority on cancer

Congratulations to Dr. Jatin Shah on this distinguished honor from The South Asia Times. The award recognizes Dr. Shah's significant academic achievements in head and neck surgery - including patient care, research, and teaching - during his exceptional 50-year career at MSK. Dr. Shah's dedication, expertise, skills and talent have changed countless lives. We are grateful for his role in making MSK the world's leading authority on cancer and for his numerous contributions to our mission of ending cancer for life.

Selwyn M. Vickers, MD

President and CEO,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,
New York

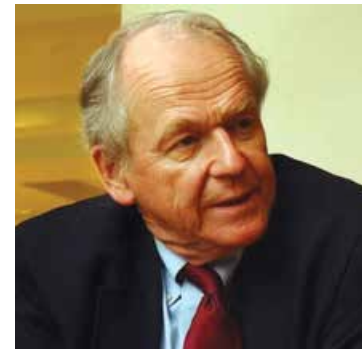


Dr. Selwyn Vickers and Dr. Jatin Shah at the entrance to MSKCC.

His impact on quality of care of patients is legendary

It is indeed a matter of pride, privilege, and honor for me to write this congratulatory message. I have known Dr. Jatin Shah for over 40 years and worked with him as a colleague during this time. He is a leading surgeon scientist, outstanding surgeon, educator, teacher, mentor, and humanitarian who chaired the Department of Head and Neck Surgery at the world-famous Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) for 23 years.

He is an iconic figure in our specialty worldwide. Dr. Shah has made a global impact on patients with cancer through outstanding patient care, training hundreds of surgeons at MSKCC and teaching and educating thousands of surgeons worldwide, which has resulted in longer life and better quality of life for patients afflicted with cancer. His illustrious career is worth emulating by the next several generations of cancer surgeons, but admittedly hard to achieve. He has excelled in every domain of the medical profession



Dr. Murray Brennan

making a major impact in the world in general and India in particular. Dr. Jatin Shah, is arguably, a unique individual, whose contributions to medical science, efforts in educating physicians around the globe, and thus impacting on quality of care of patients is legendary. He truly is a son of Mother India who makes us all proud.

Murray Brennan, MD

Senior Vice President for International Programs,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,
New York

He shaped head and neck oncology worldwide

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Jatin P. Shah on being named The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025. This honor is a fitting tribute to a truly legendary physician, educator, and humanitarian whose work has shaped head and neck oncology across the world.

Dr. Shah's remarkable 50-year tenure at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, including more than two decades as Chief of the Head and Neck Service, reflects a level of dedication and excellence rarely

As the most cited head and neck surgeon globally, and the author of the definitive textbook in the field, Dr. Shah's academic and clinical contributions have transformed patient care for generations.

seen in medicine. As the most cited head and neck surgeon globally, and the author of the definitive textbook in the field, his academic and clinical contributions have transformed patient care for generations.

Beyond his professional achievements, I deeply admire Dr. Shah's quiet philanthropy and commitment to mentoring young surgeons through the Jatin and Bharti Shah Family Foundation. His compassion, integrity, and lifelong service continue to inspire all of us. This recognition is richly deserved.

Martin R. Weiser, MD

Acting Chair, Department of Surgery,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,
New York



Dr. Martin R. Weiser

Proud to have been mentored by Dr. Shah

Dr. Jatin P. Shah has had a profound and enduring impact on the field of head and neck surgical oncology. With over half a century of surgical mastery, clinical innovation, mentorship, and international leadership, he is one of the most influential architects of modern head and neck surgery.

Dr. Shah has made innumerable clinical discoveries while leading and creating the most impactful organizations in our specialty. Through his deep commitment to education, he has shaped the development of a generation of head and neck surgeons, many of whom have gone on to become leaders themselves. His influence extends worldwide, as he has cultivated a global community of head and neck surgeons who collaborate to improve healthcare delivery, inquiry, and education internationally.

I am extremely proud to have been trained by Dr. Shah during my Fellowship and throughout my career at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Shah possesses a unique ability to distill surgical principles, professional guidance, and life advice into clear and powerful lessons.

I am particularly proud to have been named Jatin P. Shah Chair in

Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology. The honor of carrying his name accompanies a responsibility to continue promoting the exceptional standards that Dr. Shah has set. It has been an enormous privilege to have been mentored by Dr. Shah, a revered leader who has taught and inspired me, and many others, as a consummate

role model and the most influential figure in my career.

Richard J. Wong, MD, FACS

Chief, Head & Neck Service,
Jatin P. Shah Chair in Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,
New York



Dr. Jatin Shah and Dr. Richard Wong, his successor as Chief, Head & Neck Service at MSKCC, in Dr. Shah's office.



Jatin P. Shah

MD, PhD (Hon), DSC (Hon)

Excellence Honored



Honorary Fellowships & Doctorates



**Royal College
of Surgeons of
England**

Hon. FDSRCS. 1998



**Royal College of
Surgeons of Edinburgh**

Hon. FRCS. 1998
Hon. FRCSDS. 2014



**Royal Australian
College of
Surgeons**

Hon. FRACS. 2001



**Royal College
of Surgeons of
Ireland**

Hon. FRCS. 2018



**King George Medical
University Lucknow,
India**

Hon. D Sc 2014



**National and
Kapodistrian
University of
Athens, Greece**

Hon. Ph D. 2007



**Catholic
University of
Louvain, Belgium**

Hon. Ph D. 2008



**Xavier University of
Medicine Aruba**

Hon. Doctorate 2023



**Honorary
Professor - 2024
Chinese Academy
of Medical
Sciences**

Honorary Memberships In Professional Organizations

- Brazilian Society for Head and Neck Surgery (1982)
- Association of Surgeons of India (1984)
- Association of Otolaryngologists of India (1985)
- South African Society of Head and Neck Oncology (1986)
- Panamanian Society of Oncology (1994)
- Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Society (1997)
- Australian Society of ORL/Head & Neck Surgery (1997)
- Royal Belgian Society of Surgery (2000)
- Korean Society of Head and Neck Oncology (2001)
- Philippine Academy of Head and Neck Surgery (2003)
- Israeli Society of Otolaryngology/ Head and Neck Surgery (2003)
- Israeli Society of Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology (2003)
- Societas Latina Capitis et Colli (2004)
- Italian Society of ORL and Cervicofacial Surgery (2004)
- Hellenic Association for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (2007)
- Oral Surgery Club of Great Britain (2010)
- Polish Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (2010)
- Italian Head and Neck Society (2010)
- Pirogov Society, Russia (2010)
- Asian Society of Head & Neck Oncology (2014)
- German Society of ORL/Head and Neck Surgery (2016)



DR. JATIN SHAH

You charted the uncharted
You turned surgical science into compassionate art
Where knowledge, empathy and innovation met at the operating table
You wielded the scalpel as a sanctuary of hope and renewal

Our heartfelt congratulations for receiving

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



SHILPA & PRAFUL SHAH



Landmarks in a Lifetime of Achievements

A medical graduate from India, Dr. Jatin Shah not only went on to lead a department in one of the most prestigious cancer hospitals in the world, but he also advanced the study and treatment of head and neck cancer, earning laurels aplenty.



Dr. Jatin Shah assumed the position of Chief of the Head and Neck Surgery Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 1992.



Dr. Elliott Strong passed the baton of the Chairmanship of the Head and Neck Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to Dr. Shah in 1992.



Dr. Shah with the officers and members of the Executive Committee of the Society of Head and Neck surgeons during his Presidency in 1992.



The Chancellor and members of the Senate of University of Athens, Greece, conferring Honorary Ph.D. degree on Dr. Jatin Shah in 2007.



Dr. Jatin Shah was conferred the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2009, recognizing his service, leadership, and compassion while contributing to the nation and honoring his Indian heritage.



Members of the Council of the Royal College of surgeons of Edinburgh conferring Honorary FRCS in Surgery on Dr Jatin Shah in 2014 – Sir DFN Harrison, Dr. Eugene Myers, President Dr. Arnold Maran, Dr. Jatin Shah and Dr. Patrick Bradley.



Dr. Shah with members of the traveling faculty of the World Tour program of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) in Taiwan in 2017.



Ms Sonali Bendre, Ms Priya Dutt, Dr. Jatin Shah, Dr. Sewanti Limaye, Dr. Bhujang Pai and Mr. Rakesh Roshan at the opening ceremony of the Memorial Sloan Kettering's satellite center in Chennai, India in 2021.



Dr. Jatin Shah, Mr. Michael Douglas, Mrs. Daman Chatwal, Mr. Sant Singh Chatwal, Mrs. Manju Batra, Mr. Ravi Batra and Dr. Ivana Petrovic Shah at a celebration in September 2025 of Dr. Shah completing 50 years of service at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

Celebrating Jatin, Forever!

A Great Friend! A Great American!

**An Amazing Surgeon Who Beats Cancer & Helped
MSK To Be A Global Leader!**



*With parents during his
medical school years*



*Dr. Jatin Shah, Attending Surgeon and EW Strong Chair in
Head and Neck Oncology, speaking at the Golden Jubilee
celebration of his career at Memorial Sloan Kettering.*



*Ranju Batra, Dr. Jatin Shah,
Dr. Ivana Petrovic Shah, and Ravi Batra*



Michael Douglas, Ravi Batra and Dr. Shah



*Relaxing at the beach in Boracay Island in
Philippines during a conference*

**Proud of you! Love you!
Keep going strong forever!**

Ranju & Ravi Batra



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

Dr. Shah improved the standards of treatment and surgery



Prof. Hisham Mehanna

Professor Jatin Shah has been a leading light in head and neck cancer management for decades. Through his books, lectures and videos, he has taught many generations both the management of and surgical techniques for this disease. The clarity of description of the procedures in those books makes reading them as if one is there in person.

His vision did not stop there. He then established IFHNOS (International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies), and through that has touched the lives of

many clinicians and through them, many more patients. His global initiative for head neck cancer training has improved the standards of treatment and surgery across the world.

He then extended this further through online teaching courses. That vision – which shows no bounds – has served as a template for those of us who have tried to follow in his footsteps and to make a mark on the specialty.

I personally have benefited many times from my relationship and interactions with this great man. And I will be forever indebted to him for his generosity in his teachings, his time and his advice.

Prof Hisham Mehanna, FMedSci, PhD

BMedSc (hons), MB ChB (hons), FRCS
Chair, Head and Neck Cancer International Group
Director, Institute for Head and Neck Studies and Education (InHANSE),
University of Birmingham, UK

Medicine is better because of Dr. Shah's leadership and vision

I have known Dr. Jatin P. Shah for over 30 years, and throughout that time he has remained the same steady, dependable presence—someone you can count on in both calm and challenging moments. He is truly a “rain or shine” individual, guided by integrity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Dr. Shah's remarkable 50 years of uninterrupted service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center stands as a testament to his lifelong dedication to medicine. His impact is felt worldwide—from his extensive contributions to scientific literature to his extraordinary role in training and mentoring Residents and Fellows from over 60 countries. Yet, beyond his achievements, what truly distinguishes Dr. Shah is his patience, compassion, and genuine care for both his patients and his students.

Medicine is better because of Dr. Shah's leadership, generosity, and vision. I extend my warmest congratulations to



Ravishankar Bhoopapur

him on being named The South Asian Times – Person of the Year 2025. This recognition is richly deserved.

Ravi Bhoopapur

President
Xavier University School of Medicine, Aruba

A true global surgical icon

On behalf of The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland I want to extend our congratulations to Dr Jatin Shah who has been named for the prestigious “The South Asian Times-Person of the Year 2025”.

Dr Shah's global contribution to Head and Neck Cancer surgery is well documented. His fingerprints are in all Head and Neck surgical advances in the last 50 years. He has encouraged, mentored, motivated and supported hundreds and thousands of surgeons and physicians all around the world. He has been a doctor, a surgeon



Prof. James Paul O'Neill

and a friend to all his patients. He has extraordinary empathy and compassion.

On a personal level he has been incredibly supportive of me and continues to fuel my motivation for surgical oncology and academic surgical training. He is a close friend and a true global surgical icon. Bravo. The South Asian Times!

James Paul O'Neill

Professor of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery,
The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland,
Dublin, Ireland

His legacy extends through his students like me

My association with Prof Jatin P Shah has been one of guidance, generosity, and deep trust. Through his lifelong dedication to advancing head and neck cancer care and educating future surgeons, he has opened doors not only to knowledge, but to possibility. His passion for teaching goes beyond instruction—it is an invitation to grow, to question, and to believe that meaningful impact is always within reach. He consistently creates opportunities for others, offering support, encouragement, and advocacy.

From him, I gained confidence in my abilities and the motivation to aim higher than I once thought possible. Everything he has

taught me, and every opportunity he has given me, I carry back to my own country, where his influence continues through my work and the lives it touches. In that way, his legacy extends far beyond borders, shaping patients, professionals, and futures around the world.



Dr. Cristina Valero

Cristina Valero, MD, PhD, MSc

Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau
Barcelona, Spain

Many patients and surgeons believe he should be awarded Person of the Century!



Dr. Robbie Woods

Dr Jatin Shah is well known as the leading figure in Head & Neck surgery worldwide, devoting his whole career to improving care of cancer patients. Not only this, but he has been an inspiring mentor to surgeons across the world, always willing to provide advice and guidance, day or night.

His award of Person of

the Year 2025 by The South Asian Times is well deserved. Many patients and surgeons believe he should be awarded Person of the Century!

Robbie Woods

Consultant Head & Neck Surgeon
Honorary Clinical Associate
Professor
Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre,
Ireland

Dr. Shah has made the world a better place

We are pleased to congratulate Dr. Jatin Shah on the well-deserved honor of being named Person of the Year 2025.

Our friendship and association with Dr. Shah goes back many years and this honor is just one of many we have celebrated with him over the course of his illustrious career.

His knowledge, expertise, caring and philanthropy has impacted thousands of people worldwide

and we applaud him both as a physician and a man that has made the world a better place simply by his presence.

We join the South Asian Times in recognizing Dr. Shah's unique and essential contributions to our world and pray he enjoys many more years of health and happiness.

Drs Leena & Nitin Doshi

Doshi Family Foundation
New York



Drs Leena & Nitin Doshi

Congratulations, My Friend
Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



“You are not only among the world’s top living oncologists, known and honored time and again for your contributions in advancing treatment of head and neck cancers, but also a visionary leader and great humanitarian. The Indian American community is proud of you. And I am proud to call you my friend.”

Padma Bhushan Sant Chatwal





Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Developing Leadership - Nurturing Leaders

All great doctors may not be great leaders. Leadership is an inherent talent and is certainly not taught in medical school. But Dr. Jatin Shah displayed leadership qualities even as a youth in India. After moving to America, he went on to lead national organizations and launch international bodies and transform the discipline of head and neck oncological surgery. Here is what he shared with The South Asian Times.

Q The South Asian Times: You say you were a born leader...

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Well, a leader has to have the vision to see something that does not exist and conceive it to make it a reality. He / she has to demonstrate that their vision can be made into a reality and when that happens a "following" develops, lifting that person to be a leader. An example is, when I was an Intern at Baroda Medical College, we were getting paid a measly sum of Rs 60 a month (12 dollars in the 1960s). We wanted the salary to be raised to Rs 120. That required convincing the state government to do so. So, I led a movement in the State of Gujarat wherein Residents from Ahmedabad Medical College and Jamnagar Medical College joined us. We met with the state's Health Minister and succeeded in getting a 100% raise.

When I became a Resident, or as Houseman as we call it in India, I became the leader of the Houseman group (President of the Resident's Council) and remained in that position for four years from 1963-67 at Baroda Medical College, before coming to America.

Q What is leadership?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Leadership is an inner instinct. Leaders are born. You can nurture and steer yourself into leadership, but you must have the inner strength to be one.

Leaders have the ability to see something in the sky and know the importance of that. They also know how to materialize that and



Leadership... An inherent strength all along
President of Resident's Council - 1965

A leader already in his twenties. Dr. Jatin Shah (center) was the President of the Resident's Council during his surgical training at Baroda Medical College and SSG Hospital in Vadodra, India.

what resources it will take. They already have a timeline in their mind to approach the issue, phase by phase, until it becomes reality.

Suddenly then, people start seeing it, too, and they start believing in it. "Oh my God, you know, he was talking about this last year. And look, it's here. It's happening." Then they become your follow-

ers. You are not only able to create, but also are able to offer it to others. That is the inner strength of leadership.

Q Doctors generally do not have a background in management, not to speak of leadership training.

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Yes, the primary work of a doctor is to treat patients. But there are other parts of the medical profession, where you're a scientist, researcher, an innovator, a teacher, a trainer, or an administrator and even a leader.

But, yes, if I say one out of 50 doctors is a leader, it's probably too many. Because leadership requires sacrifice of time and to a certain degree personal life. If you spend that much time operating, you'll make more money. Leadership doesn't make money.

All the same, the satisfaction and gratification of leadership is different. It certainly is an ego booster.

Q What shape does leadership take in real life?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: The head of a department is not necessarily a leader. He / she certainly has administrative capabilities and responsibilities. But, leadership does not require only administration. Leadership is identified by, say, your election as president of a national organization. The presi-

dent of an international body. Because people then look up to you and want to emulate you, they want to emulate your career and do what you are doing. They ask themselves, "How can I be a "Dr. Smith", who is number one in the world?"

So, you become a role model not only for young people, but for mid-career people also.

Q Then, what do leaders do with their position?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Yes, you become the center of attention. But there comes a point where what you have discovered and achieved must be shared because you cannot keep it all to yourself.

You need to stimulate and nurture bright, energetic and young people to be new leaders. A true leader is one who is not identified by how high he gets, but how many leaders he makes, to quote Joseph Ogura.

