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New Award Established to Recognize Basic Research Psychiatric Foundation Announces Major Gift Establishing The V. Sagar Sethi, M.D. Mental Health Research Award

A new research award designed to recognize psychiatrists and other medical professionals for basic research has been established by The Psychiatric Foundation of North Carolina. The *V. Sagar Sethi, M.D. Mental Health Research Award* was created with an endowment from Dr. Sethi, a practicing psychiatrist in Charlotte and a long-time member of the North Carolina and American Psychiatric Associations. It is his vision to “honor a scientist for significant contributions to basic research in the neurosciences, psychology, or pharmacology at a molecular, cellular or behavioral level.” The award will be presented to a psychiatrist or other professional doing research in the United States.

The inaugural winner of the 2012 *V. Sagar Sethi, M.D. Mental Health Research Award* will be announced in early 2012 by a selection committee that includes leadership from the Departments of Psychiatry at North Carolina’s four medical schools. The award includes a significant financial prize and travel support to present a lecture at the 2012 Annual Meeting and Scientific Session of the North Carolina Psychiatric Association.

The announcement of this award and the gift of \$50,000 to the Psychiatric Foundation of North Carolina was made September 17, 2011, in Asheville at the North Carolina Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner.

About Dr. Sethi

V. SAGAR SETHI, M.D., Ph.D. has a rich multicultural background. He was born in India, earned his undergraduate and Master’s degrees ‘First Class First’ in Pharmacy from Banaras Hindu University, India, and - with an academic scholarship - earned his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Munich University, Germany. Dr. Sethi worked as both a scientist and then professor at the Max-Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Munich, Germany; National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland; and Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.

At the age of 50, he received his medical degree then went on to four years of residency training. Since 1991, Dr. Sethi has been in the private practice of psychiatry in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has published more than 80 scientific papers in the field of biochemistry, molecular biology, pharmacology and anti-cancer drugs. In 2004, he published the book Solving Psychiatric Puzzles.