

PERSON OF THE MONTH: DR. GORDHAN PATEL



We have decided to start a new column in which we recognize distinguished people from the Indian American community serving the American public. Our goal is to introduce unique people with unique professions. Person chosen and honored in this column represents culture, values and offer beneficial services to the American community. — Dhyan Hazari

The person of the month for the month of October is Dr. GORDHAN PATEL; a scientist/poet.

SIRAD™ is an abbreviation for: Self-indicating, Instant Radiation Alert Dosimeter. SIRAD cards are user-friendly, low cost, wearable, and disposable radiation dosimeter for monitoring high doses of ionizing radiations. They are always active and ready to use, enabling police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical professionals to measure their radiation exposure, while dealing with the aftermath of a “DIRTY BOMB” attack or nuclear explosion. SIRAD card works without batteries or any other source of energy.

Today, the whole world and United States of America in particular is busy combating terrorism. Terrorism is the greatest menace of this century and no life on this poor earth is spared by the terrorism threat.

Dr. Gordhan Patel, the President of JP Laboratories, Inc is the inventor of this miracle card called SIRAD. This technology never existed before. This is for the first time it was developed by Dr. Gordhan Patel after extensive research efforts of 30 to 35 years. His motto is “INNOVATION IS OUR BUSINESS. JP Laboratories, Inc is located at 120 Wood Avenue,

Middlesex, NJ, 08846, where Dr. Patel is devoting his time in research and innovations.

Simple living and high thinking is his philosophy of life. He says 'Live in the real world', and this is his 'GURUMANTRA'. His life is the best example of "dedicated for Research and Innovation". He is not a fame-hungry personality. He is a scientist, writer and poet. The list of his merits is so big that there can not be an end to it. He is a saintly person and has adopted a name representing his life as 'GORDHANINATHJI'. (Gordhan is his, name. Dhani is his mother's name. Nath is his father's name from Nathalal, and Ji is representing Jethalal, his grand father's name). This name represents his literary and spiritual life.

His research project for innovating SIRAD was first funded by the U.S. Naval Sea System Command and by Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) with funds from the U.S. Departments of Defense, Justice, Homeland Security and States.

There was a press release recently, dated July 26, 2006. Middlesex, NJ, (PRWEB) "JP Laboratories, Inc introduces RADTriage Smart Radiation Dosimeter. An affordable dosimeter for Homeland Security, the first responder and general public."

Gordhan Patel was born in Manund, a village in Patan District in Gujarat, India. The proud parents were, father Nathalal and mother Dhaniben. They were five siblings, 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Gordhan had his primary and secondary education in Manund up to standard 10. He passed his S.S.C.E. from Vidyanagar in 1960. He earned his B.Sc. in Chemistry, M.Sc. in Physical Chemistry and Ph.D. in Physics from Sardar Patel University of Vallabh Vidyanagar. His subject for the Doctorate degree was 'Crystallization of Polymers'. Recognizing these credentials, Prof. Keller of University of Bristol in U.K., offered him a fellowship to do research under him. Gordhan worked with Prof. Keller for three years as a research scientist. Then he migrated to the United States of America, in 1974 to work at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. He worked there for one year and then joined a giant industry - Allied-Signal, now known as Honeywell. During his eight years stay at Allied Signal, Dr. Patel published 45 research papers and credited 30 patents. He went around the globe to deliver lectures (UK, Germany, France, Japan, Canada....) on his unique technology developed on color changing compounds e.g. Technology of Di-Acetylenes which eventually became the basis of his today's technological marvel, SIRAD. It took about 35 years to develop this technology. Dr. Patel established JP Laboratories, Inc in 1983, where J stands for Jessica, his daughter and P stands for Paresh, his son. Jessica has degree in Business from Rutgers University and studying for her MBA at the most prestigious Kellogg Business School in Illinois. She helps her dad in marketing. Paresh has a degree in Computer Science and actively involved with JP Labs.

The Sunday Star-Ledger of September 10, 2006 carried an article, written by Fran Wood with the heading "There's safety in small numbers." The article in parts read like 'A case in point would be our Federal Homeland Security funds. The amount of money being devoted to this critical enterprise is enormous - well into the multi-billions of dollars as it should be.' JP Laboratories, Inc did not depend solely on a government funding to create and produce the card'. "We have spent over a million dollars of our own, 'Patel said."

While Dr. Patel was giving the details of his family back ground, he narrated this inspiring dialogue between him and his mother, Dhani Ma - a poor farmer's uneducated wife. When I passed my High School/S.S.C.E, Dhani Ma asked me, "What is next?" I said "college education". She said, "go for it". When I passed my B.Sc, she asked, "what next ?" I said "Master degree". She said "go for it". When I received my M.Sc. degree, she asked the same and I replied, "Ph.D." She said go for Ph.D.. And when I got my Ph.D., She asked the same again "what is next?". I said "nothing" and she said never stop learning.... and "yes.. .I did not stop...". I am a lifetime student.

Patel an Indian immigrant was uniquely qualified to develop this product, having developed and patented over the past years more than 20 monitoring devices measuring time, temperature, shelf life, sterilization, toxic chemicals and radiation.

Dr. Patel is winner of several prestigious technological awards; he has testified before the Congressional subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations. List of his major prestigious awards...

(1) BAPS felicitated him as an Indian Scientist during Cultural Festival of India, 1992, (2) Frost & Sullivan's "Excellence in Technology" award, 2004, (3) American Congress invited him to testify on the technology, 2003, and (4) Best innovative product (R&D-100) award in 2005.

Gordhan Patel is a multi talented writer and poet. His interest in literature is the important second side of the coin. He has written thousands of pages on life and its philosophy. He has equally mastered to create literature in English as well as in Gujarati. He is a poet in his own way and of his own style. It is strange that in spite of his busy research and innovation schedules, he is getting time to write. Let us enjoy few of his literary marvels. **By Dr. Amrut Hazari**