

Leicester Voice

Do you have any comments, news or photographs about Leicester? If you do, please send them to Leicester Voice at leicester@abplgroup.com

British Indian voted one of UK's most influential GPs

A diabetes expert, from Leicester has been voted one of the most influential GPs in the country.

A poll put Professor Kamlesh Khunti in the top 20 of present-day doctors who have helped to shape general practice.

He was named in the list, published in Pulse magazine, one of the country's top weekly medical publications, after a panel of 50 leading GPs were asked to judge which of their colleagues they most admired.

Prof Khunti has been a GP in Leicester for 20 years but much of his work is now centred on diabetes research and has won national and international recognition.

Kamlesh Khunti qualified from Dundee University and was appointed as Professor of Diabetes and Vascular Medicine and Head of Division of General Practice and Primary Health Care, University of Leicester in 2007. He leads a research group in the Department of Health Sciences that works in close collaboration with Department of Cardiovascular Sciences. He was a founding member of the Primary Care Diabetes Society and is Secretary of the Primary Care Study Group of the



Kamlesh Khunti

European Society of Diabetes. He was awarded the RCGP's John Fry Award for Research for 2001, the Mary McKinnon Lecture at the 2006 Diabetes UK Annual Professional Conference and the Leicester University Frank May Prize Lecture for 2006. His current research interests include diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, Primary Care and Research among South Asian populations.

In an interview with Asian Voice, Professor Khunti said, "I was very surprised to get this news but obviously delighted for our wider research team as it's our collective work that is being recognised."

Originally from Gujarat, Prof Khunti (48) was trained to be a doctor in Scotland and came to the UK (Leicester) when

he was 8 years old and lives with his parents, wife and 3 children.

When asked about his take on diabetes, Prof Khunti added, "Well I have a very strong family history of diabetes and my father has had a heart attack and stroke (probably related to his diabetes). Most South Asians have a family member who has been affected with diabetes and this obviously has a great impact on the wider family unit. Best is to prevent diabetes by lifestyle changes (diet and exercise) and our research has shown that we can reduce the rate of people developing diabetes by 50%. Once diabetes is developed than the main aim is to have it tightly controlled as well as control of blood pressure, cholesterol and not smoking."

Dr Azhar Farooqi, a GP and chairman of NHS Leicester City's clinical cabinet, told Leicester Mercury: "It is excellent for Leicester that Kamlesh has been recognised in this way. He deserves it because of his enormous research contribution to diabetes and cardiovascular disease."

"The work he has done has changed practice, particularly in patient education."

Indian nurse keeps job despite 'worrying' incompetence

A bungling foreign nurse who could barely understand English and refused to learn the language was told he could keep his job despite his "worrying" lack of competence.

Biju John, 38, insisted he was able to understand instructions and wrote to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) stating: "I never be confused at all."

Colleagues said they felt they were "carrying" him and did not feel safe leaving patients in his care. The Indian nurse also had a limited knowledge of basic skills and did nothing when a patient was struggling to breathe.

The NMC heard John should have started basic airway management as the man gasped for breath after coming round from an operation. But instead he had to be helped by a colleague, who rushed over when she heard the man's wheezing from the other side of the care unit at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

On another occasion, John almost caused a

patient to go into shock when he wore latex gloves to treat him, despite being told he was allergic to the material. The hospital then devised a set of objectives for John, including meeting the required standard of English. But he failed to reach the targets set for him and was kept on supervised practice.

A further incident, on October 20, 2004, led to John being suspended.

A disciplinary meeting was scheduled for January 20, 2005, but he quit seven days before it. He was later reported to his regulating body.

John, from Cambridge, was found guilty of seven charges relating to his lack of competency when he worked at the hospital between July 2003 and December 2004. These include failing to complete basic skills required of a nurse, not demonstrating his English was sufficient to communicate with colleagues effectively, which gave rise to the incident with the latex gloves, and failing to take appropriate

action when a patient's oxygen levels dropped.

