

THE SICKMAN-LEVIN AWARD for Dimensions in Medicine

The residents of the mid-Monongahela Valley can thank three wise men for leading Nirmal D. Kotwal, M.D., to Monongahela Valley Hospital where she serves as director of Pathology. The recipient of the 2013 Sickman-Levin Award for Dimensions in Medicine, Dr. Kotwal began her journey to Monongahela Valley Hospital following graduation from the Seth G.S. Medical College at the University of Bombay in Maharashtra, India. In 1975, Dr. Kotwal followed her husband, Deepak, to Pittsburgh where she began a four-year residency in Pathology at Shadyside Hospital. She then held a fellowship in Hematopathology at Presbyterian-University Hospital. Through her mentor, Dr. Edwin Fisher, who was internationally renowned in breast cancer research, she met Dr. John M. Brandon, who was then director of Pathology at Monongahela Valley Hospital. In 1980, Dr. Brandon encouraged Dr. Kotwal to join his staff at Monongahela Valley Hospital. She became director of Pathology in 1994.



Nirmal D. Kotwal, M.D.

Dr. Kotwal is a “doctor’s doctor” who plays a vital role in the delivery of accurate medical care. For her, every specimen represents a virtual patient. Indirectly, every person who receives medical care at Monongahela Valley Hospital and has tissue samples sent to the lab is her patient. It is through her research, and precision in examining and investigating tissue samples that she can provide the diagnoses physicians need to develop treatments.

In addition to applying her knowledge of anatomical and clinical pathology to help Monongahela Valley Hospital fulfill its mission of enhancing the health of the residents of the mid-Monongahela Valley area, Dr. Kotwal provides leadership to the hospital’s medical staff. She began serving as a member of the Medical Staff Executive Committee in 1994 and has served on the Oncology, Tissue, Infection, Blood Bank and Medical Staff Education & Library committees. She also is a member of the hospital’s Tumor Board.

Dr. Kotwal and her husband are the parents of two daughters who were inspired by their mother to choose careers in medicine. Rupali is a physician who specializes in infectious disease and Shalmalee is a veterinarian. Today, there is another influential male in Dr. Kotwal’s life and that is her 3-year-old grandson Arjun.

The Sickman-Levin Award was created to honor two physicians, Albert S. Sickman and Herbert J. Levin, for their many outstanding contributions to health care in the mid-Monongahela Valley.