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## **Drs. Rahim Honored with Prestigious *Ellis Island Medal of Honor***

Idaho Falls, ID- Drs. Naeem and Fahim Rahim of the Idaho Kidney Institute were recently awarded the prestigious *Ellis Island Medal of Honor* by the National Ethical Coalition of Organizations (NECO). The awards celebrate the diversity of American life, and the pluralism and democracy that have enabled ancestry groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of the American Way of life.

Each year, NECO receives nearly 10,000 nominations for this award; the selection committee chooses about 100 Medalists for this honor. Both the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate have officially recognized the *Ellis Island Medals of Honor*, and each year's recipients are read into the Congressional Record.

The Rahims' join an elite group, as past Medalists include six U.S. Presidents, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist; Generals Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell; Sen. John McCain; Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell; Mayor Rudolph Giuliani; and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

Dr. Fahim Rahim explains, "The main idea behind this is to motivate more people to build bridges along cultural divisions, religious barriers and work towards community improvement in different social areas of need."

According to Nasser J. Kazeminy, Chairman of NECO, "With our Medalists, we see America – at its best. We see every color, every race from so many walks of life – together –

celebrating – the magic that is America. Our Medalists’ influence and achievements truly inspire and touch the lives of people everywhere.”

The Rahim brothers were born in Peshwar, a small town in Northern Pakistan, and raised by their father, an army officer, and mother, an army nurse. A strong family commitment to education led Fahim to medical school in Pakistan, and in 1998, with just \$50 in his pocket, he landed at Newark airport to pursue the American dream. Naeem, soon followed, and both brothers completed Internal Medicine and Nephrology training at New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York.

Dr. Naeem Rahim said, “We realized that there were more kidney specialists on one street in Valhalla than in the entire state of Idaho. We wanted to come to an area with much greater need.” They soon opened the Idaho Kidney Institute, which is now the largest provider for patients suffering from kidney disease in Southeast Idaho.

Naeem is an accomplished singer and has used his musical talent to support local charities and organizations, including raising funds for the local family medicine residency program (which is dedicated to training doctors of the future), Idaho public charter schools, and ISU’s school of nursing.

Fahim is an avid cyclist who has helped community and regional legislators to fund road safety and outdoor activities for healthy living. He has also been instrumental in organizing Idaho Kidney Institute’s sponsorship of several local charitable events, including “ICE”, a regional cycling club dedicated to good health. Fahim was also nominated by the local business community for the 2008 “Overachiever Under 40” award.

Drs. Rahim sit on the faculty of Idaho State University and are actively involved in teaching medical residents, medical students, physician assistants in-training, and nurses.

US Senator Mike Crapo cited their achievements to the 110th Congressional Session stating that “Idaho has many gems; Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim are two such gems.”

The Rahims’ will be honored at the May 7<sup>th</sup> award ceremony held at Ellis Island in New York City.

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