He was cleared of mistaking the Surgical Assessment Unit for the Surgical Acute Care Unit.

The panel ruled John could keep his nursing licence subject to conditions.

NMC chairman David Kyle said John's lack of competence was "worrying" but "not irreparable". He said although John was "a caring nurse", he "lacked confidence" and "was reluctant to act on his own initiative".

The panel was satisfied for him to keep his licence, subject to a conditions of practice order. This means John must tell the NMC where he is working, remain supervised and complete a personal development plan and an English language test. If the nurse complies with the conditions he will be allowed to return to normal practice once the 18-month period is up.

Until August, John worked at a nursing home in Cambridge. He did not attend the hearing.

Leicester opens its doors for first Asian Carnival

Leicester will come alive this Easter weekend as it gets ready to host a three day spectacular event showcasing South Asian Culture.

The Leicester Asian Carnival takes place from 2nd - 4th April 2010 at Parklands, Oadby, Leicester. The event provides a unique shopping experience in the heart of the community by promoting and showcasing South Asian cultural traditions, modern cuisine, fashion, performing arts and much more!

Children can enjoy a range of activities including face painting and bouncy castle at the 'kids korner'. Get your taste buds going at the enormous 'food court' sampling the best in exquisite Asian cuisine, 'shop till you drop' at our vibrant 'bargain bazaar' with exclusive bridal fashion, jewellery and accessories. Fancy a holiday? Then check out the Travel Market where a variety of experts from the travel industry will help you tailor make your perfect get away!

BBC Asian Network will be hosting the 'entertainment stage' where local talent will be showcasing their talent against the UK's finest British Asian artists including Bollywood sensation Navin Kundra performing his hit Tere Liyeh, Punjabi prodigy Jaz Dhani and many more!

Worried about your health? Then come along to Leicester Asian Carnival where the Nation's Heart Charity - British Heart Foundation will be giving lots of free advice and information about how to live a healthy life. Advice will be available in Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu and many other languages!

Leicester MP, Keith Vaz who will be opening the event, said: "I am proud to be able to lend my support to such a wonderful event. This carnival will provide the perfect setting for Leicester's many South Asian residents to celebrate their culture, traditions and food and to share this with the whole Leicester community. I hope all local

residents make their way down to the venue over Easter weekend for what will be a fun-filled family day out."

CB Patel, Publisher/Editor of Gujarat Samachar and Asian Voice said, "Leicester and Leicestershire are not only home to a large number of British Asians, especially of Gujaratis but it has a unique distinction of the community's progress in all walks of life together with harmonious community relations."

Leicester Asian Carnival is a spectacular opportunity to promote our culture in an ideal environment for all the residents of the city and surrounding areas.

During the Easter holidays, I believe Leicester Asian Carnival should provide all of us an ideal opportunity for leisure and pleasure with children, extended family and friends, as well as networking."

For further information please visit: www.asiancarnival.co.uk

Leicestershire villagers' praise for popular shopkeeper

Villagers have praised a friendly shopkeeper who has celebrated 30 years in business.

Ramon Laloo, 67, opened the Humberstone Supermarket, in Main Street, Humberstone Village, in 1980. Villagers clubbed together to present Mr Laloo with a card signed by more than 40 people.

The shopkeeper said: "It's quite an achievement to be going for as long as I have. I was honoured to receive the card.



Ramon Laloo and his wife, Chanchal, celebrate 30 years in business

It's easy to do my job because everyone who comes into the shop is so nice. The village has changed a lot in 30 years. A few pubs have closed and people are different these days but I still enjoy serving my customers."

tomers."

John Burrows, chairman of the Humberstone Village Community Forum, said Mr Laloo was one of the most popular members of the community. He said: "I've lived here for six years and have got to know him quite well. He's such a lovely man and the level of service we get from him is A1. He knows us all. The fact he is still here when other places are being forced out of business by bigger chains says it all."

To place an advertisement in
ASIAN VOICE Call: 020 7749 4085
 email: avsales@abplgroup.com