

*NHSGGC BME Staff Network
celebrated South Asian Heritage
Month on the evening of
17th August 2023.*



*This was an evening of South Asian
food, music and stories from
colleagues with South Asian
Heritage about their experience of
living in Glasgow and working in
the Health Services.*





Our first speaker was **Dr Saqib Razzaq, Project Officer and head of research for Colourful Heritage**, a project aimed at capturing and recording the life stories of the earlier generation of migrants from South Asia and the largest online archive of early South Asian and Muslim migrants to Scotland.



We heard from Saqib about the history of South Asians in Scotland and about plans for a war meme Irish for soldiers from the British Indian Army who fought in the world wars.

We then heard an inspiring talk from **Araf Saddiq Scotland's first South Asian Paramedic** and recipient of the Queen's Ambulance Service Medal. Araf spoke about his childhood growing up in Bridgeton and what motivated him to become a paramedic in the Scottish Ambulance service.





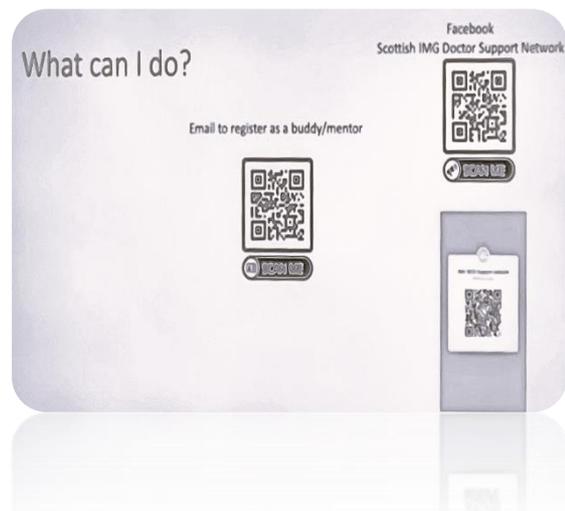
After dinner we heard from **Professor Mo Al-Haddad**, Consultant in Critical Care and Anaesthesia at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow. National Associate Postgraduate Dean for International Medical Graduates (IMGs), NHS Education Scotland. Graduated from Al-Nahrain University, Baghdad. Trained in Critical Care and Anaesthesia in Scotland.



interventions designed to support IMGs in Scotland and help with their acculturation and to support supervisors of IMGs. Mo talked about the Scottish IMG support scheme and IMG Buddy scheme as well as acculturation of international graduates into life in Scotland.

Mo has an interest in supporting and researching issues related to IMGs. His research interests include experiences of IMGs. He has also worked with colleagues to instigate

QR Codes for IMG Support are given below :-



Finally, we heard from **Dr Shubh Gupta**. Shubh was born and raised in Kolkata. Graduated in MBBS from Burdwan Medical College and Hospital. Worked at Ruby General Hospital for approx. 5 years.

Thereafter he came to the UK for further post graduate training in April 2004. Shubh spoke about his leadership journey as an IMG from his first job in the UK as a novice anaesthetic SHO in Cardiff in 2004, gaining a training number in the West of Scotland in 2007, being appointed Consultant at the Western Infirmary in 2013 to being appointed Lead Clinician in Anaesthetics for 3 years and thereafter appointed Clinical Director in Anaesthesia, NHSGGC South Sector in 2021.





Shogufta Haq, co-chair of the BME network said of the event “It was a fantastic event. We were so pleased to see so many of our colleagues there, celebrating the diversity of our workforce and what that means for NHSGGC as a great place to work.”

As well as members of the BME Staff Network, the event was attended by

Jane Grant - CEO

Ian Ritchie - NHSGGC Vice Chair

Anne MacPherson - Director of Human Resources and Organisation Development

Kate Ocker - Chair of the Disability Forum

Anne Cameron Burns - Employee Director for NHS Greater





Jane Grant, Chief Executive, said “I really enjoyed the evening. The work the BME network does to support our staff is inspiring and I was delighted to be invited to hear about all their hard work and the contribution of South Asian colleagues to our great workplace”.

Anne MacPherson said “The BME network has been really helpful at providing a space for our staff to raise concerns, support our policy development and celebrate our diversity. I was delighted to be invited to celebrate South Asian heritage month and to learn some of the history related to our population and to hear the lived experience of some of the speakers, it was very inspiring.”

