

As the chair for the GHS Women's Forum, I had the honor of participating in the global health summit during these unprecedented and difficult times due to the pandemic. The Women's Forum's dedicated group consists of President of AAPI, Dr Anupama Gotimukula, National Women's Chair of AAPI, Dr Seema Arora, and team members Dr Udaya Shivangi, Dr Malti Mehta and Dr Uma Jonnalagadda. We had one of the best Women's Forum events this year thanks to a diverse group of celebrity participants coming from all paths of life. Very powerful and successful women shared their experiences and knowledge.

The theme of the GHS was preventive health care. The incidence of cervical cancer is high among Indian women, and it is the #2 cause of mortality in women overall. Preventing it was the most glaring need the Forum focused on. Educating and encouraging parents to have their adolescent girls vaccinated is a major priority. The vaccine against cervical cancer is available to the insured and those who can afford it; however, for the large number of underserved patients, it is not affordable and out of reach. The solution we found was to simply provide the vaccination to as many underserved patients as possible. We started a dialogue among the women's forum committee to jumpstart this initiative.

I feel so honored and humbled to say that we raised 8 lakhs rupees in one hour from the generosity of our committee members and delegates. We were able to purchase 200 vaccines and administer 100 of them to adolescent girls from underserved families with follow up for their next dose in 5-6 months. We were able to do this with the help of the local physician organization, IAMA of the North branch and Tanveer hospital.

This is one of the best preventive measures for eradicating cervical cancer. I am hopeful that we will continue this crusade as we gain momentum in raising more funds to provide vaccinations. It costs about \$75.00 to save a life. Let's all participate and help this worthy cause from AAPI.