

## Fellowships

Two American Cancer Society University alumni were offered the opportunity to shadow ACS staff during a five-month fellowship in the U.S. Mrs. Vandana Gupta (V Care Foundation, Mumbai) and Ms. Sutapa Biswas (Cancer Foundation of India, Kolkata) were placed at American Cancer Society offices in Chicago and Atlanta, respectively. During the fellowship, Mrs. Gupta and Ms. Biswas participated in ACS activities from executive leadership to community program implementation. They attended trainings, events, key meetings, and offered the ACS important insight into how to reach the Indian community in the U.S. Following the fellowship, the two leaders were awarded grants to implement community-based cancer control projects in India based on their experiences.

Upon returning home to India, Mrs. Gupta and V Care Foundation have established a patient tracking database to enable V Care to maintain a universal record of patient service interactions and evaluate common requests and trends. Regular analysis enables more efficient, quality responses to those seeking V Care cancer support services. The Cancer Foundation of India launched a "Women in Pink" campaign to educate young, urban women about the importance of breast self awareness. Although breast self-examination (BSE) is not promoted by ACS as a screening method in the US, given the absence of widespread mammography services in India, BSE is potentially effective for detecting cases of the disease and prompting women to go in for follow-up health services by raising the awareness of breast cancer generally. To date, 11 colleges/institutions have been recruited to participate in this program which began in July 2007.

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### [American Cancer Society Supports Leadership Development for the Cancer Foundation of India](#)



**Left to right: Soumita Ray, American Cancer Society fellow; Smritikana Ghosh, American Cancer Society fellow; Patricia P. Hoge, RN, PhD, chief mission officer, American Cancer Society South Atlantic Division; Navami Naik, lead manager, India Programs, American Cancer Society South Atlantic Division**

The American Cancer Society's South Atlantic Division (SAD) hosted a fellowship program for two staff members from the Cancer Foundation of India (CFI), a leading cancer control nongovernmental organization in Kolkata, India. The fellows, Smritikana Ghosh, a social worker coordinating CFI's cervical cancer screening projects, and Soumita Ray, the coordinator of CFI's breast cancer program supported by the American Cancer Society, "Women in Pink," took part in a two-week fellowship program centered on mission delivery. They had the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices in patient services and outreach with SAD staff and volunteers, and learned more about SAD's call center and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, as well as programs to engage youth in the cancer cause. The Society's International Affairs Department has worked over the past three years to secure support from the Society's Divisions to host fellowships like the one done by CFI. This collaborative effort draws from the experience of the field and supports the global strategies of building leadership skills and extending the networks of the international cancer community. SAD has collaborated with CFI since 2006, when the Division hosted its first fellowship program for the executive director of the organization, Sutapa Biswas.