

Volunteer Spotlight

Dr. Safoora Fatima

UW-Madison



During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we salute a new volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association, Dr. Safoora Fatima. She moved to the United States in 2018 and is currently working at UW-Madison, conducting neurology research on epilepsy. In India she practiced general medicine, but is focused on research in the U.S., and aspires to be a neurologist.

**ASIAN
American &
PACIFIC
Islander
HERITAGE MONTH**

"I was looking for a volunteer opportunity related to my field of neurology," Dr. Fatima shared on why she is volunteering for the Alzheimer's Association. "I'm very excited for the opportunity to work with families." Dr. Fatima will be serving as a Community Educator.

Dr. Fatima shared that dementia is not as prevalent in India. "As a physician, I didn't see a lot of cases of Alzheimer's in India," Dr. Fatima said. "However, I think it's often an underdiagnosed condition. In India, it's common for older adults to live with children and grandchildren. When these older adults show signs of dementia, it is viewed as a normal part of aging and not a medical condition. Common signs, such as having difficulty tracking monthly bills, may not be recognized, as many of these tasks are merely handed over to their children to manage as a natural progression."

Dr. Fatima has a personal connection to dementia as her grandmother was impacted. "My grandmother lost the ability to recognize family and thought we were her guests," Dr. Fatima shared. "I miss those meaningful conversations I had with her in my childhood. With dementia, it slowly sneaks in and you lose the person you love while they are still with you."



We thank Dr. Fatima for volunteering her time and talent to serve families in Wisconsin on a journey with dementia.