

Dallas physician found special relevancy in MPH training during the pandemic

Alumnus Sreekanth R. Cheruku, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Anesthesiology and Pain Management, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, worked on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He specializes in cardiothoracic anesthesiology and critical care medicine and served as Principal Investigator of UT Southwestern's VIRUS study site, an international, multi-center study of COVID patients.

He completed his MPH in December 2020. His research focuses on identifying and mitigating risk factors for adverse outcomes after cardiac surgery, with special interests in global health, economics, health politics and policy, and finance.

He was assigned to Southwestern's COVID ICU in March 2020. With 11 other intensive care physicians - anesthesiologists and pulmonologists - he treated patients suffering from the most severe effects of the disease, often requiring mechanical ventilation or emergency oxygenation.

As with other communities globally, Dr. Cheruku said, North Texas pandemic experiences were greatly affected by health disparities and access to care among disproportionately represented populations.

"Now more than ever, I think every physician should at least have a basic understanding of public health practice, to better educate patients and provide optimal care," he said. "Those of us on the front lines of COVID-19 relied daily on public health tools including testing, surveillance, isolation and community outreach to contain spread of the virus, manage patient care and address prevention."



Sreekanth R. Cheruku, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Department of Anesthesiology and Pain
Management
UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas