

## **Arnab Mukherjea, MPH**

Mr. Mukherjea is a graduate of the School of Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley, with a Masters Degree in Public Health (Health and Social Behavior) and is currently the Co-Chair of the Executive Board of Directors of the South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA) and the voluntary organizational head of their San Francisco affiliate. SAPHA is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of South Asians nationally and globally through increased research, culturally-competent and community-based outreach, education, and intervention, as well as advocacy. He is also the Program Director of Health Career Connection, a national organization committed to increasing underrepresented minorities in the health professions by providing practical exposure and career preparation through internships and workshops.

Besides his commitment to the South Asian community in health and education, he is also a staunch advocate of cultural competency and diversity in health care education, practice, and delivery. His primary interests include looking at how cultural behaviors, values, and stigma play a direct role in disparate health outcomes. His research includes analyzing South Asian specific tobacco patterns and the risk imparted to South Asian subgroups for various health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease and oral cancer. He is also involved in the analysis and publication of various reports of importance for the South Asian community, including the reporting of the top causes of mortality of Asian Indians in California and the influence of South Asian culture, a qualitative analysis of contextual focus groups about attitudes of risk factors for cardiovascular disease, and caregiver attitudes about South Asian hospital-discharged patients in Northern California.

Arnab believes that active community participation and quality education, both academic and grassroots, coupled with evidence-based programs, are the best remedy in reducing and eliminating health disparities in communities of color, behavior, and sexual orientation. He is starting his doctoral degree training in Public Health beginning Fall of 2005 at the University of California at Berkeley with an emphasis on creating and implementing a locally driven, sustainable, and comprehensive community-based organization which will provide support and empower South Asians to take ownership of their own health prospects in a culturally-competent fashion, to ultimately enable the reduction and elimination of South Asian health disparities.