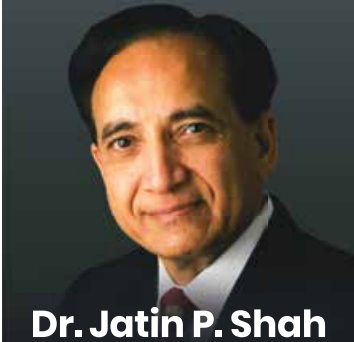
So, in other words, your trainees, your juniors, your subordinates are not only given an opportunity but are stimulated and also shown a path to leadership.

Dr. Shah's 6 Leadership Lessons

1. When your profession is your passion, excellence excludes day in and day out. But, if your profession is "work", then mediocrity will perpetuate. So, try to make your profession your passion.
2. American author Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Go not where the path may lead you, but go where there is no path, and leave a trail behind."
3. The true quality of a leader is not "How high he gets", but "how many leaders he makes". (Joseph Ogura)

4. The biggest joy for a Master / Mentor Surgeon is when he sees his trainee operate better than him.
5. In surgery, the decision to operate is more important than the operation. That is why it is often said that "The decision is more important than the incision."
6. Leaders have a vision to see something that does not exist and have the capacity to conceptualize and materialize it. This leads to the herd who believe in them and follow them.





Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Pathways to Leadership

Going beyond the demands of his job as a head and neck surgeon, Dr. Jatin Shah took keen interest in leading professional organizations in his field, creating some where none existed, to share knowledge and foster collaborations to take patient care to another level.



1979 & 1984

New York Head and Neck Society

Noting the poor attendance at the annual meeting of the Society of Head and Neck Surgeons in Pittsburgh in 1978, we (Carl Silver, Rene Khafif, Moses Nussbaum and myself) felt that we could have a larger meeting of Head and Neck Specialists just in New York. That led to a follow up meeting in New York, with eventual establishment of the New York H&N Society, with me serving as its first program Chairman. I then became President in 1984.



1985

New York Cancer Society

New York Cancer Society was an old well-established multidisciplinary organization serving the tristate area. However, leadership by surgeons in this organization was lacking. Dr. William Grace was the main person running it. I brought this to his attention and offered my services. He was receptive and eventually through a due process of election I was elected President in 1985.



1987

IFHNOS

Up until the mid-ninety eighties there was no international body to have a common platform for head and neck surgeons from around the world to meet and exchange knowledge and experiences. I presented this as a concept to the Executive committee of the Society of Head and Neck Surgeons. This was enthusiastically received and encouraged me to go ahead. In 1986, at the meeting of 4 head and neck and surgical oncology societies from USA and UK, a steering committee meeting was held. Representatives from 16 national societies attended. The IFHNOS was founded at that meeting, and I was elected to be the first Secretary General. I continue to serve as its CEO till date. Today IFHNOS has 72 national member societies from 58 countries, with a reach of over 45,000 H&N surgeons around the world.

IFHNOS conducts quadrennial world congresses, annual Summits, offers online training and education programs and has numerous learning tools on its website. This is the largest and only global organization in the field of Head and Neck surgery and oncology.



1991

The Society of Head and Neck Surgeons (SHNS)

The Society of Head and Neck Surgeons (SHNS) was the oldest and the first national organization for head and neck surgeons founded by Hayes Martin in 1954. I joined the society in 1975 and worked my way up serving on its education committee and eventually chairing it. In that capacity I introduced and conducted postgraduate courses in head and neck surgery presented at the annual clinical congresses of the American College of Surgeons, giving national exposure to the SHNS. I was then elected as Secretary of the society for four years and eventually became its President in 1991.



Till that time, I was the youngest President of the Society in its history.



1968 -

MSKCC

I joined MSKCC as a junior Resident in training in 1968. During my Fellowship I published 26 peer reviewed articles and won the Meller Award for being the most productive Fellow. This led to my recruitment on the Head and Neck Service as a member of the faculty in 1975. During the next 15 years I developed a microsurgical laboratory, introduced several post graduate courses, developed new surgical procedures, and conducted clinical research which shifted paradigms from radical surgery to function preserving modified operations. I also developed a Fellowship training program supported by the National Cancer Institute. In addition, I had already gained national and international visibility with several leadership positions. All these activities lead to my appointment as Chief of the Head and Neck Service at MSKCC in 1992. During my tenure of 23 years the service rose to an Internationally dominant number one head and neck surgery and oncology department in the world, offering the best clinical care, outstanding research opportunities and a training program second to none in the world.



1998 - 2016

The American Joint Committee on Cancer

The American Joint Committee on Cancer is a national body organized by the American College of Surgeons. One of its major functions is to develop staging systems for cancers. Having served on the Commission of Cancer of the American College of Surgeons, and showing them my interest, ideas and vision, I was elected to lead the staging committee for H&N Cancer. I chaired this committee for 18 years, the longest any one had served in that capacity. During this period three revisions of the staging system for H&N cancer took place, culminating in the eighth edition of the AJCC staging system, which remains current to date.



2004

North American Skull Base Society

I introduced skull base surgery at MSKCC in 1976, and developed the skull base program, with innovations in techniques and reporting of outcomes data. For the first time a global study on skull base surgery outcomes was reported by me. This productivity led to my election as President of the North American Skull Base Society in 2004. I am the only general surgeon who ever served as President of NASBS in its history.



2005

International Academy of Oral Oncology

Surgery for oral cancer is being done around the world by Head and Neck Surgeons as well as Maxillofacial surgeons coming from a Dental background. However, there was no common platform for these two groups of specialists to exchange ideas and experiences. I conceived the idea for the need for such an organization, and along with Crispian Scully, John Langdon, Alexis Ravidis and Jean Louis LeFebvre, established the International Academy of Oral Oncology in 2005. I served as its President from 2005-2009. The Academy conducts international conferences every two years. I continue to serve as Chairman of its council to date.



2014 - The Centennial Conference

Head and Neck Service at MSKCC

The year 2014 marked 100 years since the establishment of the Head and Neck Service at MSKCC. To celebrate this momentous occasion, a joint world congress of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) and the American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) was held at the Marriott Marquis in New York City in July 2014. This conference drew over 3,250 attendees from 78 countries in the world. This was the largest conference ever in history in the field of H&N surgery. I conceived, organized and conducted this conference, a crown jewel in my leadership activities in my career.



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

Kudos, my friend and colleague at MSKCC

Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, you have distinguished yourself not only as a surgeon extraordinaire but also as an outstanding teacher and researcher whose influence has shaped generations of physicians and advanced the frontiers of oncological care.

Your dedication to excellence in patient care, medical education, and scientific research has set the highest standard in our field. The impact of your work resonates

across continents, improving outcomes and offering hope to countless patients and their families.

I am proud to have been your close friend and colleague for over five decades at Memorial Sloan Kettering and Cornell Medical School. It has been an honor to witness your remarkable career and the extraordinary difference you have made in the lives of so many.

With warmest regards and heartfelt congratulations,

Dr. Dattatreyyudu Nori, M.D., F.A.C.R., F.A.S.T.R.O

Advisor to the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for cancer services
Former Chief of Brachytherapy Service, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York, &
Professor & Chairman, Rad-Onc Cornell Medical Center, Cornell University.
Awarded Padma Shri by the Indian government.

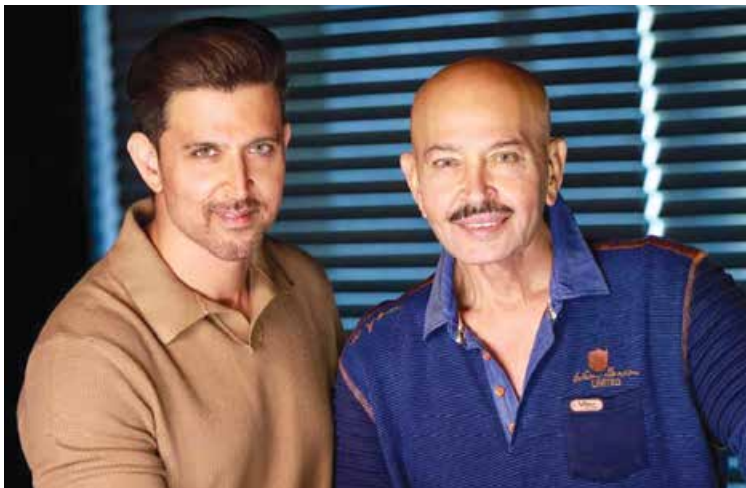


Dr. Dattatreyyudu Nori

Congratulations, Dr Jatin Shah, on receiving the Person of the Year award from The South Asian Times. This recognition is truly well-deserved and long overdue.

Your legendary contributions to head and neck oncology have saved thousands of patients worldwide. As a Professor at Cornell Medical College and Chief of Head and Neck Service at Memorial

Dr Shah's expertise made me cancer-free



Actor-director Rakesh Roshan with superstar son Hrithik Roshan.

I am writing to express my profound gratitude and to congratulate Dr. Jatin Shah on receiving the prestigious The South Asian Times Person of The Year 2025 honor. As a former patient, I truly believe he is the most deserving head and neck surgeon for this recognition.

My journey with Dr. Jatin Shah began in December 2017 when I was diagnosed with Carcinoma of the tongue. After consulting with many doctors in India without achieving a satisfactory outcome, my son, Hrithik Roshan, contacted Dr. Shah due to his extensive experience, including the similar surgery

he performed on Michael Douglas, a famous Hollywood actor.

Within a week Dr. Shah flew down to Mumbai. On my first meeting, just seeing his personality made me feel 50% cured.

Dr. Jatin Shah successfully performed the complicated surgery without leaving any surgical marks on my face or neck. His subsequent recommendation for high-strength chemotherapy and radiation resulted in my complete recovery.

It has now been almost seven years with no symptoms, which stands as a clear testament to his expertise. My family and I are indebted to him forever.

God bless. Sincerely,

Rakesh Roshan
(Actor / Producer / Director)
Mumbai, India

es and courses. He chose me as a member of the executive committee of IFHNOS (International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies) some years ago.

On every occasion, we learnt a lot from his science and his wisdom. I always remember and cite the lofty words he speaks when he is visiting any country: "I am a rich man, I came here rich and I am leaving richer. But my wealth is not in money it is in friendship, and it increases with more and more friends I am adding to my list."

He is the GREATEST.

Prof. Hesham Negm

Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, Egypt

A wealth of friends Dr. Shah makes the world over

Dr. Jatin Shah is the legend of Head and Neck surgery all over the world for more than half a century.

I have been privileged with his friendship for a long time. We have been together all around the world, in different congress-



Prof. Hesham Negm with Dr. Jatin Shah

The face of head and neck oncological surgery in the world



Dr. Jeremy Freeman presented Dr. Jatin Shah the award for his keynote lecture at the World Congress on Thyroid Cancer in 2009.

It is my honor and pleasure to write a letter to The South Asian Times as a testimonial to Dr. Jatin P. Shah as he is chosen Person of the Year 2025. It is an honor well-earned and I congratulate him and offer supreme respect for his lifetime of achievement.

I have known Dr Shah as a colleague and close friend for over 40 years. He has been the face of head and neck oncological surgery in the world for the last 50 years. He has been a clinician, a surgeon, a scientist, and a researcher with unparalleled success.

His productivity can be measured in a third-party fashion by Google Scholar, which cites 82,000 citations in the literature. He has an H-index of 162, which means that he is probably No 1 productive surgeon scientist in the world. He has published a jaw dropping 672 peer-reviewed publications. Just as a matter of comparison, an H-index of 20 in his realm is considered excellent.

Dr. Shah has several honorary degrees and countless academic awards. He has garnered accolades and honors light years ahead of any other surgeon in the world. He is revered in the world as a peerless surgeon, teacher and innovator.

Besides publishing numerous land-

mark papers, he has found the time to be philanthropic to many worthy causes in addition to being committed to his community and his family. He has founded many academic surgical societies and has served on the board of every important surgical organization in the world.

He has been a leader in the surgical community internationally as well as occupied for two decades the most important leadership position in his field in the world - chief of the Head and Neck Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. All that makes Dr. Shah stand head and shoulders above all others as a pillar of the head and neck oncological community.

An intangible that I have always admired is his personal work ethic and his grit in achieving the pinnacle as a clinician, surgeon, scientist and researcher in the realm of head and neck oncology.

Jeremy L. Freeman, OOnt, MD, FRCSC, FACS

Professor of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto
Temmy Latner/Dynacare Chair in Head and Neck Oncology
Executive of World Congress on Thyroid Cancer



MESSAGE



Sudhir M. Parikh, M.D.

Chairman-Center for Asthma & Allergy
 Chairman-Allergy Asthma Associates of Murray Hill
 Chairman & Publisher-Parikh World Wide Media and ITV Gold
 Chairman-1st Global
 Secretary General of (GAPIC)
 Senior Advisor & Patron Trustee of AAPI Charitable Foundation
 Padma Shri Awardee 2010
 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardee 2006
 Ellis Island Medal of Honor 2005
 Knights of Malta 2012

My lifelong friend and fellow physician **Dr. Jatin Shah** being recognized as **"Person of the Year 2025"** brings me great happiness. Kudos to South Asian Times for recognizing his greatness!

Dr. Shah is a family friend of 45 years standing. Our children grew up together; we went on family vacations and attended conventions together. We have a genuine friendship, one without any expectations.

He embodies all the great qualities a physician should have- humility- despite a global reputation as a top Head & Neck surgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, endears him to his patients, friends and colleagues.

His accomplishments are unparalleled - Ellis Island Medal of Honor, seven honorary doctorate degrees, author of more than 14 books, including 'Jatin Shah's Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology' (acknowledged as a bible in its field).

It is befitting that his **"Person of the Year"** recognition coincides with completing 50 years of service at Sloan Kettering, where he was Chief of the Head and Neck Surgery service for more than two decades.

SUDHIR M. PARIKH, M.D., FACAAI

Founder and Chairman

Diplomate of American Board of Allergy and Immunology,
 Clinical Associate Professor-RWJ Med School

PURVI PARIKH, M.D., FACP

Vice Chairman

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
 NYU School of Medicine.

CENTER FOR ASTHMA & ALLERGY (New Jersey)
 ASTHMA ALLERGY MEDICAL CARE (New York)

ALLERGY & ASTHMA ASSOCIATES OF MURRAY HILL (New York City)

Sreenivasrao Amara, M.D.
 Rachel Bautista, M.D.
 Herb Chin, P.A.
 Grace DeLa Cruz P.A.
 Paul Ehrlich, M.D.
 Deborah V. Fishman, M.D.
 Faina Gutin, M.D.

Shehnaz Halani, P.A.
 Shameen Khan, M.D.
 Majinder Kaur, M.D.
 Shari Klig, M.D.
 Lin Li, M.D.
 Wei Wei Li, M.D.
 Clement Maccia, M.D.

Fariha Malek, N.P.
 Brian Novick, M.D.
 Purvi Parikh, M.D.
 Susan Panes, M.D.
 Shivani Patel, P.A.
 Vimala Patel, N.P.
 Hinal Patel, P.A.

Steven Peltz, M.D.
 Martin Pine, M.D.
 Afreen Quraishi, P.A.
 Karen Reaves, P.A.
 Aliona Rudys, M.D.
 Radha Shah, N.P.
 Eun Sheen, M.D.

Fawzi Suliaman, M.D.
 Michael Teitel, M.D.
 Anant Warren, M.D.



NEW JERSEY LOCATIONS - CENTER FOR ASTHMA & ALLERGY - WWW.CENTERFORASTHMAALLERGY.COM (SUDHIR PARIKH, M.D., P.A.)

18 North Third Ave. Highland Park, NJ 08904 Tel: 732-545-0094 Fax: 732-545-4087	617-79th Street No. Bergen, NJ 07047 Tel: 201-854-8119 Fax: 201-854-4875	1818 Oak Tree Rd. Edison, NJ 08816 Tel: 732-205-0343 Fax: 732-205-0348	25 Kensington Ave, Jersey City, NJ 07304 Tel: (201) 434-4932	2566 Nottingham Way Trenton, NJ 08619 Tel: 609-587-3041 Fax: 609-587-9347	222 Schanck Rd. # 203 Freehold, NJ 07728 Tel: 732-431-8266 Fax: 732-294-9794	926 North Wood Ave Linden, NJ 07036 Tel: 908-925-3318 Fax: 908-95-86462	D3 Brier Hall Ct. East Brunswick, NJ 08816 Tel: 732-257-4008 Fax: 732-257-1958
	300 Hudson Street Hoboken, NJ 07030 Tel: 201-792-5900 Fax: 201-792-5320	1018 Broad Street Bloomfield, NJ 07003 Tel: 973-893-0093 Fax: 973-893-0090	90 Millburn Ave, Ste 200, Millburn NJ 07041 Tel: 973-763-5787 Fax: 973-763-8568	546 Westfield Ave Westfield, NJ 07090 Tel: 908-232-1565 Fax: 908-232-9301	200 Perrine Rd. Suite 207 Old Bridge, NJ 08857 Tel: 732-727-2530 Fax: 732-441-0490	65 Mountain Blvd. Ext. 107 Warren, NJ 07059 Tel: 732-627-0900 Fax: 732-560-7388	

TOLL FREE 1-800-535-5227

NEW YORK CITY - ALLERGY & ASTHMA ASSOCIATES OF MURRAY HILL

WWW.ALLERGYASTHMANYC.COM

161 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10016
 Tel: 212-685-4225, Fax: 212-696-5682

NEW YORK LOCATIONS - ASTHMA ALLERGY MEDICAL CARE (SUDHIR PARIKH, M.D., P.C.)

