

NYCPM's Dr. Sheikh Recognized by University of Alaska Anchorage with Emerging Leader Alumni of Distinction Award



Reem Sheikh, DPM, DABPM, AACFAS, a graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage ('07) (UAA), has been selected by the university for its 2020 Emerging Leader Alumni of Distinction Award for her recent personal protective equipment campaign for healthcare workers and several organizations in New York City and Anchorage, Alaska. The Alumni Emerging Leader Award honors a UAA graduate who has made a positive impact in their community, industry or profession. Dr. Sheikh was among four UAA alumni to be honored at the university's annual breakfast on October 9.

Dr. Sheikh, faculty in the NYCPM department of surgery, is an attending podiatrist at New York City's Harlem, Metropolitan and Lincoln Hospitals and the Foot Clinics of New York. Dr. Sheikh is a 2012 graduate of the Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery and completed her PMSR-RRA residency at Metropolitan Hospital Center/NYCPM as chief resident in her final year.

In March, early in the COVID crisis, she became concerned about possible shortages of PPE at the hospitals. Initially appealing to her network of Facebook mom groups, she immediately received donations of PPE, and caught the attention of CBS News, which conducted an interview that brought more attention and contributions. With a network of volunteers and a successful GoFundMe campaign, she raised over \$18,000 and bought US hospital-grade protective gear for colleagues on the front lines. She extended her efforts to several non-medical organizations and the general public in New York City and Alaska as well.

Dr. Sheikh also received a mention in the *Alaska Journal of Commerce* and will be the subject of a feature on Alaska news channel KTUU-TV.