

11th Annual
Harry M. "Mac" DePan
Physician Award
of Excellence

Tuesday, December 18th, 2007

Glens Falls Hospital
Big-City Medicine. Hometown Care.

The logo graphic for Glens Falls Hospital consists of several curved, parallel lines that sweep upwards and to the right, resembling a stylized flame or a wave.

2007 Honoree

Dr. Surendra Nevatia has been a member of the GFH Medical Staff since 1985. A graduate of Medical College in Indore, India, Dr. Nevatia completed internships in both Pediatrics and Internal Medicine at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and St. Clare's Hospital/Manhattan respectively. He completed his internal medicine residency at Jamaica Hospital in New York City and a fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and in the subspecialty of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Medicine. He is a Fellow in the American College of Chest Physicians and in the American Association of Sleep Medicine.

Dr. Nevatia has served as Medical Director of the Respiratory Therapy Department since he joined GFH in 1985. In this role, he provides medical direction to the clinical programs/services of respiratory care, oversees clinical policies and procedures, and contributes to the development/learning of the Respiratory Therapy Department staff. In 1999, Dr. Nevatia assumed additional responsibilities as Medical Director of the Adirondack Sleep Disorders Lab, a department of Glens Falls Hospital, and is a partner of the Hospital in the design and operation of this service. He has also been instrumental in developing the pulmonary rehab services at GFH.

Dr. Nevatia has been active in the Medical Staff, serving as Chief of the Division of Internal Medicine from 1997 to present, and as a member of the Medical Executive and Critical Care Committees since 1997 to present. He is known as a reliable and consistent consultant to many of our most seriously ill patients, typically cared for in the critical care unit, and serves as a "de facto intensivist" for especially sick patients. He has been instrumental in establishing clinical protocols for patients on ventilators, including progressive weaning procedures for those patients. He has been a leader in developing advanced care for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients and has contributed to a reduction in the number and complexity of repeat patient admissions through his leadership in proactive outpatient care management of patients with pulmonary diseases.

Dr. Nevatia is especially admired by the staff members of the Respiratory Therapy staff. Words they use to describe him are "approachable, a sincere listener, open and willing to discuss patient care issues, even-tempered, and respectful of all staff." He is known to value the opinions of the Respiratory Therapy staff and as one member of the department describe Dr. Nevatia: "He is a true professional and a true gentleman."

Harry M. "Mac" DePan, M.D., FACS

Dr. Mac DePan was a legendary and enormously respected surgeon at Glens Falls Hospital for over four decades. "Mac" was born and raised in Glens Falls and decided early on to follow in his father's footsteps (Dr. Harry DePan, Sr. was a general practitioner in Glens Falls for 45 years). A graduate of Williams College, Dr. Mac DePan completed, with distinction, surgical residency programs at both Hartford Hospital (Hartford, CT) and the Hospital for Special Surgery (NYC). He also served for four years as a Surgical Officer in the U.S. Armed Forces. When "Mac" returned to Glens Falls in 1954, he established the first thoracic surgery practice in the history of the region.

After an illustrious career as one of the finest physicians in the region, Dr. DePan retired in 1996 after 42 years of caring for patients.

Dr. DePan was known far and wide throughout the medical community for his clinical brilliance, his extraordinary surgical skills, and his penchant to learn and to teach. His reputation was equally renowned throughout the cities, towns and villages of the Adirondack region as a physician of special caring, tirelessly dedicated to his patients.

Throughout his career, "Mac" extended himself to care for others in many ways, volunteering with the International Medical Corps in Kenya and Somalia, performing missionary work with the American College of Surgeons in the South Pacific, and serving five tours of duty with the Glens Falls Medical Mission in Guatemala.

A close friend commented that, "Mac was always the most available, one of the most skilled, and the most humble physician associated with Glens Falls Hospital in those days. He is and forever has been a gentleman in the truest sense of the word."

According to Dr. DePan, "Glens Falls Hospital was my second home and my second family. I am indebted to the Hospital for allowing me to come back home to set up my practice." Glens Falls Hospital is proud to honor Dr. DePan by naming the Harry M. "Mac" DePan Physician Award of Excellence in his honor.