68 Nassau Road
 Huntington,
 NY 11743
 Tel: 631-423-5590
 Fax: 631-423-9137

111 Smithtown Bypass
 Suite 219
 Hauppauge, NY 11788
 Tel: 631-724-3355
 Fax: 631-724-9751

2004 Grand Avenue
 Baldwin,
 NY 11510
 Tel: 516-223-7656
 Fax: 516-223-7656

984 North Broadway
 Suite 307
 Yonkers, NY 10701
 Tel: 914-476-8877
 Fax: 914-476-4754

118-21 Queens Blvd
 Suite 601,
 Forest Hills, NY 11375
 Tel: 718-544-2066
 Fax: 718-544-6664



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Understanding Cancer, its Causes and Prevention

Dr Jatin Shah shares information that a layperson can understand about the dreaded disease and notes the advances in cancer care including a brave new screening test, which comes with a caveat.

Q The South Asian Times: What is new in cancer care and what has been your contribution?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Up until the 1970s, the only goal was to cure cancer. Today an equally important goal is restoring the quality of life of the patient. Restoring function, aesthetic appearance and psychological recovery from the mental trauma of having cancer. In other words, the patient should be able to go back to the family, to society, and to the work they were doing prior to the cancer surgery.

To be able to do that, surgical approaches needed to be modified and improved. That is where some of my contributions came into the picture, starting from the 1970s, doing studies to see the biology of cancer, how it progresses, how we can avoid one-size-fits-all type of approach and how we can tailor the operation to the patient's cancer.

Take, for example, two patients with tongue cancer of the same stage. One patient is a heavy smoker with bad teeth and the other patient has a healthy mouth. So, the treatment considerations will be different for the two patients.

Q How do you feel being able to save lives, godlike?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: I used to live in New Rochelle. It was about 45 minutes from Memorial Sloan Kettering in Manhattan. Driving home after a long day in the operating room, you think, "Did I earn my day?"

"Did I do something good to someone today?"



And if your surgery extended somebody's life in a meaningful fashion, improved the quality of their life, and made a family happy, that gives a very gratifying feeling. You never feel tired driving home late at night.

Q And how do patients and their families react?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Patients are eternally grateful. I get mails from patients I treated 20, 30 years ago, along these lines:

"Doctor, you saved my life in 1999. And I'm now organizing my granddaughter's wedding."

You have to realize that we will all die someday. And if you have

cancer, the probability of death is higher than for a healthy person. But even when patients eventually die, their families respond with, "Thank you for giving me 10 years of my dad's life, so he could be with us."

Q You call India the capital of mouth cancer in the world, why so?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Yes, the commonest cancer in India is cancer of the mouth – among men. That is because of the widespread habit of chewing paan, paan masala, gutka, whatever you call it. Children also start taking it at an early age when they see their father chewing this

stuff and when they are in their 30s, and 40s, they wind up with mouth cancer. Smoking is another cause. Mouth cancer is also prevalent in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh because of similar habits.

Public awareness programs are being carried out for prevention. Through an international federation I am associated with, we designated the last week of July each year as Head and Neck Cancer Week around the world. Dur-

Educating children in KG and elementary school on the adverse impact of tobacco and pan masala consumption is probably the most effective way to prevent cancers of the mouth and lungs. Children would come home and tell their parents to quit.

ing this week, awareness through media and publicity campaigns, and free screening clinics are held worldwide. Unfortunately, a majority of people getting mouth cancer come from the lower strata of society, and are difficult to reach.

Q We know smoking causes lung cancer, but is it linked with mouth cancer also?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Yes, smoking adversely affects the surface lining of the mouth, throat, larynx (the voice box), before reaching the lungs. Educating children in

KG and elementary school on the adverse impact of tobacco consumption is probably the most effective way to control smoking. Children would come home and tell their parents to quit.

Q What are other common causes of head and neck cancers?

A Dr. Jatin Shah:

- HPV virus causes throat cancer.
- Radiation exposure in childhood can cause thyroid cancer.
- Excessive exposure to the sun can cause skin cancer.

Alcohol may cause stomach cancer and a low-fiber diet can increase the risk of colon cancer.

Besides actively avoiding the causes, I recommend regular medical checkups. If there is any health problem, don't wait, get a thorough checkup. If it is cancer, you may have an early diagnosis.

Q Aren't there tests for early detection of cancer?

A Dr. Jatin Shah: Yes, mammogram for breast cancer, PSA blood test for prostate, and colonoscopy for colon cancer.

One exciting development is that we can now detect cancer by a blood test by detecting circulating DNA. Every cancer cell sheds some genomic material, which circulates in the blood. So this test can say, "I think you have lung cancer," or "You have cancer of the testicle." It is still "work in progress". Many commercial companies offer these tests.

But there is a problem. Even if you have a positive blood test, in some instances we cannot find the cancer, and thus cannot treat it. Meanwhile the person with the positive test goes crazy worrying about it.

Dr. Shah Gave Me the Most Precious Gift of All: TIME

By Alyssa Fischer-Reeder

When I met Dr. Jatin Shah in 2003, I was all of 22 and knew in my soul that he was going to save my life. Reading about him felt more like discovering a real-life superhero than an oncologist. Yet what struck me was the genuine compassion he radiated. He provided me hope in my most hopeless moment.

Dr. Shah has always pursued excellence—not for recognition, but to save and transform as many lives as possible. His work is his passion, his joy, and the purpose of his soul.

For me, he quickly became a trusted confidant, guiding me through every storm. Over the years, he has become family. My

children adore him and know he always has the best chocolates, a warm smile, and time to talk, no matter how busy his schedule may be.

He has watched me start my own nonprofit. You see, I once promised Dr. Shah that if I survived, I would give back in whatever way I could. Today, through our HNC (Head & Neck Cancer) Fund, it is my greatest honor to support other young HNC patients navigating their uniquely challenging journey, as well as to contribute to the lifesaving and transformative discovery studies within the HNC program at MSKCC.

I count my blessings every single day for him and for the rest of my astonishing medical team. I lovingly refer to them as my



"angel team." They have given me the most precious gift of all: time—time to fulfill my dreams both personally and professionally.

My life, my dreams realized, and my future hopes with my family are all brighter because of him. For all he has done, and for all he continues to do, my heart overflows with gratitude.

Founder of HNC Fund

Following her recovery from HNC treatment, Alyssa has worked for health-related nonprofits and taught Pre-K. In 2013, she joined Dr. Jatin Shah and Michael Douglas on a radio tour to increase awareness about Oral Head and Neck Cancers which was nominated for a SABER award. In 2019, she founded The HNC Fund. In 2022, she was selected as an Elevate Ambassador for the National Coalition for Cancer Survivor-ship. For more, go to hncfund.org

Heartiest Congratulations

Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



Your dedication to excellence in patient care, medical education, and scientific research has set the highest standard in our field. The impact of your work resonates across continents, improving outcomes and offering hope to countless patients and their families.



Padma Shri Dr. Dattatreyudu Nori

Advisor to the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and
Telangana for cancer services
Former Chief of Brachytherapy Service,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, &
Professor & Chairman, Rad-Onc
Cornell Medical Center, Cornell University.



Jatin P. Shah
MD, PhD (Hon), DSC (Hon)

Medals & Awards



Medals Awarded

Selected Few



Royal Society of Medicine
London,
1997



Serafini Medal
Italy,
2003



Semon Medal
Univ. of London,
2006



Blokhin Gold Medal
Russia,
2008



Ellis Island Medal of Honor
2009



Pirogov Medal
Russia,
2010



Sandulsky Medal
Russia,
2011



Gunnar Holmgren Medal
Sweden,
2012

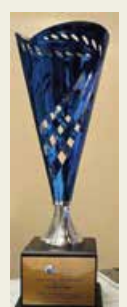
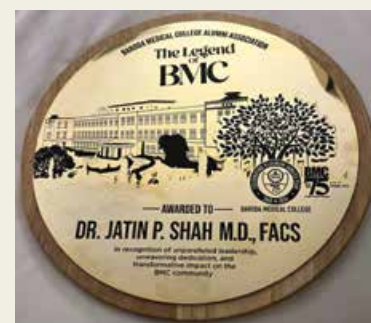


Janeway Medal
American Radium Society,
2016

Most Distinguished Recognitions by Indian Organizations

Dr. Shah has been recognized for his professional excellence, leadership and for educating and training physicians from India and the world over for the past 50 years

- **LEGEND of Baroda Medical College**, in its 75th anniversary year
- **Living Legend of Oncology** award from the Indian Cancer Congress
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** from GAPIO (Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin), that represents 1.5 million doctors from India and the world
- **Most Distinguished Physician Award** from USA, by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI)
- **ICON of Head and Neck Oncology Award** from the Foundation of Head and Neck Oncology (FHNO), India, 2025





Happy New Year

Warmest wishes to all for a joyous, healthy and peaceful 2026.

Heartiest Congratulations to

Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



**Person
of the
Year 2025**

With best compliments from:

Mukund Padmanabhan



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Dr Shah's Philanthropic Contributions and Impact in India



Dr. Jatin Shah addressing at the 6th World Congress of IFHNOS, celebrating the centennial of the Head and Neck service of MSK in 2014. His family foundation supports several activities of IFHNOS.

Through his own personal resources, Dr. Jatin Shah supports many educational programs for surgeons. He supports surgeons from India and other resource challenged countries by travel grants to come to North America to learn multidisciplinary approaches to head and neck cancer.

He additionally supports education activities of the American Head and Neck Society and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Through his Dr. Jatin and Bharti Shah Family Foundation, Dr. Shah supports International Observership Program of IFHNOS (International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies, founded by him), the American Head and Neck Society Foundation, and Annual Lectureship in Head and Neck Surgery at MSKCC and the Department of Head and Neck Surgery.

The foundation also supports the schools where his daughter

Mili Shah Brown's three daughters, Kaia, Rhea and Sona, study in Westchester County. Mili is a trustee of the foundation.

Dr. Shah has also set up the Jatin and Ivana Shah Charitable Foundation, where his wife, Dr. Ivana Petrovic, is a trustee. Currently this foundation supports the school of their daughter, Nia.

The fundamental premise of both foundations is to support education, research and training to resource challenged institutions or individuals and give them an opportunity to grow.

The India connection

Born in and having received his education in India, the country is in Dr. Shah's heart. Says he, "Since 1984, I have been continuously involved in either visiting in person, lecturing, or organizing conferences in India. The Indian Society of Head and Neck Oncology was founded under my guidance by Dr. Ashok Mehta in 1985. It has now merged with the "Foundation for Head and Neck Oncology (FHNO)".

Over the years, Dr. Shah has given more than one hundred lec-

tures at various conferences and universities in India. His award-winning textbook, 'Jatin Shah's Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology' was delivered free to libraries of all medical colleges in India. Its online version is free to students pursuing the Global Online Fellowship program in head and neck surgery

from India. 85 surgeons have completed and are certified for the program, and 22 candidates are currently pursuing the program.

He has also hosted, at his department in MSKCC, hundreds of 'Observers', young surgeons from India, who come to learn head and neck surgery.

Health Advice for South Asians

If your diet is balanced with enough protein, and you avoid excessive carbohydrates and sugar, then you would not have the disease profile of obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension, says Dr. Shah. He points out that a common heart disease among Indians in the United States is the coronary artery disease, for some reason, of only the right coronary artery.

He recommends that once you cross the age of 40, get a regular checkup, and the annual blood work. If you are a smoker, annual head and neck examination and a chest X-ray also.

Chances are that these tests will pick up something before symptoms develop. Secondly, if you do have symptoms, don't ignore them. Don't think, "It will go away." For example, if you have a hoarse voice for more than two weeks, have it checked out. We know that the common cold will last for a week or so. But if it persists for many weeks, don't wait before going to a doctor.

As for alternative treatments, if you know their side effects or toxicity and you are willing to accept it, you can do that. But do it in addition, not instead of, standard of care treatments, advises Dr. Shah.

Thank you, Dr. Jatin Shah For Accepting to be

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



& Sharing Your Fabulous Life Story and Career Highlights with Us

Parveen Chopra

Founding Editor, The South Asian Times | Founder, ALotusInTheMud.com



We Appreciate You for Saving Lives and Promoting Health Worldwide

Spirituality & Wellness Web Magazine

Relaunched in the New Year to Better Serve its Readers



Dr. Shah's daughter, Nia, four and a half years old, clicked this picture with Parveen Chopra on an iPad.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR



Heartiest congratulations to
Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



With Best Compliments from:

Kavita & Mohan Wanchoo

ECI MW HOLDING COMPANY, INC.



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

FAMILY

Principled man, generous brother



or the details of rooms and buildings he found fascinating.

Like our parents, Jatin is deeply principled, with a strong sense of family and

duty, and generous without expectation. I am grateful that we have remained close over the years and have been able to count on each other through life's ups and downs. Seeing Jatin fulfill his dreams and find the contentment he so richly deserves brings me great happiness; our parents and brother (Mahesh) would be so proud. With best wishes and love.

Sudha (Shah) Doshi, M.A., M.S., & Kishor Doshi, Ph.D.

As Jatin's elder sister, I have shared a lifetime with him, as siblings and as friends, long before the world came to appreciate him as Dr. Shah. In our family, education was never optional; it was an expectation woven into daily life in which effort was demanded and achievement was celebrated. Jatin absorbed this completely. From the beginning, he was hard-working, disciplined, intensely competitive, and determined to do everything well. He loved to sketch anatomic drawings of cadaver dissections during medical school and whenever time allowed, especially nature

Uncle who loved my academic accolades



I have the privilege of knowing my uncle, Jatin Mamaji, through a mosaic of lenses: family, his extraordinary scholarly achievements and work ethic, and the values we share as educators. Nurturing curiosity, taking intellectual risks, and pursuing excellence are foundational in our family; they also carry a responsibility to serve and uplift others. What has always stood out to me is the deep fulfillment my uncle has found in teaching, mentoring, and building institutions that prepare—with rigor and exquisite care—the next generation of leaders in medicine.

On a personal level, I cherish how pleased he was to learn of my teaching accolades and engagement with university governance, and I always appreciate his seasoned guidance. My uncle is not defined solely by titles or accomplishments, but also by a clear sense of purpose and commitment to helping others. These are qualities that, in my mind, create a legacy that blossoms and continually renews itself. I am deeply proud of my Mamaji and wish him every imaginable happiness.

Ami Doshi, Ph.D.

FAMILY FRIEND

A cherished presence in our lives

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Jatin Shah for over 50 years, from the time our family first arrived in New York. Over the decades, we have shared holidays, milestones, and countless memories. Dr. Shah and his family have been an enduring and cherished presence in our lives. What makes this recognition especially meaningful is how deeply he has touched not just the world of medicine, but also our close-knit circle of family friends. His quiet strength, guidance, and kindness have left a profound mark on us—across three generations down to our grandchildren.

Beyond his extraordinary accomplishments in medicine,



Pravina Mehta's late husband, Dr. Dinesh Mehta (2nd from left) with family friends Dr. Jatin Shah, Dr. Bhupendra Tolia, and Dr. I.C. Shah.

Dr. Shah's humility, generosity, and loyalty have always stood out. It has been an honor to witness his journey, both personally and professionally. We celebrate him with immense pride and affection, knowing

how fortunate we are to call him a part of our extended family.

Pravina Mehta
On behalf of my late husband,
Dr. Dinesh Mehta

CO-WORKERS

Doc with exemplary bedside manners



Lorna Krug with Dr. Jatin Shah in his office.

I first met Dr. Shah 44 years ago when I began working for him as his secretary. I have witnessed his patients having the utmost trust and faith in him. He is kind, caring and a

compassionate doctor. He treats every one of his patients as if they are the only patient.

I am in awe of everything that he has accomplished over the years. I have the greatest respect for Dr. Shah. He is not just my boss, he has become family.

Lorna Krug
Dr Jatin Shah's
Secretary for 44 years

NED - the Nation's most Excellent Doctor



Lisa Dunn

I am proud to say that I was Dr. Shah's first and only physician assistant. I started working with him on 1/2/2000, right out of school. His schedule was very busy, office hours 2 days a week and OR (Operating Room) 2 days a week. In preparation to follow him on a patient visit, I would read the last office note. Almost in every office note I would see NED. (No evidence of disease) I am proud to say that almost every patient was NED. Unfortunately cancer is NED - never ending disease. However, Dr. Shah is also NED - the nation's most excellent doctor. He is compassionate, dedicated, outstanding, and excellent at all the work he does and all that he has accomplished.

I am blessed to have worked with him for 18 years. We are all blessed to have him in this field!

Lisa Dunn
Physician Assistance



Dr. Shah presenting Distinguished Service award to his Physician Assistant Lisa Dunn in 2020.

Working with Dr. Shah a highlight of my career

Dr. Jatin Shah and I worked together for 23 years at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NYC. As the office practice nurse, I collaborated with Dr. Shah on providing comprehensive care for patients with Head and Neck Cancer.

He is an excellent surgeon with unparalleled technical skills. His leadership, mentorship and surgical expertise are renowned globally.

Early in his career, Dr. Shah wisely recognized



Jill Solan

the importance of putting together a dedicated multidisciplinary team to ensure the best possible care for patients and their

families. He mandated that his team provide the same high level of commitment and care that he himself demonstrated.

Working with Dr. Shah is a highlight of my 45 year career at MSKCC. The Person of the Year honor acknowledging his extraordinary achievements and contributions in the surgical management of Head and Neck Cancer is very well deserved.

