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Case 10: 'Decades of caring: Pradhan honoured for 35 years as Bradford paediatrician' (The Bradford Era, 2016).



Era photo by Francie Long

Pradhan honored

Dr. Anil Pradhan, left, a pediatrician for Foothills Medical Group at Bradford Regional Medical Center, receives a gift from Randi Jorgensen, director of practice management. Pradhan was honored Friday in recognition of his 35 years of medical service to the Bradford community.

By Ruth Bogdan Era Reporter

"Where did the time fly by? I still remember the first day here, how excited I was, a little nervous at the same time," Dr. Anil Pradhan told the group of people in the meeting room late Friday morning.

Pradhan had just walked into what he thought was a work meeting at Bradford Regional Medical Center — but was actually a reception to recognize the longtime pediatrician for 35 years of medical service to the Bradford community, where he currently is a pediatrician for Foothills Medical Group at Bradford Regional Medical Center.

Surprised, but undaunted, he talked to the group briefly about what his career and profession means to him. "It has been very rewarding, and it still is," he told the group of employees, volunteers and family who greeted him. "I'm extremely appreciative of the community and the trust they've placed in me."

The feeling, it seems, is mutual.

"I love him to death," one woman could be heard saying affectionately as people chatted, waiting for his arrival before the reception. "Everybody does," another woman responded.

His wife, Debbie Pradhan, told The Era her husband gives "his heart and soul to everything he does," including his medical work. "He loves it. He loves the kids. He loves the parents. He just loves it."

A longtime community member, Pradhan loves Bradford and what it has to offer, Debbie Pradhan said, explaining that "he comes from a huge city in India." At heart, "He's a Bradfordian," she said.





Nurses in Pradhan's office — Mel Case, Pennie Trask and Sarah Causer — took a minute out of the festivities to talk to The Era about what it is like to work with someone who has helped care for so many children in the area. Case loves hearing patients say, "He was my doctor, and now he's taking care of my children."

She added, "They don't want him to ever retire. They love the way he takes care of their children."

While he noted that he's "cultivating the photography hobby," he has no plans to retire any time soon. "He's a good doctor," said Causer. In fact, when she was little, "He was my doctor," she said. "It's a treat to work for him."

Trask recalls the amusement of watching the "old school doctor converting to electronic records." The staff indicated he took the change in stride.

Randi Jorgensen, director of practice management at BRMC, congratulated Pradhan on behalf of BRMC when he arrived, giving him a gift and saying, "We want to thank you, Dr. Pradhan with your service to the community and to the hospital."

She described the "most incredible, amazing journey" that he has taken as a doctor, which includes challenges such as many late nights and "kids kicking and screaming because they don't want their ears checked," she joked.

Timothy J. Finan, president and CEO of Upper Allegheny Health System, of which BRMC is a part, expressed his own appreciation for the longtime physician.

"We congratulate Dr. Pradhan on his 35 years of service to Bradford Regional Medical Center," said Finan. "Dr. Pradhan is part of the fabric of the hospital and the community. He has cared for thousands of children in the region with skill and compassion and has had a positive impact on so many lives. His dedication to his patients is unmatched and his commitment to the community and the hospital is truly exceptional."

Regarding his journey to becoming a pediatrician, Pradhan said he went to medical school at the University of Bombay in India, then held an internship at a New-Brunswick-affiliated hospital. He then completed his residency at Mercy Catholic Medical Center in Darby before serving a one-year fellowship at Nassau County Medical Center in Long Island, N.Y.

From there, he served as a major in the U.S. Army Corps for three years from 1978-81 at Fort Dix. It was following his military service that he came to Bradford to practice.

It seems his coworkers are glad he came.

"He's awesome," said Judy Scott, who has worked with Pradhan through his work with pediatrics and obstetrics at the hospital. "He's very kind and compassionate, very caring."

