

Dr Smita Shah *MHthSc(CommHlth)* '94,

Community Achievement

Dr Smita Shah has made significant contributions to the field of community-based health promotion and education.

A dedicated Community Physician: Dr Shah's has established and sustained innovative programs to improve health outcomes in children, adolescents and socially disadvantaged communities, including non-English speaking communities and Indigenous Australians, in areas such as asthma treatment, obesity prevention and immunisation.

Awarded a 2008 Carrick Award: In 2008 Smita received the prestigious award for creating an evidence-based educational program.

The program titled *Triple A (Adolescent Asthma Action) program*, involved medical students in community outreach education. The research has been published in the British Medical Journal and Evidence Based Medicine. This research has had a significant impact on the University of Sydney medical program and has received international recognition, including recent citations in the Canadian National Asthma Guidelines and the Asthma Health Outcomes Project (USA). In the USA, Triple A has also received multimillion dollar funding from the National Institutes of Health for trialling its implementation in African American schools in Detroit, and has recently been tested in Jordan with equally positive outcomes by a Doctoral student from UTS.

A leader in school-based education research: Smita has been developing and evaluating novel and successful asthma education programs and tools for schools, parents, health professionals and university students. These programs have been implemented and disseminated across Australia and overseas.

Smita is continuing her critical work in the Indigenous Australian community with a focus on obesity and asthma. She is also leading programs to educate health profession and is currently the chief investigator in a major randomised controlled trial to educate general practitioners to improve asthma outcomes in their patients.

She is currently a Clinical Senior Lecturer with the Faculty of Medicine and the Director of the Primary Health Care Education and Research Unit with Sydney West Area Health Service. She is also an Associate of the Centre for Managing Chronic Disease at the University of Michigan, USA and a visiting Lecturer for the Master of Public Health at the University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg, Germany. Over the years, she has systematically established a research collaboration network with leading national and international organisations and has been an invited speaker at high-profile national and international conferences. Her substantial body of work has been published in high profile peer-reviewed journals.