Jill Solan
Registered Nurse, MSN, NP

Congratulations to
Dr. Jatin Shah

On being named

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism

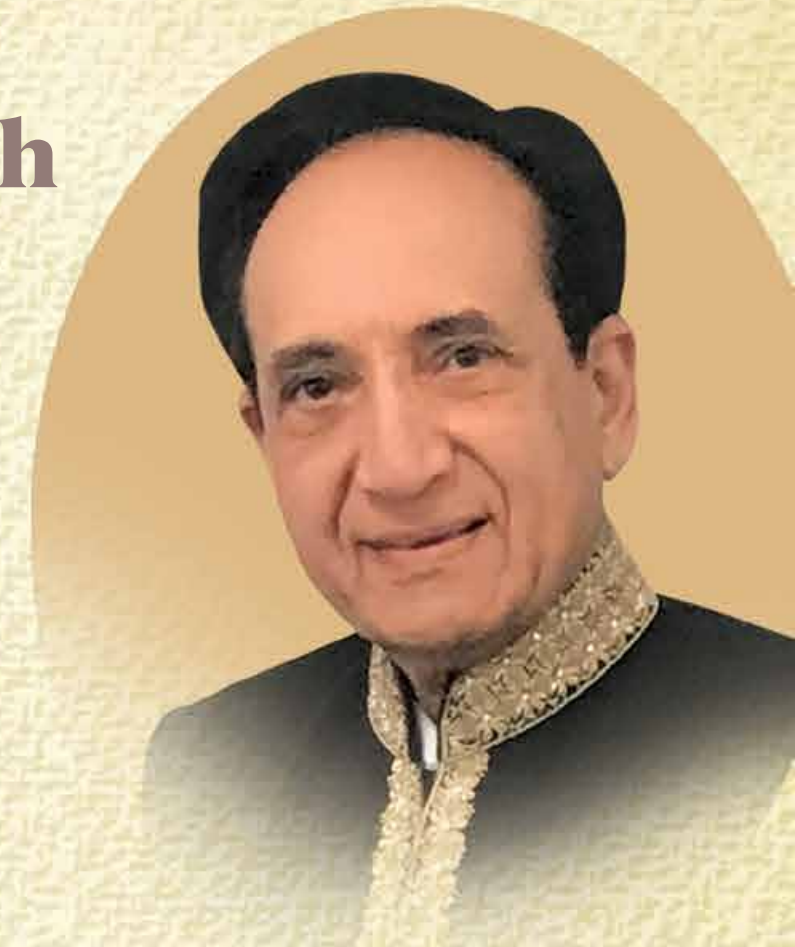


**AN HONOR SO RICHLY DESERVED FOR A
LIFETIME OF EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP,
AND LASTING GLOBAL IMPACT**

Chummu & Kamal Dandona

The Family I Cherish

Dr. Jatin Shah



Premanand Chhotalal Shah (1888-1965)
Indira (Sarla) Maganlal Mehta (1908-1998)



Jatin (1940-)
Sudha (1936-)
Mahesh (1932-2023)



Kishor Dharamsi Doshi (1936-)
Sudha and Kishor (1964-)



Aruna Biharilal Mamlatdarna (1933-)
Mahesh and Aruna (1972-2023)



Jatin and Bharti (1967-2019)
Bharti Nandakrishna Gandhi (1941-2019)



Ivana Petrovic (1983-)
Jatin and Ivana (2021-)



Nia (2021-)



Ami (1966-)



Shakti (1981-)



Shakti and Albee (1970)



Mili 1982-



Mili and Dan (1982-) (2010-)



Rhea (2015-) Kaia (2012-) Sona (2018-)



Ami and Sanjay (1965-) (2004-)



Roshan (2009-)



Jaxon (2013-) and Elijah (2009-)

Through the courtesy of the Jatin and Bharti Shah Family Foundation and the Jatin and Ivana Shah Charitable Foundation.



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

My Father's Influence

A Conversation with Mili Shah Brown

as told to Parveen Chopra

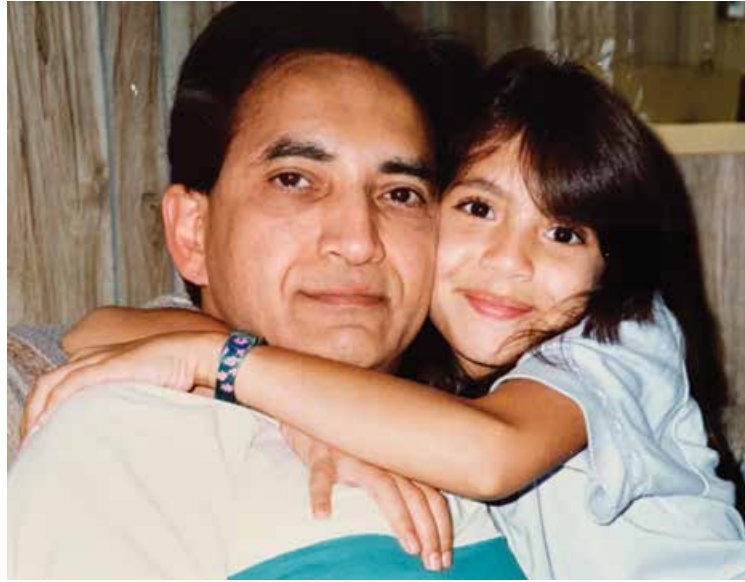
Q Parveen Chopra: Please tell me about your family.

A Mili Shah Brown: My parents met at Baroda Medical College in India, while both were medical students. Before I was born, they explored the world together and had many adventures, which I think set the modern tone for our little family. My mom, Dr. Bharti Shah, was my dad's partner for 60 years and a big part of his story of success, both professionally and socially. She was brilliant, generous, and down to earth. As an adult I now realize that my mom stepped aside in terms of career and spotlight so my dad could shine.

Q What was it like having Dr. Shah as a father when you were a child?

A Mili: I think compared to many Indian fathers of his generation and of his professional level, he was present for me, and we were very close. We didn't get a lot of time together, but when we did, we tried to make it quality time. One of his hobbies was always fixing things around the house. I think his mindset was like, "If I can operate on a human being, I can handle something like fixing the toilet!" So the two of us spent many weekends going to the hardware store and then tinkering on something at home. Those experiences learning from him, using tools and troubleshooting and problem solving together, were an influence which sort of set me on my path of creativity and design.

There were many times when I wanted my dad around for things that were special and important to me, but he was often busy with his patients and fellows and con-



"Recently I found an old letter my dad wrote to me when I was a kid. The letter was sweet, sprinkled with jokes and little life lessons. It reminded me of how safe and special he made me feel as a child."

ferences, and his schedule ruled our lives. I think it can be hard for a surgeon, when they are seen as God-like by their patients and others in the hospital, to come home and be a regular person to your child or your wife. And that, in turn, can be hard for the family.

Q Did you travel much as a family?

A Mili: I was lucky to travel the world with my parents, usually so my dad could attend a medical conference. On those trips, even when I was just 5 or 6 years old, my parents would encourage me to lead the way to the gate and to board the plane on my own - they instilled a sense of independence in me from a young age. As a child, I would often fly to California on my own to visit family, and when I was 11 they sent me to the Netherlands alone to spend a week with a family I had never met.

These were formative experiences that gave me confidence in myself, and I'm very thankful to

my parents for that. As I grew, we continued to travel together and experience new things as a family. Our last trip together was to Mumbai and Goa in 2016, along with my husband and two older daughters. I wanted my girls to be able to say that they traveled to India with their Indian grandparents, and feel an ownership over that part of their identities.

Q Tell me about a special memory you have of your father.

A Mili: Recently we sold the house I grew up in, which was very emotional for me. It is a modernist house that my parents built in the year I was born, 1982, with a rising architect, on the waterfront in New Rochelle, NY. They both loved architecture and were very proud of their special home - it was like the manifestation of their American Dream.

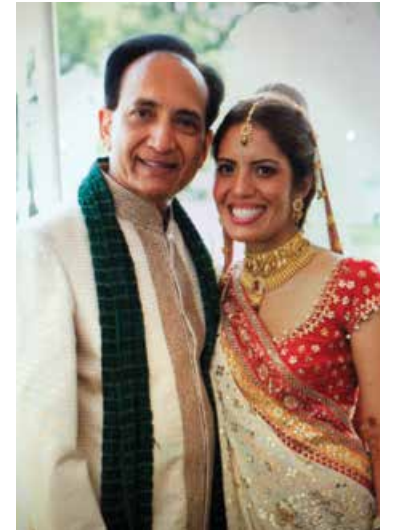
When sorting through drawers of old photos and papers in the house, I came across a letter my father sent me when I was 9 years old and at sleep-away camp in 1991. I loved that he took time to write letters to me. The letter was very sweet, sprinkled with jokes and little life lessons to remember. At the end, he drew a figure with big wide arms sending me a hug, and a big heart filled with lots of tiny hearts, as a game for me to count. Re-reading the letter made me emotional, and reminded me of how safe and special my dad made me feel as a child.

One of my fondest memories with my dad is simply how each morning I helped him select his tie for the day, and each evening I would help him buff and polish his shoes for the next day. I was defin-

itely a daddy's girl, just happy to follow him wherever his life took him, and he was my hero.

Q Did you ever feel pressure from your parents to become a doctor?

A Mili: My parents did not really pressure me to become a doctor. Growing up in our unique house, architecture was always with me, and in college I explored many different courses of study. But in my junior year I decided I was interested in pursuing medicine. I did all my pre-med requirements, and spent a summer working in a lab and shadowing a plastic surgeon. I think during this time my dad was



Dr. Jatin Shah with Mili at her wedding.



Mili with her parents, husband Dan Brown and daughters Kaia, Rhea and Sona.

excited and proud that I might follow in his footsteps.

But ultimately, I decided that I really loved architecture. I think the fact that it was a field that my parents also had an interest in made it a happy alternative to medicine in their eyes. I went to Cornell for graduate school, which is where I met my husband Dan, and earned my Master of Architecture.

Q Please share a little about your family charitable foundation.

A Mili: Charitable giving was always something important to both of my parents. They would always say that although they came to the US with no money, they were lucky to have their education, which gave them the footing for success in the US, and that education is something that once you have it, no one can take it away from you. So with the Jatin and Bharti Shah Family Foundation they wanted to create a lasting legacy in giving, particularly with an educational focus.

In the last couple of years, I have been able to be more involved, and have directed some of the funds

towards the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation, which funds grant requests written by students and teachers in our diverse and wonderful school district in Westchester County, and it's been very rewarding to help the ideas within our community come to life.

Q Lastly, please share a little about your life now and where you are today.

A Mili: After graduating, I worked at an architecture firm in SoHo. Dan and I married in 2010, and I left my job after our first child was born. I spent about 7 years at home with our children as we grew our family. Now I work in my own practice as an architectural and interior designer, on residential projects in the greater New York area. Dan works as an attorney, in the real estate investment arm of an insurance company. He is a quiet and thoughtful, down-to-earth man, and he is the rock in my life. We live in Larchmont, NY, and have three beautiful daughters: Kaia (13), Rhea (11), and Sona (7).

Parveen Chopra is Founding Editor of The South Asian Times and Founder of ALotusInTheMud.com



"My mom, Dr. Bharti Shah, was my dad's partner for 60 years and a big part of his story of success, both professionally and socially. She stepped aside in terms of career and spotlight so my dad could shine."

“Coming generations of physicians will be envious when they realize you have seen Dr Jatin Shah.”

Shashi S. Shah, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Heartiest Congratulations to

Dr. Jatin Shah

On being recognized as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



Dr Shashi Shah warmly congratulated Dr Jatin Shah on being presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Indians in America (AIA-NY) at its 2022 Gala in New York.



Jatin P. Shah
MD, PhD (Hon), DSC (Hon)

Knowledge Bank

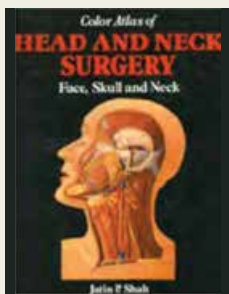


Contributions to Literature and Scientific Publications

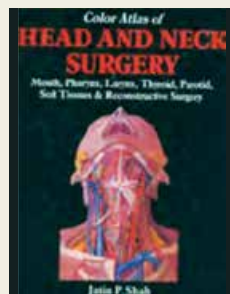
- **h-Index 162**
(The highest amongst all Head and Neck Surgeons in the world)
- **15 Medical Text books** (Best book award three times)
- **73 Chapters in text books**
- **Over 670 scientific publications**
- **Over 82000 citations**
- **I 10 - index 613**

Books Published

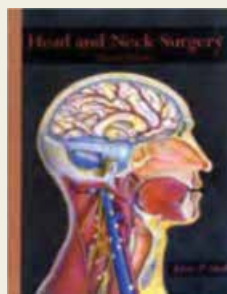
- **15 Medical books**
- **Best book in the specialty award from the Royal Society of Medicine and the British Medical Association**
- **These text books have been translated in six languages – Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Polish and Greek**



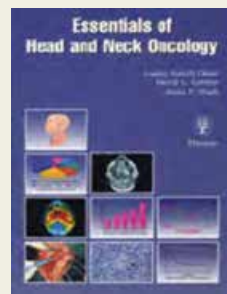
1987



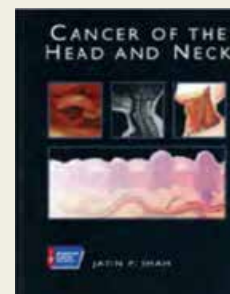
1990



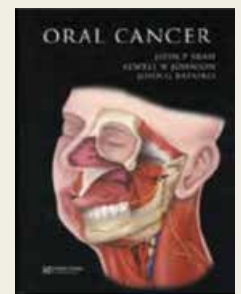
1996
(1st prize - Royal Society of Med., 1st prize - British Medical Assoc.)



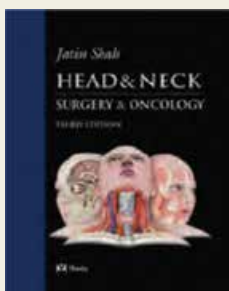
1998



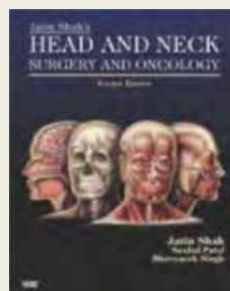
2001
(Top Ten best seller book in Oncology Lancet, Nov. 2002)



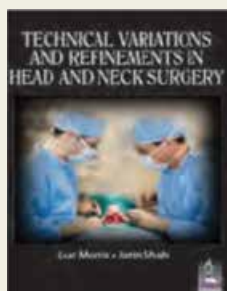
2002



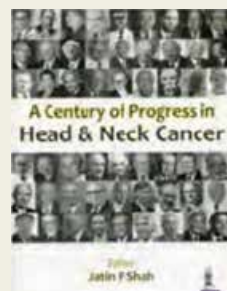
2003
(George Davery Howells Prize, University of London)



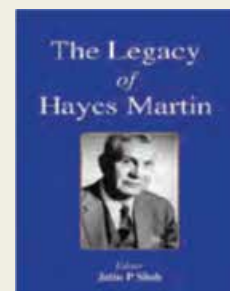
2012



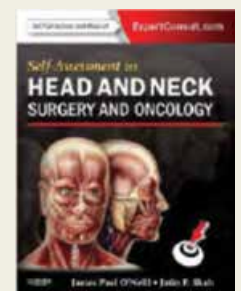
2014



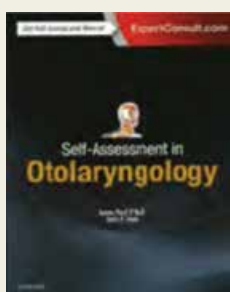
2014



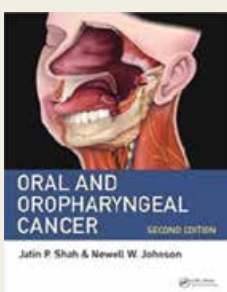
2014



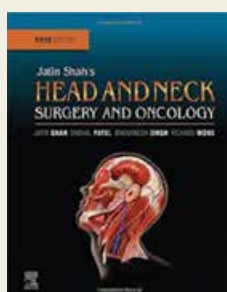
2015



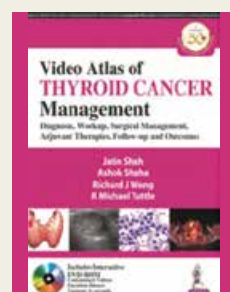
2016



2018



2019



2019

Wishing Heartiest Congratulations to

Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times

excellence in journalism



We admire how you advanced head and neck cancer care with research and innovations to be counted among the top oncologists of the world. We appreciate how you help every time we need the excellent services available at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

With best compliments from:

Seema and Dr. J. Ganesh Bhat



This Surgeon is a Many-Splendored Man

Dr. Jatin Shah is a convivial person, intellectually sharp and knowledgeable in disciplines beyond medicine such as history, philosophy, and global affairs. He is loved and admired by not only his family and patients but also doctor friends of different nationalities he makes in far flung places as he goes on world tours leading the faculty of the oncological society he founded.



Dr. Jatin Shah with his family at the Dinner reception on Ellis Island after the award of the Medal of Honor.



Dr. Elliot Strong and Dr. Jatin Shah



Drs. Jatin Shah, Bhuvanesh Singh and Ashok Shaha (colleagues on the Head and Neck Service at MSKCC).



The Head and Neck team and alumni at the Marriott Marquis in New York during the centennial of MSKCC's Head and Neck Service in 2014.



Members of the Head and Neck team at MSKCC: Drs. Snehal Patel, Richard Wong, Jatin Shah, Bhuvanesh Singh and Ian Ganly during the Centennial celebration in 2014.



The world tour faculty with colleagues from India in 2019.



Drs. Claudio Cernea, Sandro Porceddu, Ashok Shaha, Jatin Shah, Ehab Hanna, Daniel Fliss and Pankaj Chaturvedi at the AHNS meeting in Austin in 2019.



