

Nominee details

Nominee First name: Rohit

Nominee Last name: Sagoo

Nominee Employer: British Sikh Nurses

Section response

Initiative title

- Reaching out to south Asian communities
- Raise awareness of organ / stem cell donation / Covid-19
- Bridging the gap between the NHS and Asian community

Key Aims

- To raise awareness of organ donation, mental health issues and health promotion within the Sikh Community
- Reaching out to the difficulty groups in the Sikh Community e.g., older generation or the those with no or limited English language
- Building trust within the Asian communities for those who have lost trust with healthcare providers
- Working with DKMS, Anthony Nolan and Resuscitation Council UK on raising awareness of stems cell donation and basic life support in the south Asian community
- Raising awareness of organ and stem cell donation, and Covid -19 public information through bespoke Asian TV channels & Radio channels across the Asian diaspora
- Working in collaboration with the Department for Health and Social care and taking lead about discussions on organ donation in the Asian Community by working with London Assembly & NHSBT
- Being a key promotional driver for busting myths around the Covid-19 vaccine and decreasing vaccine hesitancy in the south Asian community
- Bringing the Sikh community together across all sectors to talk about the impact of lifestyle choices and health and wellbeing
- Working with a homeless Sikh charity to vaccinate the homeless and unregistered people in London

Key Roles

- Reaching out and bridging the gap between the NHS and the Sikh Community – the impact and outcome has resulted in receiving a funding grant from NHSBT to raise awareness of organ donation
- Assisting and leading on stem cell donation drives alongside DKMS for Asian patients with cancer – the impact and outcomes has been that two patients have found a donor match.
- Working with DKMS has achieved an outcome of over 10,000 Asian People signing up to the stem cell donation register and working in collaboration with Midlands and Bedford Hubs, as well attending many London drives.
- Leading work with Sikh organisations and the Sikh Council UK has allowed me to openly discuss the impact of Covid-19 – the outcome of this has increased in vaccine uptakes in the Sikh Community. The work continues.
- I go out 2-3 Thursdays a month to care for the health needs of the homeless in London with NishkamSWAT Healthcare division – the outcome has seen more homeless people having minor ailments cared for through the pandemic
- Collaborative work with nursing associations e.g., BINA has allowed us to support Indian NHS nurses throughout the pandemic and more so with those that have been affected by the Indian variant.

Team or Individual Nominee?

Individual entry: Rohit Sagoo Founder of British Sikh Nurses Lecturer, Child Nursing West London University

Challenges

- As my work is grassroots nursing within in the community it has been difficult to reach out to the community – I have overcome this challenge by working hard on social media platforms, engaging with key drivers in the Sikh Community and collaborating with Gurdwaras across the UK
- Reaching out to non-English speaking members of the Sikh Community – I have overcome this by addressing the Sangat (congregation) of Sikhs in the Gurdwaras, as well as having open discussions about organ donation on Sikh TV channels
- Reaching out to the Sikh Community across different areas of the UK – so far, we have approximately 40k followers on all our platforms and 50 registered members.
- Building trust with the Sikh Community – as a health professional I have talked openly about the positive messages around Covid-19 and vaccines uptakes, as well as living organ donation and teaching basic life support with the Resuscitation Council to the Sikh Community
- Healthy Living - I have encouraged healthy nutrition in Gurdwaras as part of Langar (free community dining)
- Mental health – I have raised discussion of mental health and alcoholism in the Sikh Community, this has opened dialogues of mental health in the Sikh community.

Evaluation

- Working with DKMS on stem cell donor drives across the UK has increased stem cell donors from the Asian community at approximately 10,000 registrants – I have led on drives around London, and I have registered approximately 1,200 to the DKMS list.
- Campaigning for stem cell donors in the Asian community has seen three patients receive a stem cell donor e.g., Match4Rajie - this shows that I have been sensitive and compassionate to the needs of those who are vulnerable in my community. This also shows working within the realms of equality and diversity.
- Working directly with families searching for a living kidney donor has had a huge impact on the uptake of organ donor registrations. I have led the campaign and raised the awareness of organ donation through speaking with many Asian media outlets and supporting the family to find an altruistic donor – as a child nurse, family centred care is the bedrock of children's nursing.
- My long-term campaign for raising awareness for organ donation in the Sikh community has led to winning funding from NHSBT for the second time – I have been at the heart of the communication process in nursing and responsive to the needs of the Sikh community.
- My work with British Sikh Nurses is voluntary, community based and all on my own, in addition to my main job. This shows that I can work closely with my community in meeting the individual needs of my community. Without a doubt my work underpins all the fundamental core values of good nursing care.
- I have openly improved the Sikh community's views and perceptions of organ donation and vaccine hesitancy through social media and direct dialogue with the community, thus resulting in positive outcomes and an increase in uptakes of the vaccine and organ donor registration.

Sharing Best Practice

- My work is across all social media pages and is visible to my community and the public.
- I have raised points of discussion about organ donation, covid-19 vaccine myths and vaccine hesitancy in the South Asian community
- I have inspired some Sikh Nurses who work within the NHS, and we now have 50 members
- I have received an award from the London Faith and Belief Awards 2018, been a finalist at the RCNi Awards 2019 and received a Point of Light Award from Prime Minister – Boris Johnson
- British Sikh Nurse is the bridge between the NHS and the Sikh community.