

APPNA & APCNA Leadership Visit Medtronic Operational Headquarters

A delegation of APPNA & APCNA leadership visited the operational headquarters of Medtronic in Minneapolis, Minnesota on February 16-17, 2017. Medtronic Vice President Mr. Vipul Seth had invited the Key Opinion Leaders to meet with Mr. Omar Ishrak, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Medtronic and Michael J. Coyle, Executive Vice President and Group President for Medtronic Cardiovascular Division, which is the largest division within Medtronic. Medtronic is the world's leading medical technology company, with more than \$27 billion in annual revenue, and operations reaching more than 160 countries worldwide with 90,000 employees. Medtronic offers technologies, solutions and therapies to treat a wide range of medical conditions, including cardiac and vascular diseases, respiratory, neurological and spinal conditions, diabetes, and various other disease conditions.

The APPNA/APCNA group was lead by APPNA President Dr. Sajid Chaudhry, APPNA Resource & Development Committee Chairperson & Dr. Atique Mirza, Immediate past-President APCNA. The members of the delegation included Drs. Mansoor Afshani (Interventional Neurology), Wajid Baig past-President APCNA and Chairperson for Pakistan Pacemaker Project (Cardiology), Irshad Jaffery (Gastroenterology), Faryal Mirza (Endocrinology), Saquib Samee Treasurer APCNA (Interventional Cardiology) and Inam Kureshi (Neurosurgery). The members of the delegation were given a tour of Medtronic Physiological Research Laboratories. This is one of the largest facilities for research and development of any biotechnology & device manufacturer. The group also visited the vascular balloons & stents manufacturing unit in Minneapolis. The precision, human involvement, hands on operations, and advanced technology involved in the making of balloons and stents was extremely impressive for the members of the delegation.

The members of the-delegation also met with the executive team and high level company officials of Pakistani descent. These Medtronic team members were invited to meet with the delegation from all over the country. APPNA President Dr. Sajid Chaudhry presented an overview of APPNA and highlighted organizational structure and operations, mentioning that the APPNA is one of the largest physician's organization in USA and its strength is through its members who provide state of the art healthcare all over the North America. Dr. Atique Mirza lead the conversation with the Medtronic executive team with the help of key opinion leaders of his delegation, outlining the opportunities for partnership & collaboration here in North America and in emerging markets, especially in Pakistan. The members of the delegation discussed various mutually beneficial avenues of working together to foster scientific development and education in the field of medicine, to assist physicians, nurses, and technologists in enriching professional development and promoting philanthropic work to improve the health of the masses in communities here in USA and in the emerging markets across the globe. This mission is the common goal for Medtronic, APPNA and APCNA.

It was decided to hold joint conferences throughout the United States and Canada for APPNA members to share knowledge, hands on experience, and information on diagnosis focusing on management of acute stroke care and early detection, prevention, and treatment of cardiovascular complications by improving measures to control diabetes.

APPNA Youth Internship opportunities at various regional offices of Medtronic were discussed. Medtronic leadership is interested in providing opportunities to APPNA members to participate in innovative research and bringing fruition to novel ideas in the field of biotechnology by collaborating and offering financial support as appropriate for qualified projects.

There was a mutual interest in exploring the opportunities to open new centers of excellence where state of the art technology will be made available for patients with movement disorders and other neurovascular conditions, such as stroke, in emerging markets, especially Pakistan. Medtronic Executive Vice President Michael J. Coyle agreed that Medtronic will explore the feasibility of providing logistic support for training of post-graduate physicians in the field of Electrophysiology in Pakistan.

Drs. Sajid Chaudhry & Atique Mirza presented the recently published book, *APPNA Qissa II*, to Mr. Ishrak, Mr. Coyle and the Medtronic executive team. APPNA also invited them along with their executive team to attend APPNA's 40th anniversary celebrations at the annual summer meeting in Orlando Florida. APPNA/APCNA look forward to a long-term mutually beneficial relationship with Medtronic both here in North America and in emerging markets, especially in Pakistan, to further the common goals of providing scientific education and state of the art healthcare.

APPNA Resource & Development Committee is in the process of establishing potential relationship with top forty Drug & Device companies for long-term relationship.

Atique Mirza, MD FACC
Chairperson, APPNA Resource & Development Committee