Dr. Jatin Shah led the traveling faculty of the 2018 World Tour program of IFHNOS in Beijing - Drs. Sandro Porceddu, Jan Vermorken, Hisham Mehanna, Jatin Shah, Ashok Shaha and Ian Witterick.



Our warmest congratulations to
Dr. Jatin Shah

On being named

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



Your outstanding contribution to Head & Neck Surgery
has earned you worldwide respect and admiration.

Your books and articles continue to inspire and guide
future generations of surgeons.

Despite your remarkable achievements, your humility
and generosity shine through.

We are truly honored to call you our friend.

Indira and Dr. Bhupi Patel





Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

India, with most prevalence of H&N cancer, has recognized his work



Dr. Ashok Shaha with Dr. Jatin Shah

North America learning advanced head and neck surgical techniques. Given that head and neck cancer is most prevalent in India, Dr. Shah's dedication to head and neck cancer patients has been widely recognized through numerous awards.

An outstanding graduate of the Baroda Medical College, Dr. Shah has served as a guiding light for all

of us in our profession. His contributions have left an indelible mark on surgical education and patient care globally.

Ashok R. Shaha, M.D.

Allan H. Selig Chair in Head and Neck Surgery
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Professor of Surgery, Weill-Cornell Medical College, New York

I am grateful for every moment Dr. Shah has invested in my development—the patient explanations, the quiet encouragements, the pointed questions that made my work better, and the example he sets every day. Dr. Shah saw potential in me that I could not yet see in myself, and he pushed me toward it with clarity, kindness, and conviction.

It is a privilege to count Dr. Shah as a dear mentor and friend. He embodies the highest ideals of our profession and has touched countless lives including my own. His mentorship has been a gift, his legacy is woven through the work we all do, and his influence on our cherished field will continue to ripple through generations of surgeons who follow in his footsteps.

The final word of gratitude is to Dr. Jatin Shah for teaching me and all of us that indeed only from the heart can you touch the sky.

Maie St. John, MD, PhD, FACS

Andelot Professor & Director
Otolaryngologist-in-Chief
Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center
Johns Hopkins Medicine
Baltimore, MD

“His influence has been profound, and I remain in awe of the breadth of his contributions to our field”

how we lead, and how we lift others. He has shown us that true innovation comes from curiosity paired with discipline, and that meaningful progress requires both courage and unwavering compassion. His insistence on doing what is right—even when it is difficult—set a standard that we carry into every patient encounter, every research question, and every moment of mentorship we offer to others.

What sets Dr. Shah apart is the remarkable balance he holds: visionary and pragmatic, exacting and generous, bold in pursuit of discovery yet deeply grounded in the simple act of caring for a patient. Dr. Shah has shaped the landscape of our specialty with ideas that were ahead of their time, and he has shaped us with lessons that will endure across entire careers and the totality of our lives.

Stamping his legacy on the work we young surgeons do



Dr. Maie St. John

There are few people in a career—let alone a lifetime—who change the way you think, work, and see the world. For me, that person has been Dr. Jatin Shah. As a head and neck surgeon, I have been shaped not only by his technical mastery and intellectual rigor, but by the generosity, and humanity he brings to our profession. His influence has been profound, and I remain in awe of the breadth of his contributions to our field.

He has taught so many of us that excellence in surgery is not defined solely by what we do in the operating room, but by how we listen,

‘The Living Legend’, Dr. Jatin Shah

Dr. Jatin Shah is multi-dimensional, soulful, dedicated, simple, inspiring, affectionate, and the world's top Head and Neck Surgeon. I congratulate ‘The South Asian Times’ for highlighting the life of this exceptionally gifted, hardworking, and accomplished Indian American as ‘Person of the Year 2025’. He is the all-time ‘Person of illuminating life’ for me. I have known him as a leader, SAVIOR of his patients, and as a friend.

I am grateful that Jatin always created time from his busy schedule to honor any request for support to different organizations through his presence. He was honored by the Association of Indians in America (AIA) with the Sushruta and Lifetime Achievement Award, and by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) with the Most Distinguished Physician Award, among many others. His achievements didn't stop him from being accessible to people in his orbit. The persistent quest to share his knowledge has resulted in over 14 books, including one considered a bible in his field. He manages to stay calm, poised, and dignified, with a pleasing smile. He has demonstrated the vision to sup-



Dr. Shashi Shah

port numerous individuals and institutions and research centers through the Jatin and Bharti Shah Family Foundation, which is nothing short of a miracle.

I am delighted to have known him, worked with him, seen the impact of his work, and deeply appreciate his accomplishments as well as his humility. It is a source of joy and honor to congratulate Dr. Jatin Shah and to express my feelings of love and gratitude in this special issue of The South Asian Times.

Shashi S. Shah, M.D.

Urologist affiliated with various hospitals in New York
Former Chair, Board of Trustees, AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin)

Being in OR with Dr. Shah better than a text book

I feel incredibly lucky to have been trained by Dr. Jatin Shah—his expertise in head-and-neck surgery and his dedication to teaching have shaped my approach more than any textbook could. His precision in the Operating Room, combined with an uncanny ability to explain complex cases in plain language, has taught me more than any textbook could. I even taught from his textbook during my residency, and

before every surgery I flip through the “tips” in his book for that extra dose of confidence and precision.

Prof. Mohamed Hesham

Professor of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery
Alexandria Faculty of Medicine
Dean of College of Medicine
Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime transport
Alexandria, Egypt



Prof. Mohamed Hesham and Dr. Shah outside an Operating Room.



Congratulations
Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism

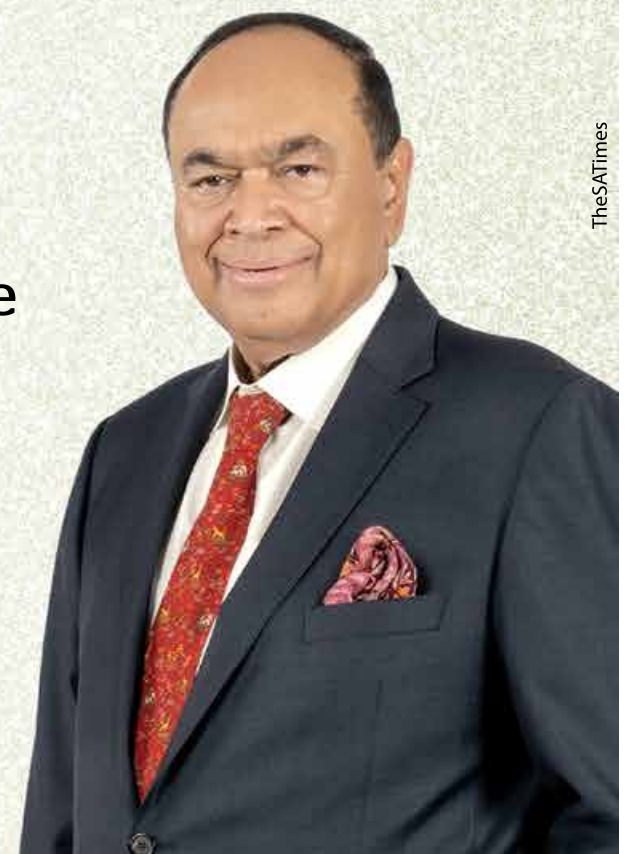


Congratulations, Dr. Jatin Shah, on your exemplary achievements and leadership in Head and Neck Cancer care globally.

Your outstanding work as a surgeon, educator, mentor and compassionate caregiver has shaped countless professionals and positively impacted the lives of patients worldwide.

With best compliments,

Mr. Nirmal K. Minda
Chairman, Uno Minda Limited



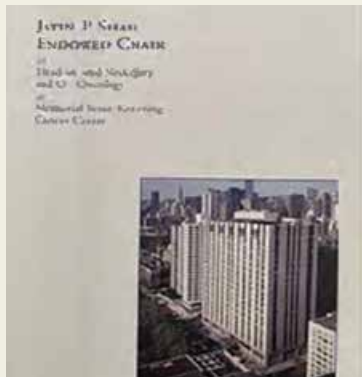


Jatin P. Shah
MD, PhD (Hon), DSC (Hon)

Leadership & Legacies



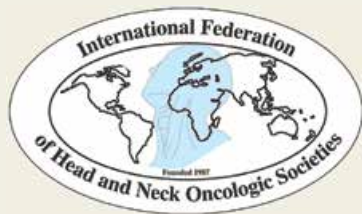
Academic Legacies



Jatin P Shah Chair
in Head and Neck Surgery
established in 2004 at
MSKCC



Jatin P Shah Symposium
at Annual Meetings
of American H & N
Society (Established
2006)



Jatin P Shah Lecture
at World Congresses of
IFHNOS (Established
2006)



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Jatin P Shah Lecture
at MSKCC
(Established 2019)

Leadership

Selected few positions

National and International Organizations



FOUNDER and CEO,
International Federation of
Head and Neck Oncologic
Societies (1987-)



FOUNDER and President,
New York Head and Neck
Society (1984)



FOUNDER, and President,
International Academy of
Oral Oncology (2005-2009)



**Chairman, AJCC, Head and
Neck Task Force (1998-2016)**



**President, North American
Skull Base Society (2004)**



**Chairman, Advanced Training
Council, (1994 -1999)**
**Chairman, AHNS Foundation
(2014-2016)**



**President, Society of Head
and Neck Surgeons (1991)**



**Chairman, IFHNOS 5th
World Congress (2014)**



**President, New York Cancer
Society (1985)**



**Chairman, Fourth
International Conference
on Head and Neck Cancer of
SHNS & ASHNS (1996)**

**Wishing you all a
Happy, Healthy and Prosperous
New Year!**

Heartiest Congratulations to
DR. JATIN SHAH

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



With Best Compliments

ANKUR SHAH, CEO



Velocity Pharma LLC., 20 Broadhollow Road, Suite 3011, Melville, NY 11747

www.velocitypharma.com



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

One of contemporary medicine's most distinguished figures



Dr. Jatin Shah and Dr. Luiz P. Kowalski (middle) and other doctors at a Brazilian Head and Neck Congress.

Dr. Jatin P. Shah's choice as "The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025" represents a profoundly deserved recognition of an extraordinary career dedicated to advancing head and neck surgical oncology.

Throughout my professional journey, Dr. Shah has embodied the quintessential mentor, leader, and friend whose influence transcends geographical and institutional boundaries. His unwavering commitment to excellence, com-

binated with remarkable wisdom and persistence, has shaped the development of our specialty worldwide.

Dr. Shah's collaborative spirit has touched thousands of surgeons, researchers, and healthcare professionals, fostering international networks that continue strengthening surgical oncology's scientific foundation. His contributions extend beyond technical innovation to encompass the humanistic dimensions of medical practice, demonstrating that clinical excellence and compas-

sionate mentorship are inseparable. As one of contemporary medicine's most distinguished figures, Dr. Shah exemplifies how individual dedication can transform an entire medical discipline, inspiring generations of practitioners to pursue the highest standards of patient care, research integrity, and professional development.

Luiz P. Kowalski, MD, PhD

Professor and Chairman, Head and Neck Surgery Department, University of São Paulo Medical School, Brazil

Former President of the International Academy of Oral Oncology

Not easy to emulate your achievements, Dr Shah



Dr. Wojciech Golusinski presenting an award from the European Head and Neck Society to Dr. Shah at the 50 Year Anniversary celebration of his tenure at MSKCC.

Dear Dr Jatin Shah, your selection as The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025 is absolutely amazing news. I am truly proud and honoured to have the chance to know you. I try to follow your achievements, although it is not always easy.

Warm congratulations once again. Best wishes from all my family.

Wojciech Golusinski M.D., Ph.D

Past President, European Head and Neck Society,

Professor and Chairman of the Department of Head and Neck Services of the Poznan University of Medical Sciences at the Greater Poland Cancer Center, Poznan, Poland

He transformed Head and Neck Oncology globally

I congratulate my colleague and esteemed friend on being named the "South Asian Times Person of the Year 2025". It is a well-deserved honor for this prestigious recognition.

This is a testament to his exceptional contributions as a renowned head and neck surgeon and world leader in Head and Neck Oncology. He has been a remarkable leader, surgeon, scientist, educator and innovator and his impact has changed the field of Head and Neck Oncology globally.

His leadership on two educational world tours, where I had the privilege to serve as a faculty member, truly showcased his commitment to advancing medical and surgical education worldwide.

With over 700 peer-reviewed publications, author of the classic textbook in Head and Neck Oncology and two decades of service as the Chief of Head



Dr. Shah with Dr. Patrick Gullane

and Neck Service at MSKCC, his impact on the field is nothing short of inspiring.

Patrick Gullane, CM, OOnt, MB, FRCS, FACS, Hon DSc, Hon FRACS, Hon FRCS, Hon FRCSI, FCAHS

Professor, Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto Toronto, Canada

Advancing care for head and neck cancer worldwide

It comes as no surprise that Dr. Jatin Shah has been selected as The South Asian Times-Person of the Year 2025. For over 50 years, he has tirelessly advocated for head and neck cancer patients and for the development and education of the professionals and caregivers who take



Dr. Joseph Califano

care of people who are afflicted with this disease.

A true citizen of the world, Dr. Shah has fostered and established hundreds of collaborations across the world to advance care for head and neck cancer. His own surgical skills and personal contributions to the field are

extraordinary, but his contributions to international education and promotion of research is an enduring legacy that will benefit patients all over the world for decades to come.

Joseph Califano, M.D.

Interim Chair, Professor and Iris and Matthew Strauss Chancellor's Endowed Chair in Head and Neck Surgery Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

Director, Hanna and Mark Gleiberman Head and Neck Cancer Center, Moores Cancer Center University of California, San Diego

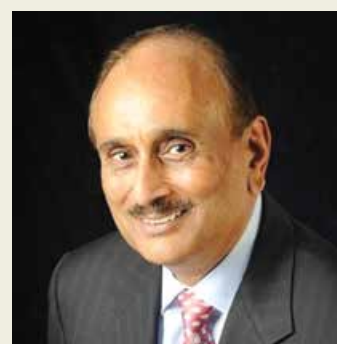
Heading a key department at MSK and much more

I met Dr. Jatin Shah in 1992. I had called him on behalf of the Medical Council of the Association of Indians in America (AIA) to accept the Sushruta Award for excellence in the field of medicine. He readily accepted our invitation.

At the time of the call, Dr. Shah was the chief of Head and Neck Surgery at the world-famous Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) in New York City. While reviewing his resume, I realized that this young man had achieved a lot to be given the opportunity to head an important

department in such a prestigious institution. His technical skills as a surgeon were superb. He innovated several surgical techniques in his field. As a researcher, he conducted many studies and published enormous number of papers and chapters in several textbooks of surgery.

More recently, we invited him to be the keynote speaker at the Graduation Ceremony and Global Alumni Health Summit at Xavier University School of Medicine at Oranjestat, Aruba. His address to the graduating class and the alumni was very inspirational.



Dr. J. Ganesh Bhat

On a personal note, Jatin has always been available to me to help anyone who needed the excellent services available at MSK. All that was needed was a phone call. He directed me to the right person at MSK that was a world leader like himself in a particular field of cancer.

I congratulate Dr. Shah on being conferred Person of the Year Award by The South Asian Times, a well-deserved honor. I wish him all the best and pray God to bestow choicest blessing for his continued health and happiness.

Dr J. Ganesh Bhat

Founder, Atlantic Dialysis Management Services, New York Chancellor, Xavier University School of Medicine, Aruba



SINCE 1967

THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

(A Non-Profit Organization of Asian Indians – Founded in 1967)

Congratulates

Jatin Shah, MD

On being honored as

The South Asian Times

excellence in journalism



Dr Jatin Shah was presented the Sushruta Award by AIA at Garden City Hotel, Long Island, NY in 1993

AIA is proud of your stellar Achievements



Next Gen. Honorees with the organizers of the AIA National Medical Council Awards Gala held at "CIPRIANI 42nd St" in Midtown Manhattan, NY on May 3rd, 2025.

From Left to Right: Gala Vice Chair Dr Atul Kukar, Honoree Dr Deepak Bhatt, Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Honorees Dr Shuvendu Sen, Dr Chetan Sathya and Dr Latha Chandran, National President Gobind Munjal, Former National President Dr. Buddhadev Manvar, Vice Chairs Dr Pallavi Manvar, Dr Pratichi Goenka and Dr Aprajita Mattoo.

The AIA, founded in 1967, is the oldest national organization representing Indians in America. With state chapters rooted across the country, we strive to bridge our Indian heritage with our American commitments.

Gobind Munjal
National President

Dr. Samin Sharma
Chair Board of Trustees

National Executive Committee

Happy New Year 2026!

