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DR. PRIYANKA GAUR RECEIVES SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL FOUNDATION'S PRESTIGIOUS 2020 HO DIN AWARD

*Dr. Gaur receives Foundation's highest honor and scholarship
presented by Foundation Trustee and UT Southwestern Graduate Dr. Richard Hoffman*

DALLAS -- May 2, 2020 -- Priyanka Gaur, M.D., M.P.H. was presented the Ho Din Award at the [UT Southwestern](#) Medical School Commencement Ceremonies on May 2. During her time at UT Southwestern, Dr. Gaur earned her medical doctorate degree and a Master of Public Health degree. Prior to UT Southwestern, Dr. Gaur attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Brain and Cognitive Sciences. The Ho Din Award was approved by Southwestern Medical Foundation Trustees in April.

Originally established in 1943, the Ho Din Award is the highest honor bestowed by [Southwestern Medical Foundation](#). The Award embodies the founding principles of the Foundation, which include compassion, human understanding, and medical wisdom. Recognizing those who exemplify these unique personal qualities, the Ho Din Award highlights the ideal physicians envisioned by the Award's founders.



"Investing in medical students who not only gain medical expertise, but also have the capacity to provide thoughtful patient care, has always been a cornerstone of the Foundation and Medical School," said James R. Huffines, Chairman of Southwestern Medical Foundation's Board of Trustees. "It is with great pride that we present the Ho Din Award to Dr. Gaur, who has demonstrated the qualities of exceptional physicians and will no doubt lead tremendous progress in her field of work."

Dr. Gaur has excelled at UT Southwestern, earning recognition for her 4.0 academic record, but also for her service to the at-risk patient population. As President of the Future Residents of Obstetrics & Gynecology, she organized opportunities for medical students to explore the fields of OB/GYN. Dr. Gaur also founded the Health Advocacy Student Interest group (now called Student Patient Advocates for the Rights of our Communities or SPARC), which offers medical



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students an opportunity to explore and address social, economic, and political determinants of health care.

"It was a great surprise to receive the news that I would receive The Ho Din Award," said Dr. Gaur. "Winning this Award and honoring its meaning will be a privilege I will treasure throughout my life. I look forward to carrying the Ho Din spirit in my daily interactions with patients, their families, and colleagues."

The Award was presented by Richard E. Hoffman, M.D., M.P.H., UT Southwestern Class of 1975. Dr. Hoffman has had an illustrious career in public health serving with both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Dr. Hoffman and his family have a long history in support of Southwestern Medical Foundation and UT Southwestern. His parents, Adelyn and Edmund Hoffman, received the Foundation's highest award recognizing donor service and support - The Sprague Award - in 1999. Dr. Hoffman has carried forth his family legacy of generosity and serves as a Trustee of the Foundation. The Hoffman family has championed discovery at UT Southwestern for decades, and The Hoffman Center in Genetics and Epidemiology is named in their honor.

Dr. Hoffman earned a Master of Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins in 1983 and has written on preparing for pandemic influenza caused by novel viruses.

"As we navigate the current pandemic crisis, communities and hospitals across the globe are recognizing the fundamental importance of care based on both compassion and science," said Dr. Hoffman. "Since its establishment in 1943, this Award has been presented to many remarkable students and teachers. Dr. Gaur is well-deserving to join the group of previous Ho Din Award winners. From the excellent academic achievements that she has accomplished during her time at UT Southwestern, to her already demonstrated leadership in public health, Dr. Gaur is a medical student capable of bringing improvement to the patients and communities she will serve."

Dr. Gaur to have tremendous impact on women's health going forward

Following graduation, Dr. Gaur will pursue her residency in Gynecology and Obstetrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital. "The field of Obstetrics and Gynecology allows the physician to follow women throughout their lifetime," said Dr. Gaur. "One is able to counsel, educate, empower, and build continuity through both exceptional and routine moments. I don't think any other specialty allows you to partake in such a rich depth of medicine and in all stages of a patient's life. With so much potential for human impact, that is stimulating and exciting."

Dr. Gaur played a pivotal role in creating a new childcare facility for parents in need of daycare services while receiving treatment at Parkland Hospital. Her work in developing a survey with the Parkland Center for Health Care Innovations and Clinical Outcomes was instrumental in



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fine-tuning the details of this important project. [The Parkland-based childcare center, called Annie's Place, is opening in Fall 2020.](#)

"Dr. Gaur's recognition of the crucial need for high-quality childcare for families and patients in our community is indicative of her ability to see the bigger picture involved in successful patient care," said Kathleen M. Gibson, President and CEO of Southwestern Medical Foundation. "Her compassion and community engagement are an example to all. What a privilege it is to present Dr. Gaur with the 2020 Ho Din Award."

