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Midwest Eye-Banks honors world-renowned Michigan eye surgeon with Founder's Award

MARQUETTE, Michigan – Midwest Eye-Banks announced that Michigan Eye-Bank Board of Directors member Busharat Ahmad, M.D., FACS, formerly of Marquette and now of Monroe, is the recipient of the organization's prestigious Founder's Award. Dr. Ahmad, a renowned ophthalmologist, served as Medical and Surgical Director for the Upper Peninsula Lions Eye Bank for two decades before the organization became part of the Michigan Eye-Bank.

The Founder's Award is the Eye-Bank's highest honor, given to an employee or volunteer based on the individual's contribution to the success of the organization.

A native of Pakistan, and educated in England, Pakistan and India, Dr. Ahmad came to Marquette in 1971. He quickly established himself as an ophthalmologist and respected member of the community, and spent the next 20 years working with patients throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career – most recently, a Benjamin Rush Award for Citizenship and Community Service from the American Medical Association.

Dr. Ahmad spent a total of 43 years in the practice of ophthalmology. Throughout that time, and now into his retirement, he has dedicated his life and career to serving the community. When he joined the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, he seized the opportunity to share his perspective as an international medical graduate, or IMG, and to become a staunch IMG advocate. The AMA would later refer to Dr. Ahmad as "a pioneering leader whose tireless efforts resulted in the formation of the AMA IMG Section," which occurred in 1997. AMA President Cecil B. Wilson added, "Dr. Ahmad leads by an example, [and] is an inspiration to other physicians."

Dr. Ahmad received his Founder's Award during the Michigan Eye-Bank's Board of Directors dinner at the Landmark Hotel in Marquette on September 24.

The Michigan Eye-Bank is a charitable, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. It recovers, evaluates and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education, and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. For more information, visit the Michigan Eye-Bank online at www.michiganeyebank.org or call (800) 247-7250.