Heartiest Congratulations to

Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times

excellence in journalism



With Best Compliments

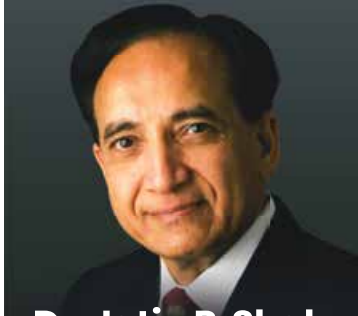


ATLANTIC DIALYSIS
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

**Atlantic Dialysis
Management Services**
23-14, College Point Boulevard
College Point, NY 11356, Tel: (718) 821 3182

DR. J. GANESH BHAT
FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL

DR. NIRMAL K. MATTOO
FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

He supports young surgeons through his foundation



Prof. Tetsuya Ogawa

achieving an impressive h-index of 161, has transformed head and neck cancer treatment globally. More importantly, I believe his true legacy lies in the quiet support he provides to younger sur-

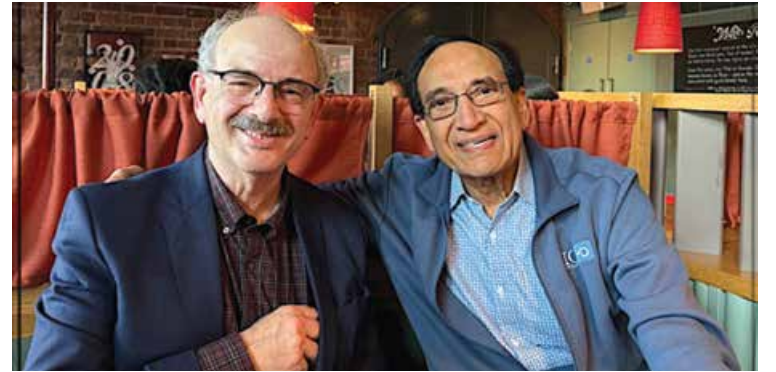
geons through the "Jatin and Bharti Shah Family Foundation."

This award is a fitting recognition for a giant in medicine who has continuously contributed to the betterment of humanity. I sincerely would like to celebrate this great icon on this occasion.

Tetsuya Ogawa, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Nippon Medical School International Committee Chair, Japan Society for Head and Neck Surgery International committee member, American Head and Neck Society (AHNS) - Tokyo, Japan

He diffused knowledge of Head & Neck Oncology globally



Prof Claudio R. Cernea with Dr. Shah

It is a privilege to share a few lines about my relationship with Jatin P. Shah, MD. Our friendship dates back to 40 years ago. Since then, Dr. Shah has been a mentor, inspirer, role model, not only for me but rather to an enormous number of medical students, residents, fellows and doctors all over the world! In fact, his legendary surgical skills and immense medical culture, combined with a shining professional and academic career, undoubtedly makes him the most relevant Head and Neck Surgeon ever! Moreover, he founded the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic

Societies (IFHNOS), as well as the International Academy of Oral Oncology (IAOO), devoting a significant part of his career to diffusion of the knowledge of Head and Neck Oncology around the world. Last, but not least, I am deeply honored to be able to call him a sincere friend!

Claudio R. Cernea, MD, PhD

Professor of Surgery University of São Paulo School of Medicine Past President, Brazilian Society of Head and Neck Surgery President of the Council, IFHNOS

Credit goes to MSKCC for discovering his talent



Dr. Narinder Kukar, Dr. Keith Heller and Dr. Jatin Shah.
In 1993, the Association of Indians in America (AIA), with Dr. Kukar as President, bestowed upon Dr. Jatin Shah the "Sushruta award".

Dr. Shah is the first surgeon to have served as Chief of Head and Neck Surgery for 23 years (1992-2015) at MSKCC.

trious career: "The Legend" and "Icon of Head and neck surgery" to name just two of many. His surgical prowess is recognized universally, transcending boundaries of any kind.

Dr. Jatin Shah has published over 670 scientific articles, 15 medical textbooks, and 73 book chapters. His world renowned "Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology" book is in its fifth edition, and has been translated in 5 languages: Russian, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish. He continues to deliver lectures worldwide.

His humility parallels his phenomenal academic achievements. He is available at any time of the day or night to help guide his patients and colleagues. If you ever had the pleasure of meeting him, you would never know that he is a legend in his field.

May he keep guiding the present and coming generations of surgeons.

Narinder Kukar, MD, FACP, FACE

Former National President, Association of Indians in America (AIA), 1992-1995

Dr. Jatin Shah is an Indian American. He is also a world-renowned head and neck surgeon who came to the US in 1967 as a research scholar and joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York City as a surgical resident in 1968. He went on to become the Chief of Head and Neck surgery there in 1992.

Dr. Shah is the first surgeon to have served as Chief of Head and Neck Surgery for 23 years (1992-2015) at MSKCC. I must say part of the credit of recognizing this talented and innovative surgeon goes to the MSKCC leadership. Credit must be given to our adopted country, the United States of America, for giving immigrants the opportunity to flourish and reach the top of the ladder.

I have had the privilege and good fortune of personally knowing him and observing his incredible surgical career for more than 50 years. In 1993, the National Association of Indians in America (AIA), bestowed upon him the honor of the "Sushruta award," named after world's most renowned Indian surgeon Sushruta (800-700 BC). At that time, we sent almost 300 informational invitation letters to the world's leading head and neck surgeons. Their comments, in general, were, "You could not have picked a better head and neck surgeon in the world to honor."

In 2009, Dr. Shah received the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He has received many other national and international accolades and awards during his illustrious

Full of valor as of kindness, princely in both

As we all know, Dr. Jatin Shah is regarded as one of the world's preeminent Head and Neck Cancer Surgeons. His extraordinary surgical skill, and unparalleled contributions to education and scholarship have shaped the practice of Head and Neck Oncology around the World.

Through decades of leadership at Memorial Sloan Kettering, Dr. Shah has trained and inspired generations of surgeons who now carry forward his standards of excellence. His publications and teachings continue to guide best practices inter-

nationally. Few individuals have had such a profound and lasting impact on their profession.

For his surgical virtuosity, his vision, and his lifelong dedication to improving outcomes for patients with head and neck cancer, Dr. Jatin P. Shah is most deserving of this distinguished honor.

"He is as full of valor as of kindness, princely in both" - Shakespeare, Henry V.

Glenn Dopf, J.D., LL.M

Counsellors At Law, New York



Glenn Dopf with Dr. Jatin Shah and Dr. Ivana Shah

Heartiest Congratulations to
Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



After we came to know him as a supreme surgeon, Dr. Shah has remained a family friend over many years. Always helpful with his store of knowledge and innovation, he is unbelievable. Words are not enough to express our gratitude to him.

With best compliments from:

Baiju and Pankaj Mehta



Jatin P. Shah
MD, PhD (Hon), DSC (Hon)

Global Educator



Contributions to Education of Surgeons

- Member of the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators of the American College of Surgeons.
- Over 1800 scientific lectures all over the world, as shown below.
- 99 named Orations, Eponymous lectures and keynote addresses as shown below.
- Conducted and taught numerous post graduate courses in USA and all over the world.



* Locations of lectures delivered by Dr. Shah

USA, Canada, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, United Kingdom, Sweden, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Belarus, Estonia, Armenia, Croatia, Greece, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Korea, Japan, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand

Orations, Eponymous Lectures and keynote Addresses



Happy New Year! 2026

Heartiest Congratulations to

DR. JATIN SHAH

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism

**Person
of the
Year 2025**

With Best Compliments

Pam Kwatra and Eric Kumar



"Your Dreams Our Expertise"



Nationwide Lender / Broker for Business Loans and Commercial Mortgages

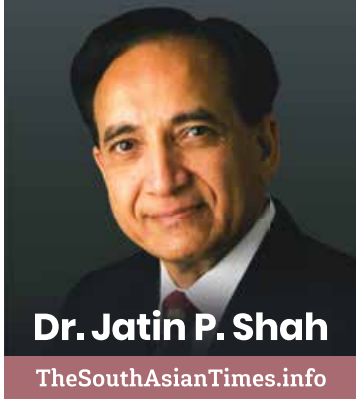
OUR PROGRAMS

- ▶ COVID 19 - Special Loan Programs
- ▶ Main Street Lending
- ▶ Refinance and Cash-out from existing business
- ▶ Franchise Startups and Acquisitions
- ▶ Small - Mid Size business of all types
- ▶ Business Line of Credit
- ▶ All types of retail business
- ▶ SBA loans for all types of business with or without real estate Upto 90% financing
- ▶ Special programs for professionals - doctors, engineers, CPA, Upto 100% financing
- ▶ Investment properties - multi-family and apartments buildings upto 80% financing
- ▶ Special programs for hospitality industry upto 90% financing
- ▶ Restaurants - Acquisitions and expansion upto 90% financing
- ▶ Special Loans (Grants) for minority / women-owned businesses
- ▶ SBA disaster loans and PPP loan forgiveness



ERIC KUMAR
OVER 25 YEAR EXPERIENCE

55 N. Broadway Suite 201, Hicksville, NY 11801, Ph: (646) 813-3350 | www.commercialcapitalfunding.com



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

Pushing the envelope of cancer care



(From left) Drs. Jatin Shah, Barbara Wollenberg and Vinidh Paleri.

Dr. Shah is easily the most influential head and neck surgeon that the world has seen. His contributions to head and neck cancer care span the realms of diagnostics, surgical treatment, follow up and innovations in surgical intervention. Additionally, he has collaborated with almost every member of the multidisciplinary team in pushing the envelope of care. The

textbooks and the papers that he has authored have not only helped the career of countless trainee surgeons but also saved the lives of millions of patients.

Throughout his career he has made it a mission to educate young and upcoming professionals. His razor-sharp intellect planned and delivered this mission through several novel ventures: founding asso-

ciations, creating world tours, and travelling thousands of miles (even at short notice) to deliver educational events. The support provided by the "Jatin and Bharti Shah Family Foundation" has changed the lives of several deserving trainee surgeons.

I can't conceive of anyone more deserving of The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025 award.

Vinidh Paleri, MS, FRCS, FRCSLT

Consultant Head & Neck Surgeon / The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
Professor of Head & Neck Surgery / The Institute of Cancer Research
Director / International Centre for Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer
President / The Royal Society of Medicine, Laryngology & Rhinology Section
Past-President / British Association of Head and Neck Oncology, London

Honoring Vision, Integrity, and deep dedication



Prof. Dan M Fliss

It is with great pleasure and admiration that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Jatin Shah on being named Person of the Year by The South Asian Times. This distinguished recognition is a testament to his exceptional leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

His achievements reflect not only personal success, but also a deep dedication to uplifting the South Asian community through vision, service, and innovation. He has consistently dem-

onstrated the power of purposeful leadership, inspiring others to pursue meaningful impact while upholding the highest professional and ethical standards.

This honor celebrates the positive influence he has had across industries and communities alike, and it acknowledges the respect he has earned through years of hard work and principled action. I wish him continued success, good health, and fulfillment in all his future endeavors.

Professor Dan M. Fliss, MD, FACS

Visiting Professor of Otolaryngology,
Department of Basic and Clinical Sciences,
University of Nicosia Medical School, Cyprus

Successfully treating difficult cases, he is loved by his patients

I am delighted that the prestigious honor of "The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025" is being bestowed on Dr. Jatin Shah, who has unbelievable achievements and numerous contributions in the treatment of head and neck cancers globally. He is humble, inspiring, motivational, and has dedicated his life to educating the next generation of physicians and providing transformative patient care.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have known and worked with him for the past 5 decades. We started working at MSKCC in 1968. Dr. Shah chose to specialize in head and neck surgery and rose to the rank of Chief of Head & Neck Service for over two decades. He refined the existing techniques, introduced numerous additional procedures and his Immaculate bloodless surgery is a sight to be seen. He is loved by his patients. A tumor pronounced unremovable by the majority of surgeons was most often successfully excised by him.

Dr. Shah is an exceptional teacher. His students are leaders in the field all over the globe. He started the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS) that established standards in care of patients with



Dr. Jatin Shah with his MSKCC colleague Dr. Manjit Bains.

Head & Neck cancers and his IFHNOS World Tours provided cutting edge education at multiple institutions globally in collaboration with the international leaders in the field. He presided over and had indelible influence on all major head and neck societies nationally and internationally.

He is an exceptional friend, extremely caring and compassionate and generous colleague. The South Asian Times could not have picked a better person for this award.

Manjit S. Bains, MD, FACS

Thoracic Surgeon,
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

An American national treasure and university unto himself



Ranju and Ravi Batra

On September 27, 2025, at the Marriott Marquis, MSK celebrated dear Jatin's 50 year leadership in head and neck surgery. Ranju and I were pleased to see representatives from around the world come and pay tributes to Jatin.

Dr. Jatin P. Shah is an American national treasure. For over 50 years at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), this world-renowned surgical oncologist, serving 23 years as Chief of Head and Neck Surgery, has been finding and defeating cancer, so his patient, one after another, could continue to live and enjoy their life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Long before President Trump's Secretary of HHS Bobby Kennedy worked on Making America Healthy Again (MAHA), dear Jatin was already doing so individually, and by inventing new techniques for near-bloodless surgery, which surgeons across the world now follow.

Ranju and I have known Jatin for over 20 years and love his adoring wife Ivana and their sparkling daughter Nia, literally a new lease on life. I can attest that he is a Mensch: a person of great integ-

riety, honor, and admirable character. Like our dear late great friend, the Hon. Robert M. Morgenthau, the legendary District Attorney of Manhattan, Jatin has spawned legions of wonderful new cancer surgeons. It's as if he is a university unto himself, with many great alumni.

Jatin has authored many iconic books and an atlas for Head and Neck surgery, and they define his cutting-edge intellect. He has led and created the gold standard in cancer surgery. He initiated, helped form and lead the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS).

Ranju and I enjoyed the glorious 50 Year milestone, and celebrated that Jatin was strong and vibrant, and not retiring. Our reaction then to Jatin, in a text we sent and worth repeating now, was:

"People pray to God for miracles, and you dear friend, have delivered miracles by saving lives! Dear Jatin, you are a Michelangelo of surgery!! Bravo. Ranju & I are proud of you and honored to bear witness to your greatness, and great friends, like Dr. Ashok Shaha and Dr. Manjit Bains testify to your achievements that make MSK a global leader & innovator [in beating cancer]. - Ranju & Ravi Batra"

America's greatness lies in its ability to attract people like Jatin, who are budding geniuses, come here and America lets them blossom, and in return America becomes even more beautiful, healthier and stronger. E Pluribus Unum.

Finally, Ranju and I warmly applaud The South Asian Times on selecting Dr. Jatin P. Shah as their 2025 Person of the Year. A global force in surgery.

Ravi Batra

The Law Firm of Ravi Batra, New York

Congratulations and Best Wishes to
Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



With best compliments from:

Saroj Kumar Poddar

Chairman, Adventz Group





Jatin P. Shah
MD, PhD (Hon), DSC (Hon)

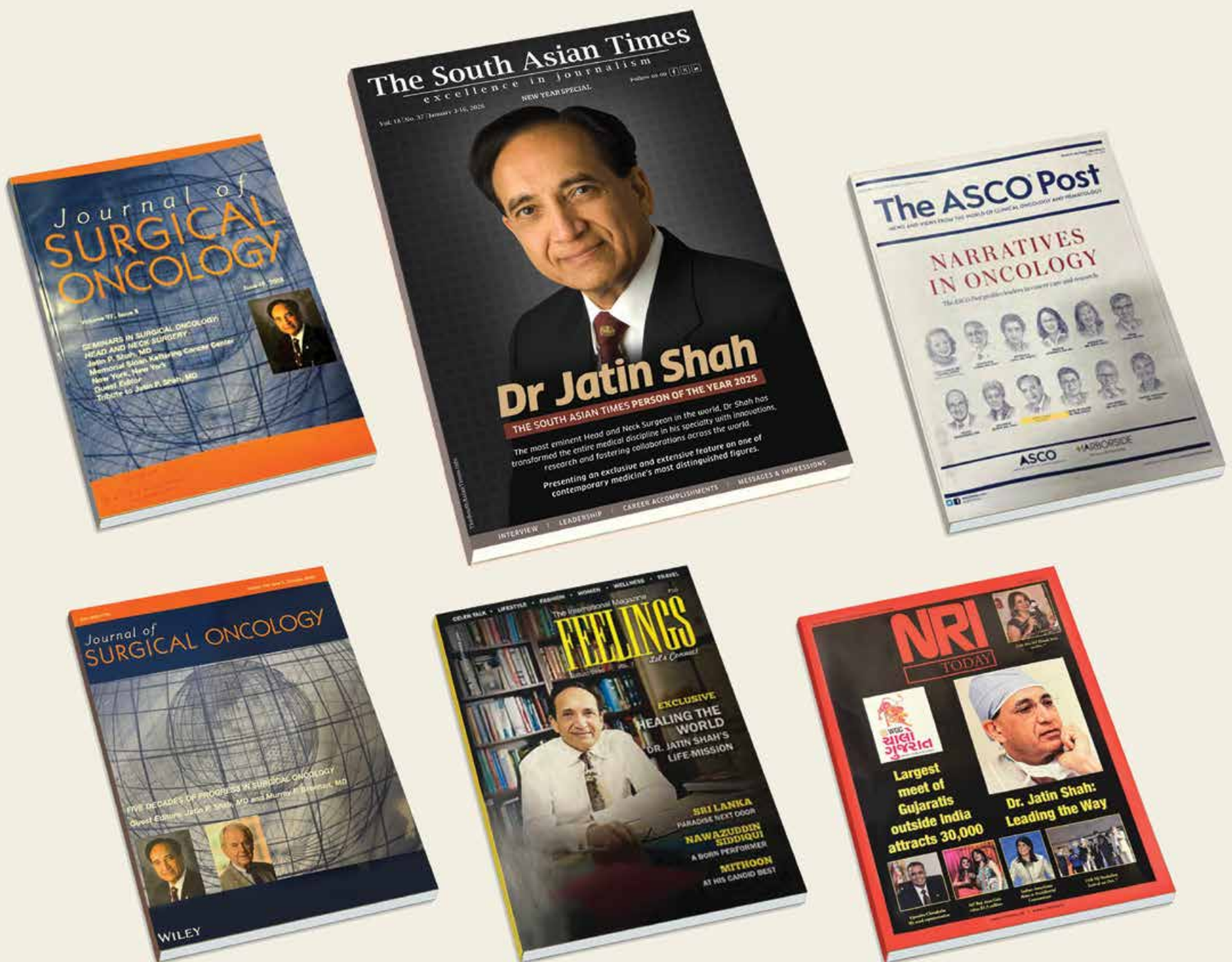
Media Recognition



Featured on Magazine Covers

Dr. Shah has been featured in, and has appeared on the covers of several magazines

- In 2008 he was featured and appeared on the cover of "The Indian American"
- In 2012 he was featured in and appeared on the Cover of "NRI Today"
- In 2016 he was featured in and appeared on the cover of "Feelings" magazine
- In 2008 he was on the cover of "The Journal of Surgical Oncology" as the Editor of a special issue
- He appeared twice more on the cover of "The Journal of Surgical Oncology" in 2021 and 2022
- In 2021 he was featured in and appeared on the cover of "The ASCO Post", a publication of the American Society of Clinical Oncology



Happy New Year 2026!