At UT Southwestern, Dr. Gaur has been a University of Texas Bill Archer Public Policy Graduate Fellow, a member of the American Medical Association Standing Committee, and a member of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists.

"Not only has Priyanka excelled academically and clinically, she has demonstrated a clear passion for patient and peer advocacy in many roles," said Dr. Angela Mihalic, Dean of Medical Students, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Distinguished Teaching Professor in Pediatrics. "I have no doubt that she will be a force of nature advocating for her patients, and that she will make an impact on a grand scale to improve the health of her community and society at large."

A shared commitment to public health

Dr. Hoffman and Dr. Gaur reflect a longstanding culture of compassion and service, and their dedication to public health is especially relevant in the current pandemic.

"The scope of this is worldwide," Dr. Hoffman said. "We all now understand what a pandemic is. We have begun to understand what epidemiologists do, doctors who try to protect the public health through the use of the methods of epidemiology, which is the basic science of public health."

Dr. Gaur is in awe of how medical professionals are handling the crisis. "Physicians on the frontlines in the COVID-19 pandemic are selfless, resilient, and innovative," Dr. Gaur said. "They dutifully show up to work every day to protect human life, despite resource limitations, and they are developing treatment strategies for very sick patients with strong clinical acumen and emerging research. Through it all, they maintain their professionalism and compassion with patients, their families, and team members."

Dr. Hoffman weighed in on what qualities the job requires of physicians in the current crisis.

"Compassion, courage, truthfulness, dedication, cooperation, focus, perseverance, the application of knowledge and experience, and an inquiring mind that searches for better treatments and methods of prevention," Dr. Hoffman said. "That's what I've been looking for and seeing."



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The Ho Din Award

Southwestern Medical School was founded in 1943 to serve a growing population in North Texas that was becoming a significant hub for commerce in the region. At the first meeting of the school's Board of Trustees, the Board voted to establish an annual award to recognize an individual who best exemplified the ideal physician envisioned by the founders.

Student Ho Din Award recipients today receive a \$10,000 scholarship, Ho Din medal and certificate.

Dr. Edward H. Cary was among the first to receive the Ho Din Award. Dr. Cary co-founded Southwestern Medical Foundation and Southwestern Medical College. Prior to establishing Southwestern Medical Foundation, Dr. Cary was a nationally prominent leader in the medical community, serving as head of both the Texas Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

On July 1, 1943, Dr. Cary gave a speech to the inaugural class of Southwestern Medical College: "This is an historic occasion, the beginning of something truly worthwhile for Dallas and the Southwest. It is the fruition of 40 years of effort by the best and highest-minded medical men in Dallas. Medicine belongs to all of the people. That is the goal of this Foundation."

Other notable recipients of the Ho Din Award include 1966 honoree Dr. Joseph L. Goldstein, who went on to win the 1985 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.

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About Southwestern Medical Foundation

Southwestern Medical Foundation is a public charitable corporation and registered 501(c)(3) organization inspiring and advancing progress in medicine. The Foundation helps create needed resources to advance medicine primarily in the southwestern United States through the commitment of donors, helping to assure the highest quality of medicine through scientific discoveries, medical training, and patient care.

Since 1939, the Foundation has connected the vision of our donors with highly innovative programs and served as a sustainable funding source for leading edge research, medical education, and patient care, while stewarding the assets which donors have entrusted.

Southwestern Medical Foundation is guided by four core principles: Service to Community, Vision of Excellence, Mindful Stewardship, and Best Outcomes. Each principle is a promise to donors, beneficiaries, and generations to come that the Foundation is dedicated to bringing the gift of better health to our community and to the world beyond.



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About UT Southwestern

UT Southwestern, one of the premier academic medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. The institution's faculty has received six Nobel Prizes, and includes 25 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 16 members of the National Academy of Medicine, and 14 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators. The full-time faculty of more than 2,500 is responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and is committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide care in about 80 specialties to more than 105,000 hospitalized patients, nearly 370,000 emergency room cases, and oversee approximately 3 million outpatient visits a year.