

Michigan Physician Receives CDC Childhood Immunization Award

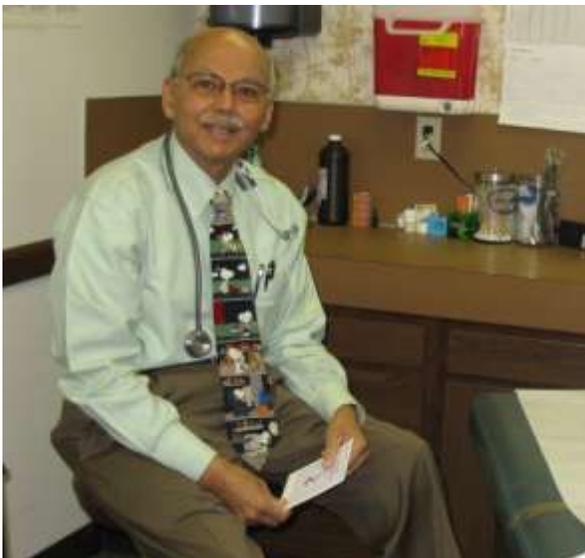
Parikshit S. Kumar, M.D., Receives 2013 Award

Parikshit S. Kumar, M.D., from Caro Family Physicians, in Caro, has been named a Childhood Immunization Champion in recognition of his outstanding efforts to promote childhood immunization.

Each year, in connection with National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW), the CDC Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) honor health professionals and community leaders from around the country with the CDC Childhood Immunization Champion awards. These awards acknowledge exemplary individuals who go above and beyond to promote or foster immunizations among children 0-2 years old in their communities.

“Immunization plays a key role in protecting the health of America’s children,” said Dr. Melinda Wharton, Acting Director of CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. “Ensuring that all children are immunized requires a cadre of dedicated health professionals and community leaders nationwide. The Champion awards give us the opportunity to salute these individuals for their service to our children.”

Dr. Kumar promotes immunizations within his practice and in the Caro community. He is a pediatrician that participates in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program in Tuscola County and collaborates with the Tuscola County Immunization Coalition to decrease barriers to vaccines.



Parikshit S. Kumar, M.D.

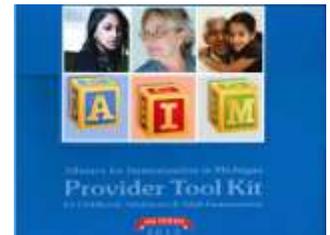
“Immunizations are a top priority for me and my office, I am very honored to receive this award,” said Dr. Kumar. “I believe that immunizations are important in preventing communicable diseases. It is my goal to immunize all children and to educate parents that refuse vaccines, getting them to change their minds.”

NIIW is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities throughout the U.S. Each year, during NIIW, communities across the country celebrate the CDC Childhood Immunization Champions. These award recipients are being recognized for the important contributions they have made to public health through their work in childhood immunization.

For more information about Dr. Kumar and the other 2013 CDC Childhood Immunization Champions, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/champions/profiles.html>.

2013 AIM Provider Toolkits Now Available

The Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM) Provider Tool Kit is updated annually to help providers stay knowledgeable about important changes that affect immunization practice. The 2013 AIM Kits are now available, free of charge, at: www.healthymichigan.com > Immunizations.



In recent years, the look and feel of the printed kit has changed and pieces included are much more colorful and promotional in nature. AIM moved forward with this change in response to feedback from regular kit users, many of whom say they don’t have the funds in their offices or worksites to print colored materials. Additionally, in past years, many materials became outdated during the year. The changes in the printed AIM Kit are designed to ensure that the information is more current and accurate. All of the same great pieces that have been found in previous versions of the kit can now be found at the new and improved website: www.aimtoolkit.org.

The 2013 kits were made possible through the generous donations of about a dozen Michigan-based health care organizations, and we wish to thank these benefactors. The AIM Kit sponsors' names are listed at www.aimtoolkit.org (scroll to bottom of page for list of names). To find out how your organization can become a sponsor of next year’s AIM Tool Kit, please contact Caryl Markzon at CMarkzon@msms.org.