Heartiest congratulations to

Dr. Jatin Shah

*For achieving the well-deserved and
distinguished recognition as*

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



With Best Compliments:

Kanchana & Jagadeesan Poola



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

Under Dr Shah's care, I successfully fought back cancer



Mr. Nirmal Minda

I would like to express my deepest admiration for Dr. Jatin Shah, a world-renowned doctor in head and neck surgery at MSKCC, New York, whose work continues to inspire countless lives across the world. When I was first diagnosed with cancer, I was distressed and unsure of whom to trust, as different doctors offered different opinions. In that difficult moment, Dr. Shah became an encouragement of clarity and reassurance.

When I reached New York for treatment, he not only examined my past medical history in detail but also assessed my present condition with exceptional care and compassion. His guidance in 2014 marked a turning point in my jour-

ney—restoring my confidence and giving me the courage to fight back. Even after I returned to India, he continued to guide me, always available with thoughtful advice, as and when approached.

Dr. Shah is a distinguished and compassionate philanthropist. His commitment to advancing cancer care—including the remarkable Satellite center of MSKCC in Chennai, India—reflects his lifelong dedication to serving humanity.

Dr. Jatin Shah truly embodies excellence, compassion, and selfless service. His nomination for The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025 is not only well-deserved but also a tribute to the countless lives he has touched.

Nirmal Minda

Chairman, Uno Minda Limited
President, ASSOCHAM (The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)
Gurugram, India

He has influenced many young H&N surgeons in India

Heartfelt congratulations for honoring Dr. Jatin Shah as "The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025."

I came to know Dr. Shah in 1991 when I started my Surgical Oncology training. Since then I have been fascinated by his work, research and contribution to science of head and neck cancer.



Dr. Jatin Shah and Dr. Rajendra Toprani

I was lucky to get an opportunity to work under him at MSKCC in 1996 where I learnt the finer nuances of Head and Neck Oncologic Surgery practice. I was also amazed by his discipline, hard work and organizational skills.

He has been my guide and mentor throughout my professional career till date and has influenced many youngsters in the field of Head & Neck Surgery, particularly in India.

He gave me the responsibility to organize an IFHNOS World Tour Conference at Ahmedabad in 2012 and it turned out to be one of the largest H&N conference ever in India.

I have participated in almost all the academic meet-

ings organized by him all over the world through IFHNOS (International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies) and have gained a lot too.

We share a special bond with each other, and I wish him a long and healthy life so that he continues to guide all of us.

Dr. Rajendra Toprani M.S., M.Ch.

Past President - Indian Association of Surgical Oncology 2021-22
Past President - Indian Society of Oncology 2023-25
Senior Consultant, Head & Neck Surgical Oncologist
Director, Department of Surgical Oncology
Director, HCG AASTHA Cancer Center, Ahmedabad

He restores dignity and quality of life to patients



Senior Maxillofacial Surgeons from all over the world received their ICMFS (International College of Maxillo Facial Surgery) Fellowship 2025 award from the legend in the field, Prof. Jatin P. Shah in Azerbaijan.

Having known Prof. Dr. Jatin Shah for many years, first as a revered teacher, then a mentor-guide, I have witnessed a career that is not only long and distinguished, but transformative

for the entire field of Head and Neck Surgery.

As a Resident student, I learned from his books in my life 30+ years ago, then heard him speak, see him operate and later blessed to interact

and be mentored by him. His work goes far beyond curing oral cancer—his surgeries have restored identity, dignity, and meaningful quality of life to countless patients. What sets Dr. Shah apart is his unwavering belief that the true measure of success lies not merely in reconstruction, but in how a patient lives after treatment.

Equally remarkable is his lifelong commitment to mentoring the next generation of surgeons. From the finest centers in the United States to India and the most remote parts of the world, Dr. Shah has shaped surgeon-leaders through his teaching, generosity, and extraordinary clarity of thought. His willingness to share every insight, every experience ensures that his legacy is lived and exemplified through thousands of surgeon-students worldwide. For many of us, as surgeons, his influence has been life changing.

Dr. SM Balaji

Secretary General,
International College of Maxillo Facial Surgery, Chennai

He modeled what vision, resolve, and flawless execution can accomplish

In any profession, particularly in the medical arena, having a great mentor is a treasure. I consider having Dr. Jatin Shah as a mentor to be more than such a treasured circumstance. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Shah exemplified the master surgeon, the caring physician, the gifted teacher, the formidable leader, and the consummate gentleman. He modeled to me and countless others around the world what ambitious vision, unwavering determination, and flawless execution can accomplish what others think cannot be done. As I watched him over the last



Dr. Ehab Hanna

three decades of our relationship, I continue to be inspired, motivated, and humbled by the enormity of his accomplishments.

I consider myself fortunate to have had Dr. Shah as a mentor, role model, and above all, a dear and treasured friend.

Ehab Hanna, MD, FACS

Professor and Vice Chairman
Director of Skull Base Surgery
Department of Head and Neck Surgery
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston

He raised the standards of cancer care globally



Dr. Nishant Agrawal

Dr. Jatin Shah redefined head and neck cancer surgery through uncompromising techniques, evidence-based judgment, and international mentorship. As

his Fellow in 2008, I learned that precision and compassion are inseparable and that leadership means raising the standards for everyone which Dr. Shah did globally. His teachings guide my practice daily: think clearly, operate meticulously, care deeply, and build community.

Nishant Agrawal

Professor of Surgery
Co-Director, Head and Neck Surgical Oncology
Chief, Section of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago

Happy New Year

Very warm and heartiest congratulations to

Dr. Jatin Shah

On being honored as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism



May this well-deserved recognition stand as a testament to Dr. Jatin Shah's extraordinary legacy, igniting renewed inspiration and purpose as he continues to transform lives through his unparalleled dedication, leadership, and enduring commitment to hope and healing.

With Best Compliments & Warmest Wishes for an Amazing 2026

Nimmi & Kamlesh C. Mehta



Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

“What would Dr. Shah do?” I ask facing a dire clinical decision

How do you measure the impact of one person on an entire field of medicine? For head and neck oncology, the answer is simple: you look at Dr. Jatin Shah.

Once in a lifetime, someone comes along who profoundly shapes their field. Dr. Shah is that person. His surgical excellence has saved and improved the lives of thousands, but his influence reaches far beyond his own patients. Through the countless surgeons he has trained, his impact has touched innumerable lives across the globe.

I was fortunate to be one of his trainees—a highlight of my educational career and life. His ability to teach and inspire excellence is extraordinary. His research and the countless lectures he has delivered have transformed the treatment of head and neck cancer worldwide. One of the greatest examples of his vision was the creation

of the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS), now the largest organization dedicated to advancing care for head and neck cancer patients globally—a testament to his foresight and relentless dedication.

What makes Dr. Shah truly exceptional is not only his brilliance but his humility and approachability. He works tirelessly, driven by an unwavering commitment to improving patient care and advancing our field. He selflessly shares his expertise, whether it's a late-night conversation in his office, an impromptu phone call, or an email from a colleague halfway across the world.

I vividly remember walking into his office on many occasions late at night with complex cases that weighed heavily on me. Without hesitation, he set aside everything, listened carefully, and guided me through the issues



Dr. Bhuvanesh Singh performing surgery along with Dr. Shah

with clarity and wisdom. Those moments taught me not just surgical technique, but the essence of caring, compassion and mentorship.

Even now, nearly 30 years after training under him, I often ask myself, “What would Dr. Shah do?” when faced with a difficult clinical decision. His example continues to guide me every day. My life is better for having known him, not only as a mentor, but as a guiding father figure who shaped my values, decisions, and approach to life.

Dr. Shah is a true legend—a person of a lifetime. His contributions, mentorship, and tireless work ethic have left an indelible mark on our field and on all of us who have had the privilege to learn from him. His legacy will endure for generations, shaping patient care and inspiring surgeons around the world.

Bhuvanesh Singh, MD, PhD

Surgical Director, Skin Cancer Program / Northwell Cancer Institute
Professor of Surgery / Hofstra University Zucker School of Medicine
Long Island

An exceptional medical figure



With Spanish colleagues, Drs. Manuel Bernal Sperkelson, Jatin Shah, Guillermo Raspall and Julio Acero

Dr. Shah is an exceptional medical figure, author of reference books on Head and Neck Surgery translated into

several languages, including Spanish.

Professor Guillermo Raspall

Specialist in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Barcelona, Spain

I met Dr. Jatin Shah in New York in 1969 during my first visit to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Since then, we have met almost every year at Head and Neck Surgery Congresses around the world.

Patients given a new life can't thank him enough

For me, Professor Jatin Shah is a great example of dedication, empathy and care for patients. He is a great surgeon in his field, an extremely intelligent and kind person. His scientific achievements and discoveries show the younger generations of doctors how a worthy person like Jatin can achieve everything in his specialty as a doctor.

Through his participation in various world-class forums and congresses in all countries of the world he has shared his experience and showed the latest achievements in head and neck surgery. Professor Shah is a phenomenon with his skills to teach and with a



Prof. Mario Milkov

healthy school with tens of thousands in all corners of the world.

Gratitude and recognition to him from his patients is unbelievable. Patients from different walks of life remain connected with Dr. Shah forever after he gives them a chance for a new life.

I am proud to have the opportunity to be friends with Jatin, to learn from him, and to receive advice in all areas of life.

Prof. Mario Milkov, M.D., Ph.D.

Vice Rector of Medical University of Varna
“Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”
Bulgaria

Goal-oriented, high achiever and trustworthy friend

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to write a few words regarding Jatin Shah, MD, on this momentous occasion of the prestigious honor of “The South Asian Times-Person of the Year -2025” bestowed on him.

It is indeed an honor and privilege to reminisce about my more than 65 years of personal association with Dr. Jatin Shah - best described as my “True Friend”.

His professional achievements are legendary and well described by many others in great detail. To summarize, he has been a true legend to his alma mater (Baroda Medical College), society, workplace as well as his patients.



Dr. Bhupendra M. Tolia

I would, therefore, like to confine my remarks to my personal observations of this legendary man. Ever since I have known him, Jatin has been a goal-oriented, hard-working, high achiever and trustworthy friend.

In addition to other virtues, he has been a generous philanthropist and a family man. I wish him continued success in the future.

Bhupendra M. Tolia, MD

Associate Clinical Professor of Urology,
Albert Einstein College of Medicine,
Somerset, New Jersey

His extraordinary breadth of intellect goes beyond medicine

I have had the privilege and profound honor of knowing Dr. Jatin P. Shah for over three decades. Throughout this time, he has distinguished himself not only as a global leader in head and neck cancer surgery, but as one of the finest surgeons and teachers of his generation. Over a remarkable career spanning more than five decades at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he has transformed outcomes for patients worldwide and helped define modern standards of care in his field.

What truly sets Dr. Shah apart, however, is the extraordinary breadth of his intellect beyond medicine. He is deeply knowledge-



Kamal Dandona

able in history, philosophy, and global affairs, and engages with these disciplines with the same clarity, discipline, and curiosity that define his surgical excellence. He is equally admired for his warmth, humility, humor, and grace. Dr. Shah radiates calm, wisdom, and positive energy, uplifting all who have the privilege of knowing him.

We wish Dr. Jatin P. Shah continued success, long life, excellent health, and happiness with his family.

Kamal and Chummu Dandona

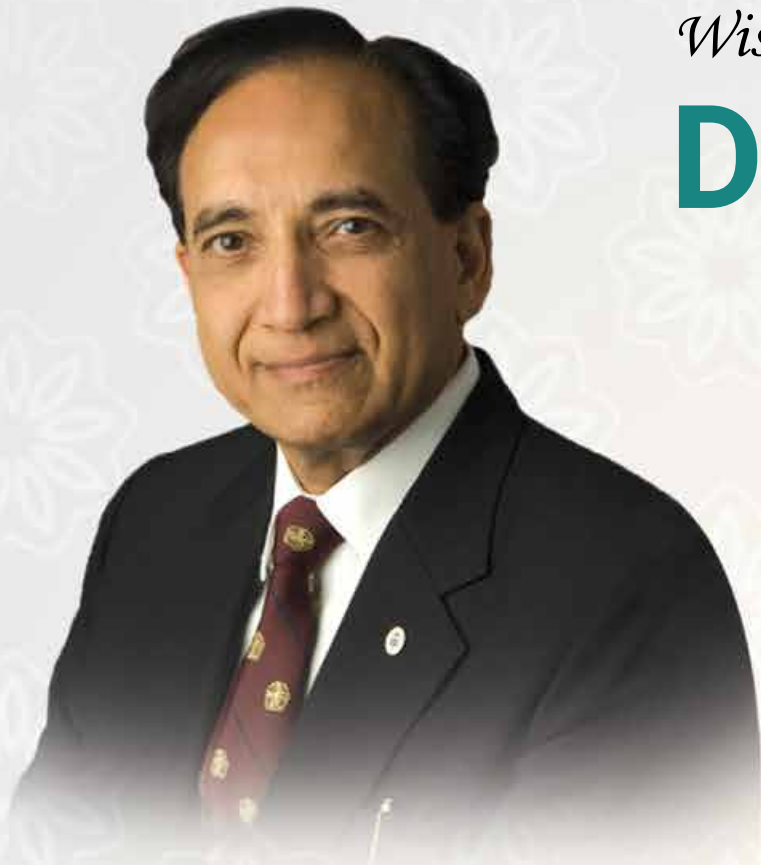
Impresario, New York

Wishing Heartiest Congratulations to
Dr. Jatin Shah

On being recognized as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism

**Person
of the
Year 2025**



A Legacy of Excellence in Surgical Oncology

Dr. Jatin Shah is a world-renowned surgical oncologist specializing in head and neck surgery. He has held prestigious leadership roles at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) and is widely considered a pioneer in the field.

Profile Overview

- **Current Role:** Attending Surgeon and Member, Head and Neck Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering.
- **Former Leadership:** He served as the Chief of the Head and Neck Service at MSKCC for over 23 years (1992-2015).
- **Endowed Chair:** He is the inaugural holder of the Elliott W. Strong Chair in Head and Neck Oncology.

Expertise and Clinical Focus

Dr. Shah's work primarily focuses on the surgical treatment of benign and malignant tumors in the head and neck region, including:

- **Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery:** Management of complex cancers of the Oral Cavity, Throat, and larynx.
- **Skull Base Surgery:** Treatment of tumors at the base of the brain and sinuses.
- **Salivary Gland Tumors:** Surgical management of advanced and complex cancers in a multidisciplinary fashion.

Professional Legacy

- **Education & Academic Impact:** He has trained over 400 surgeons from around the world. In recognition of his global influence, several international institutions have named Chairs, Lectures, and symposia after him.
- **Authorship:** He has published over 600 peer-reviewed articles, cited over 82,000 times. He has the highest h-index of 162 amongst all head and neck surgeons in the world and authored the "gold standard" textbook, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology.
- **Awards:** Recipient of highest honors from the American Head and Neck Society, The Royal Society of Medicine, and the IFHNOS, where he serves as CEO.



TheSATimes

With Best Compliments From:

Salil Zaveri
1-516-924-7999

Neil Zaveri
1-516-250-8742





Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

Carrying India's name to the highest echelons of medicine



Dr. Jatin Shah with students and trainees of Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

Dr. Jatin P. Shah has made pioneering contributions to the field of head and neck oncology, shaping it into a globally recognized specialty. Over a career spanning more than 5 decades at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Dr. Shah served as Chief of the Head and Neck Service and led the Head and Neck Disease Management Team, establishing standards of care that are now practiced worldwide.

He has authored over 650 peer-reviewed articles, 73 book chapters, and 14 authoritative books, including the widely acclaimed "Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology", which remains a cornerstone reference for surgeons. Beyond his prolific academic output, Dr. Shah founded the International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS), creating a global platform for collaboration, education, and training. His leadership roles in numerous professional societies and his mentorship of generations of surgeons have

advanced surgical techniques, multidisciplinary treatment approaches, and the preservation of function and quality of life for patients.

Dr. Shah's legacy lies not only in his surgical innovations but also in his vision of equitable, international access to excellence in head and neck cancer care. His work took advanced surgical techniques and multidisciplinary cancer care to countries where such expertise was scarce. He became a sym-

bol of India's contribution to global oncology, inspiring young doctors from his homeland to pursue careers in cancer care.

Our collaboration has converged through IFHNOS where I serve as the Director. The IFHNOS initiatives such as global congresses and academic exchanges under Dr. Shah's mentorship and leadership have inspired surgeons like me to strengthen cancer care globally. Together, we are fostering knowledge transfer, surgical excellence, and

advocacy for equitable cancer care worldwide. We are working to elevate standards of head and neck oncology, ensuring that innovations in surgical techniques, prevention strategies, and global awareness campaigns reach diverse populations. IFHNOS underscores the importance of international collaboration in tackling cancers that disproportionately affect developing nations, particularly oral cancers linked to tobacco and alcohol use.

