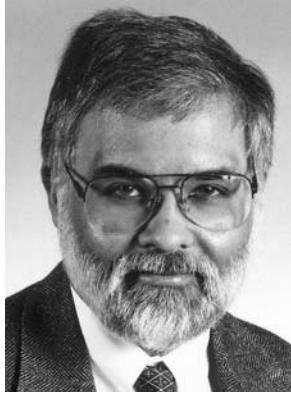


2008 Distinguished Alumnus



Mika N. Sinanan, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Surgery
1988 General Surgery Program Graduate

Mika Sinanan received both his B.A. and M.D. from Johns Hopkins University. His early academic career was being recognized by the numerous honors & awards he received, including Phi Beta Kappa (1976), Alpha Omega Alpha (1980) and the Upjohn Proficiency Award Medical School Graduate with the Highest Scholastic record (1980).

Mika began his general surgery residency training here at the UW in 1980. At the end of his third year, he returned “home” to pursue graduate studies in the Department of Physiology at the University of British Columbia. Before leaving, however, he received the Upjohn Resident Proficiency Award for Resident Teaching (1983). Throughout his training years, all who came in contact with him recognized Mika’s surgical aptitude. In fact, at his Chief Residents’ Graduation dinner (1988), one of our faculty members wryly commented that Mika was the only resident to ever be mistaken for the attending surgeon by a patient.

After graduation, Dr. Sinanan accepted a position here in the department at the rank of Acting Assistant Professor, attaining the rank of full Professor in 2003. His interdisciplinary research led to an appointment as Associate Professor Adjunct to the Department of Electrical Engineering (1997) and also to a UW Graduate Faculty Appointment (1999). His UW clinical appointments include Director of the Gastrointestinal Function Clinic (1988-1996), Co-Director of the Center for Videoendoscopic Surgery (7/93-7/04), and UWMC Chief of Medical Staff (2001-2004).

A member of several prominent surgical societies, Dr. Sinanan has held key board positions including Associate Examiner for the American Board of Surgery (2003) and President (2004) of the ACS Washington State Chapter. He is very active in the Northwest Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons having held the offices of Local Arrangements Chairman (1996), Councilor (1999-2001), Executive Committee (1999), Program Chairman (2003) and Secretary (2006- present).

Dr. Sinanan is a gifted teacher and a productive researcher. He has supervised the studies of 25 fellows, 5 medical student research projects, and 1 graduate student thesis, in addition to having served as Resident Faculty Advisor to four of our Categorical residents. He has authored over 60 articles and chapters, many as first-author, and over 11 multi-media educational productions. Mika has already been awarded one patent for his work on magnetic anatomical markers (2001) and another application has been filed for using the

Red Dragon to evaluate surgical skill (2006). His research endeavors continue to attract and secure substantial grant funding.

Perhaps Dr. Sinanan’s greatest accomplishment is his ability to bring to fruition today his vision of the future of surgical technique. In the Center for Videoendoscopic Surgery, he developed & supervised the budget, laboratory design, personnel staffing, interdepartmental facility protocol, and resident & surgeon training. He served as a consultant for the development & application of the Force Reflecting Laparoscopic Device, including coordinating clinical studies. Dr. Sinanan served as the clinical designer, study coordinator, and surgical consultant during the program development of the Surgical Simulation, Simulab Corp. Finally, he worked on the benchmark & resident credentialing program for the 7 Step Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy Training Protocol (Ciné Med Corp. and US Surgical Corporation), as well as designing their training procedures and publication of multimedia training materials.

As the field of surgical practice continues to expand in new and exciting directions, Mika Sinanan will likely be remembered for his pioneering work in creating teaching environments where the entire surgical team learns to work together before treating the patient.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Sinanan on this well deserved honor!