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September 22, 2022

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Resident and Fellow Section
American Medical Association
5330 North Wabash Ave, Suite 39300
Chicago, IL 60611-5885

To the Resident and Fellow Section,

The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) strongly supports the reelection of Pratistha Koirala, MD PhD to the Resident and Fellow (RFS) seat on the American Medical Association (AMA) Board of Trustees.

We have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Koirala since she was a medical student at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Her personal background as an immigrant woman combined with her experiences working with underserved communities in the Bronx have shaped her into a compassionate physician whose kindness and empathy is contagious. She inspires those around her to 'care harder' and to 'work harder'.

One of Dr. Koirala's most impressive qualities is how quickly and to what great efforts she will go to help others. At the AMA Interim 2016 meeting, a fellow student confided their Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status to her. Dr. Koirala immediately recognized that their presence at an ongoing AMA meeting allowed an opportunity to shape AMA policy and to ask the organization to take a supportive stance on DACA. She led this effort, authoring an emergency resolution to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) and coordinating members from across the organization to speak with their delegations. By providing data and educating the members of our house this group facilitated the unanimous passage of this emergency resolution through our HOD. Our AMA was one of the first and most vocal proponents of DACA and has been supportive of students, physicians, and other healthcare professionals with DACA status.

One year later, at the Interim 2017 meeting, when a New York medical student became ill, the first person his friends called for advice was their mentor, Dr. Koirala. She immediately recognized that his illness was life-threatening, directed the group to the nearest hospital, and met them at the Emergency Department where he was diagnosed with a stroke. Due to their prompt arrival to the hospital, he not only survived, but he was also able to return to medical school. Amazingly, throughout this ordeal, Dr. Koirala not only comforted this student's friends, communicated with his family, and raised nearly \$15,000 in the matter of days for his recovery efforts, but she also fulfilled all her duties to serve as a Delegate and on an AMA HOD Reference Committee.

Even in crisis, she balances the types of responsibilities that are vital to being a successful member of the AMA Board of Trustees. In addition to her many roles within the AMA, including as a past member of the AMPAC Board of Directors and as the current RFS member of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Koirala has held multiple leadership positions within MSSNY. She has served as a Delegate to the MSSNY HOD and on both the Medical Student Section and RFS Governing Councils. She served on the MSSNY PAC Board and as a member of the MSSNY Council. The MSSNY Council performs functions similar to those of the AMA Board of Trustees, including enacting policy, ensuring that the actions of the organization are consistent with its mission, and exercising fiduciary responsibilities. While on the MSSNY Council, Dr. Koirala strongly supported initiatives to restructure membership, resulting in changes that led to robust growth and increased diversity of MSSNY membership.

Dr. Koirala has been an active and valuable member of the AMA Board of Trustees. Her presence on the Board has moved the organization in a compassionate and equitable direction, especially as we navigate the rapidly changing landscape of medicine. She will continue to be a tireless advocate for our profession and for her peers. We cannot imagine a better representative for the RFS on the Board than Dr. Koirala.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Parag Mehta". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Parag H. Mehta, MD
President