For India, he is a son who carried its name to the highest echelons of medicine; for the world, he is a beacon of excellence and compassion. His legacy lives on in every life saved, every surgeon trained, and every patient who found courage in his care.

Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi

Professor, Department of Head Neck Surgery
Director, Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer, Tata Memorial Centre
Director, International Federation of Head and Neck Oncologic Societies
President, Foundation for Head and Neck Oncology, India
Navi Mumbai, India

Loved by his staff, students, colleagues, and patients



Prof. Kaustubh Patel with Dr. Shah at the World Congress on Thyroid Cancer 2025 in Boston.

It was September of 1992 when I first met Dr. Shah at MSKCC during my ISHNO (Indian Society of Head & Neck Oncology) Fellowship and as common for all head & neck Surgeons coming in his contact, he had already reserved his place in my heart and mind.

The first few surgeries I saw were maxillectomy without blood transfusion, thyroidectomy with carotid resection, Composite resection with free Microvascular Fibula & Base Tongue Resection with mandibulotomy approach. It opened a new Head & Neck world for me and I promised myself to become a dedicated head & neck surgeon from there on.

I have been visiting MSKCC every few years since then and have always enriched myself with new insights and have always felt his farsightedness. His clinical acumen, surgical skills, communication techniques, enthusiasm for new technologies, resounding priority for research and above all the heartfelt urge to teach everyone who is

receptive is a combo I have never seen in anyone in the last 35 years of my H&N Oncology life.

His teachings of how to evaluate a paper from a journal is what has kept me out of confusion in the plethora of scientific journals with thousands of head & neck related articles getting published every month. His contribution to Head & Neck Oncology is phenomenally global and I don't think there is any country in the world where he does not have his mentee.

IFHNOS & IAOO are examples of his vision to improve the fellowship across the borders, quality of care and future of head & neck oncology. His books & Atlases are monumental and will forever be considered as the best head & neck literature guiding many more generations of head & neck oncologists worldwide. From all his achievements, the one I love and respect the most is the love and respect he gets from his staff, students, colleagues, teachers and above all his patients.

Prof Kaustubh Patel

Professor & Senior Head & Neck Surgical Oncologist, Director, Dept. of Head & Neck Oncology, Director, HCG Cancer Center, Director, Aastha Oncology Associates, President, Indian Society of Thyroid Surgeons, President, Foundation for Head & Neck Oncology 2017-19, President & Founder Secretary, Gujarat Society of Head & Neck Oncology, Ahmedabad, India

Online IFHNOS Fellowship is a great platform for training

Dr. Jatin Shah has been an enduring icon and guiding light—not only for me, but for generations of aspiring Head and Neck surgeons across the world, especially in India. His unmatched knowledge, clarity of thought, and unwavering commitment to education have shaped countless careers.

My first interaction with him, when I was just stepping into Head & Neck Oncology, remains unforgettable. He spent generous time guiding a young clinician with humility and kindness—an enduring hallmark of his character. His availability, whether for a complex clinical discussion, academic guidance, or personal advice, has remained constant over the years.

As the architect of the global online IFHNOS fellowship, he created an unprecedented platform for structured training; I was privileged to be the first applicant and later serve as an examiner. Working with him closely for IFHNOS and FHNO initiatives—including the recent US faculty delegation to FHNO's Silver Jubilee—and being part of the delegation that honored him with the "ICON of Head and Neck Oncology" award at FHNO (Foundation for Head and Neck Oncology)



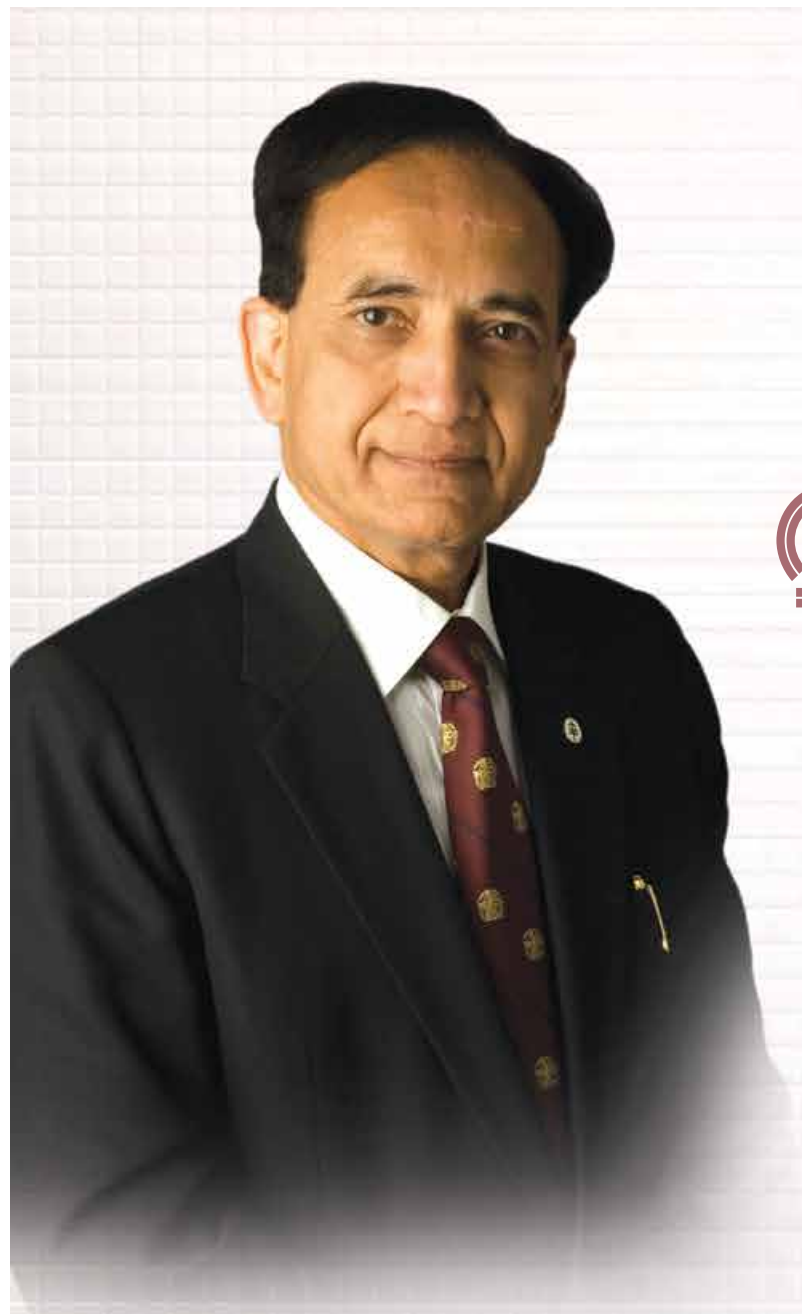
The ICON of Head and Neck Surgery award at the silver jubilee conference of FHNO, in Bangalore, November 2025. From left: Drs. Dushyant Mandlik, Jyoti Dabholkar, Dr. Jatin Shah and Vikram Kekatpure.

2025 was truly a privilege.

Knowing him remains one of the greatest honors of my professional life.

Dr. Dushyant Mandlik

MS, FUICC, FGOLF (IFHNOS-MSKCC), PGDHHM (AMA California State Uni)
Head & Neck Surgical Oncology, Robotic and Reconstructive Services
Aastha Oncology Associates, HCG Aastha Cancer Center, Ahmedabad
Secretary, Foundation for Head and Neck Oncology (2023-25)
Member, Education Committee IFHNOS
Secretary, FHNO Institutional Fellowships
HCG Aastha Cancer Center
Ahmedabad, India



*Heartiest Congratulations,
Our Friend*

Dr Jatin Shah

On being recognized as

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism

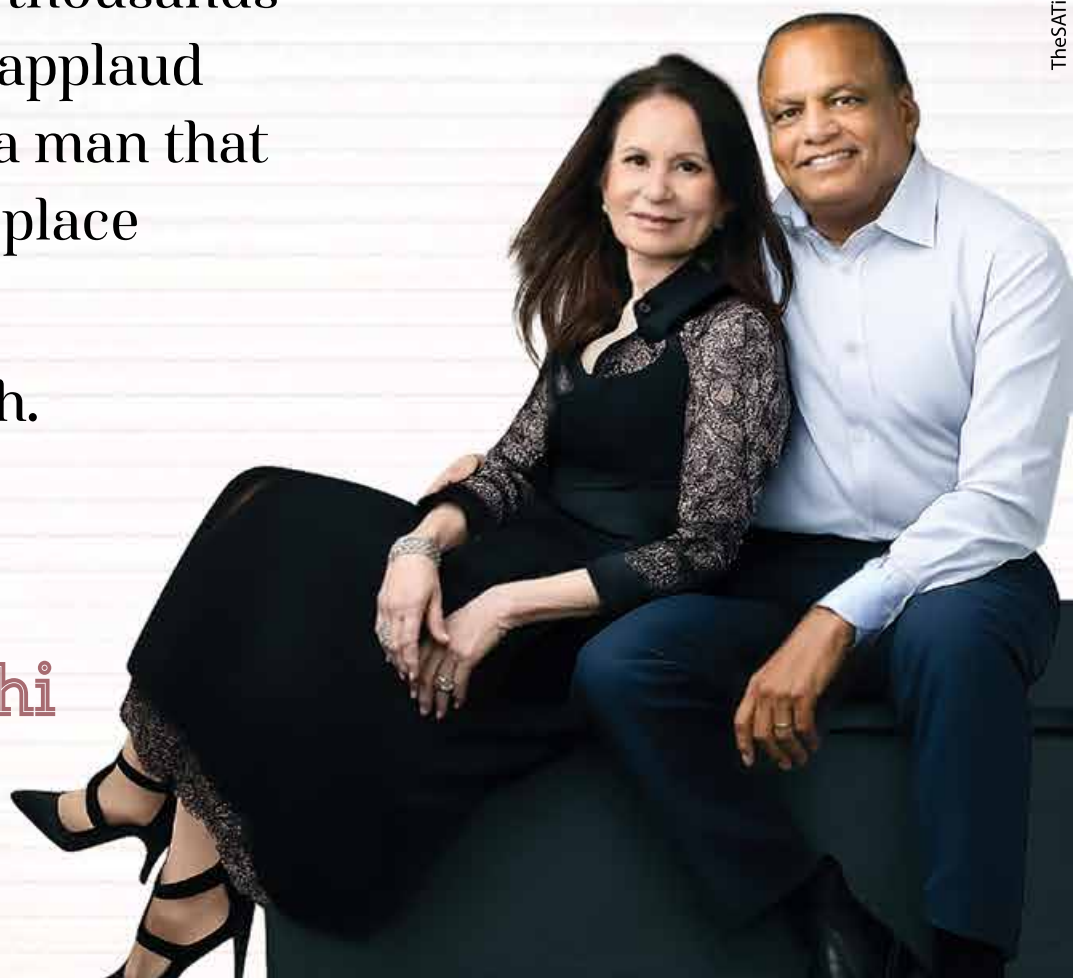


Your knowledge, expertise, caring and philanthropy have impacted thousands of people worldwide and we applaud you both as a physician and a man that has made the world a better place simply by your presence.

We are proud of you, Dr Shah.

With compliments from

Drs Leena & Nitin Doshi





Dr. Jatin P. Shah

TheSouthAsianTimes.info

Congratulations and Acclamations

Responding to the announcement that Dr. Jatin Shah is The South Asian Times' Person of the Year 2025, scores of messages have poured in from his colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, eminent head and neck surgeons from around the world, his peers, his former trainees, as well as friends and family.

Legacy of surgeons trained and lives saved



Dr. Vijay Haribhakti

been catalytic, igniting ambition in young trainees, elevating standards among seasoned clinicians, and cultivating an unwavering culture of excellence.

In recognizing him as the Person of the Year, The South Asian Times celebrates not only a surgeon of unmatched stature but a human being whose kindness, conviction, clarity and grace will be remembered till eternity.

Dr Vijay Haribhakti, MS
Chair Oncosciences,
Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital,
Mumbai

Dr. Shah encouraged us to start a Trust in our son's memory



Uma Malhotra and Ranjit Malhotra

Dr. Jatin Shah's intimidating reputation preceded our first meeting with him in 2008. There had been consensus that he is the "best head & neck surgeon in the world" and we used every trick in the book to meet him. We arrived scared and nervous, with no real understanding of what lay ahead. Traveling from Mumbai to New York felt like a logistical nightmare—endless paperwork, rigid rules, and months of medical preparation before we finally got an appointment.

As parents, we were scared and hopeful at the same time—our son Karan's future depended on Dr. Shah.

From the very first meeting, however, Dr Shah eased every fear we had carried with us. His manner was warm and deeply caring, paired with a no-nonsense clarity that immediately reassured us. Life had thrown us a devastating curveball, and we had no idea how to navigate the grueling months ahead. Yet, through those long days and nights, we developed a special bond with him—one that has endured over the years.

Our families came to know one another, and we began to see many sides of Dr Shah: an indulgent father, a loving and devoted husband, a globe-trotter who trav-

els with just one piece of carry-on luggage, and above all, a true friend. Whether over dinners at each other's homes or at restaurants in New York or Mumbai, time spent with him is always special. We never cease to be amazed by his unwavering dedication—to his work, to research, and all kinds of new developments.

From simple questions to deeper understanding about life, Dr Shah's thinking has always been clear, precise, and practical. Over the years, he has guided us through many dilemmas and problems, always had time for us despite his very busy schedule and, most importantly, encouraged and advised us as we started a Trust (to support young cancer patients of cancer) in memory of our son.

Congratulations to Dr Jatin Shah on receiving The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025 honor. We can think of no one more deserving and are so happy and delighted to see him recognized for his extraordinary contributions, leadership, and lifelong dedication.

With warmest congratulations and gratitude,

Uma & Ranjit Malhotra
Trustees, Karo Trust,
Mumbai

Professor Jatin P. Shah stands out as one of the most transformative figures in my professional life, a mentor whose influence transcends the boundaries of surgical expertise. To the global surgical community, he has been the iconic Chair of the Head and Neck Service at MSKCC, a pioneering researcher, and the distinguished author of seminal works that have shaped the very foundations of our field.

Across India and the world, his legacy is etched in the professional journeys of countless surgeons and precious lives saved. His frequent visits to our institution have

Full support for his peers and surgeons he mentors



Dr. Jatin Shah awarded Dr. Snehal Patel his Fellowship Certificate in New York City in June 2000.

It is truly fitting that Dr. Jatin P. Shah is being named Person of the Year 2025 by The South Asian Times, coinciding with his incredible achievement of completing 50 years of clinical practice at Memorial Sloan Kettering Can-

cer Center. Throughout these five decades, Dr. Shah has not only been a pioneer in head and neck oncology but has also profoundly influenced the lives and careers of countless individuals, including my own.

It was 28 years ago that I first came to New York for Fellowship training, and since then I have been fortunate to work with Dr. Shah closely in clinical surgical practice. I have also had the privilege of participating in virtually all the other numerous global educational, clinical and research endeavors that Dr. Shah has accomplished.

Dr. Shah's contributions to the field are legendary, but what sets him apart is his humility, his wise counsel, steadfast belief in the abilities of his associates, round-the-clock access and unwavering support for his peers and his mentees alike. As we celebrate Dr. Shah's legacy, this honor is yet another testament to his enduring impact on the medical community and the innumerable lives he has touched around the world.

Snehal Patel, MD
Attending Surgeon
Head and Neck Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Professor of Otolaryngology
Weill Cornell Medical College
New York

World tours to update our head and neck fraternity

What a tremendous honor for my longtime friend Prof. Jatin P. Shah to get recognized as The South Asian Times - Person of the Year 2025! He is truly regarded as a giant in the field of head and neck surgery and oncology who advanced the field scientifically and also glued the individuals treating these patients together. He gets things done.

I have many memories of our collaboration, but certainly the finest is from 2010 when we, together with a group of friends and colleagues, went on

a world tour together. During one month we went to 8 countries to lecture about head and neck cancer and discuss with local colleagues about patient care and novel developments. At every location we also spent some time visiting the sights.

Many congratulations to Dr. Shah!

C. René Leemans, MD, PhD, FRCS
Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology -
Head and Neck Surgery, Amsterdam University Medical
Center, The Netherlands



(From left) Drs. David Pfister, Jatin Shah, C. René Leemans, Jesus Medina, Randal Weber and Ralph Gilbert in Turkey as part of a world tour in 2010.

CheapOair wishes you and your family Very Happy Holidays,
and a Healthy, Joyous & Prosperous New Year!

Smart Travel, with a Human Touch

The world is waiting for you. Since 2005, CheapOair has provided great travel deals that make it easy to get started on your next adventure. Book your next trip on CheapOair. Over 500 airlines to choose from.

cheapOair[®]



☎ 888 482 3313

Earn 2X points on CheapOair app

Visit www.cheapoair.com and explore your options on over 500 airlines, millions of lodgings, and hundreds of car rentals. Contact CheapOair online, via phone, chat or download our mobile app today!

XAVIER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ARUBA

Congratulations!

DR. JATIN SHAH

2025 SOUTH ASIAN TIMES PERSON OF THE YEAR

For his extraordinary dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence in service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



Mr. Ravi Bhooplapur
President

Mr. Edwin Casey
Chairman

Dr. J.G. Bhat
Chancellor

Dr. P.K. Prahalad
Trustee

Dr. Ravindra Kota
Trustee

Dr. Rachel Karmally
Trustee

Dr. Faten Kerazan
Trustee

Dr. Peter Urazov
Trustee

Dr. Israel Posner
Trustee

Dr. Anthony Shallash
Trustee