



March 1, 2018

Dear Dr. Molina, Mr. Mathur, and South Asian Heart Center staff, volunteers, and supporters,

More than a decade ago, you created the South Asian Heart Center with a lofty vision for improving the health of the South Asian community. You saw that heart disease was disproportionately affecting South Asians, leading to heart attacks, disability, and lives lost. You also recognized that many of these tragic events could have been prevented if only evidence-based prevention measures had been brought to the community in a culturally appropriate manner. Admirably, you took it upon yourself to build an institution that would close the gap between what our community had and what it needed to prevent disease and save lives.

In the years that followed, you brought this vision to life. You enrolled more than 7,000 community members in your prevention programs. You recruited and trained an impressive team of volunteers who work with participants to translate data and advice into real lifestyle change. You collected invaluable data that will help us better understand and address diabetes and heart disease. Thanks to you, lives are being changed for the better.

As a South Asian American, I thank you for your dedication and devotion to caring for our community. You have inspired many clinicians, public health leaders, and community members with your commitment and impact. Your work will continue to be important, not just to South Asians in the United States, but also to diaspora communities across the world that are struggling with high rates of heart disease and diabetes.

As you celebrate your accomplishments and reflect on the future, I hope you will never forget how vital your work is to the health of the South Asian community. Thank you for your pioneering leadership. Thank you for your courage. And thank you for your determination to save lives. I wish you the very best of luck.

Warm wishes,

Vivek H. Murthy, M.D., M.B.A.
19th Surgeon General of the United States