



3525 E. Louise Dr., Suite 100  
Meridian, ID 83642  
Phone: (208) 846-8335

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 17, 2009

**Contact:** Donna Geisler  
(208) 343.6225

**Dr. Amit Sharma to Serve on National Kidney Care Expert Panel**

*Expert panel part of national PEAK campaign to reduce mortality by 20 percent  
and extend 10,000 lives by the end of 2012*

**Meridian, Id. (September 17, 2009)** – Amit Sharma, MD, FACP, FASN, Director of Clinical Research at Boise Kidney & Hypertension Institute (<http://www.boisekidney.com>), has been appointed to serve on the Technical Guidance/Curriculum Development Expert Panel in support of the national Performance, Excellence and Accountability in Kidney Care (PEAK) campaign (<http://www.kindneycarequality.org>) announced earlier this year.

“Improving the quality of care and the quality of life for kidney patients is my highest priority,” says Dr. Sharma. “Educating patients and, perhaps more importantly, other medical professionals about the importance of early detection and treatment of kidney disease is essential if we are to stem the increasing numbers of dialysis patients throughout the U.S. The PEAK program has set a high bar. Success not only will improve outcomes for individual patients, but will reduce overall costs healthcare costs.”

PEAK was launched by **Kidney Care Partners**, a coalition of renal providers, patients, renal pharmaceutical companies and dialysis equipment manufacturers. The campaign’s goal is to reduce mortality among first-year dialysis patients – those at the greatest risk – by 20 percent by the end of 2012. The campaign’s initial focus will be on patient education and clinical care activities.

As a member of the Technical Guidance/Curriculum Development panel, Dr. Sharma’s role will be to help identify the appropriate evidence-based interventions and best practices that can reduce first-year mortality. The panel will also lead development of the curriculum tools/guides, web-content, and other materials that dialysis organizations and healthcare professionals can use as resources in their efforts to increase survival rates and reduce hospitalizations. Also serving on the committee with Dr. Sharma include Richard Goldman, MD of Renal Physicians Association; J. Michael Lazarus, MD, Chief Medical Officer at FMCNA; and David Van Wyck, MD, Vice President of Clinical Services for DaVita.

Kidney disease affects more than 26 million people nationwide. In the United States, approximately 400,000 people suffer kidney failure and require either dialysis or kidney transplant for survival. Risk factors for kidney disease include diabetes, hypertension, obesity and high blood pressure. These factors have led to a steady increase in kidney disease patients.

Minority groups including African Americans and Hispanics are most at-risk for kidney failure. For example, African Americans account for only 12 percent of the population and yet account for 30 percent of people with kidney failure.

### **About Amit Sharma, MD, FACP, FACN**

Dr. Sharma is Director of Clinical Research at Boise Kidney & Hypertension Institute in Meridian, Idaho and has served previously as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of California in San Diego, as well as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

From 2001- 2005, he was the Director of the Dialysis Unit and of the Chronic Kidney Disease Clinic at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. Dr. Sharma received his medical degree from Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans. He completed his residency at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. He also served as a Battalion Surgeon for the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division where he received numerous medals from the Navy and Marine Corps for his service.

He completed his fellowship in Nephrology and Hypertension from University of California in San Diego in 1999. He is also designated a Specialist in Hypertension by the American Society of Hypertension. He is on the editorial board of Cardiology Reviews, and serves on national committees for the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Learning Systems (KLS).

Dr Sharma has extensive experience conducting primary research and as a principal investigator for numerous clinical trials in the field of nephrology and hypertension. At Boise Kidney & Hypertension Institute, trials are underway in anemia management, hypertension control, reno-protective strategies, and home dialysis.

### **About Boise Kidney & Hypertension Institute**

The mission of **Boise Kidney & Hypertension Institute** is to provide the most comprehensive, advanced, and compassionate care for kidney disease patients in the Southern Idaho Region—Making Lives Better in Idaho. The practice has offices in Meridian and Nampa, and will open an office in Caldwell in August and in Boise in September, 2008.

Boise Kidney & Hypertension Institute's research goal is to set the standard in clinical research with the highest level of satisfaction from all of its constituents, including patients and their families; sponsors; employees; and research affiliates. With an overriding concern for patient safety, the research division will provide premier research professionals to conduct all clinical trial related activities with the utmost accuracy and timeliness, while ensuring personable and professional patient care and conduct. Further, it will bring the ideas and products of our investigators as well as pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and device companies to the forefront of research to create and assess the best treatment options for those affected by kidney disease and its related conditions.

Boise Kidney and Hypertension Institute has been caring for patients in the Treasure Valley since opening its doors in 2005. More information about Boise Kidney is available at <http://www.boisekidney.com>.

