



Bassett's Diwali Celebration

Diwali, a festival of lights held each autumn in India, celebrates the harvest season and represents the triumph of good over evil. It is observed by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. Typically, this holiday, based on Hindu mythology, is commemorated over four or five days. It is known as a time for getting together with family, sharing meals, gift-giving, and for setting off fireworks.

According to Anush Patel, M.D., division chief, Hematology Oncology, "We are very happy to share this special Indian holiday with colleagues and friends in the Bassett family. It reminds all of us to be open to other cultures and communities, and yet it helps local Indian families to maintain our identity."

This past year's festival was held on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019. Over 100 participants (residents, students, physicians, and their family members) were in attendance. The local event included Indian food (some catered, and some dishes prepared by family members), music performed by a group of medical residents, and even a fireworks display. Whether of Indian heritage or not, it was an evening to remember and another reason why the training programs at Bassett continue to be appreciated for fostering respect and building professional relationships.

The local celebration is funded by a handful of Bassett physicians and organized by their family members and other Indian families who live in Cooperstown.



Preethi Sekar and daughter Ananya enjoy the sparklers and fireworks display after the festive dinner and musical performance