The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Praney Anand (he/him/his pronouns) as Interim Executive Director effective August 10, 2020 for a one-year contract.

Praney has over 10 years of experience in sexual health education, counselling, and research. He has worked with several research projects such as the Gay Couples Study and Gay Dads Study in San Francisco, and the Momentum/Engage study in Vancouver. Most recently, he has worked as Research Coordinator at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto for a number of behavioural science research projects examining intersectional aspects of health within gender and sexual minority communities.

As a counsellor in New Delhi (India), Praney worked to bridge identities of being South Asian and LGBTQ+. His style of work focuses on resilience, beliefs, coming out, self- acceptance, emotional and mental wellbeing. It is this same philosophy that he brought to his previous role with ASAAP as the Men's Education and Support Coordinator. In his short period of time in Toronto, Praney has established strong ties with organizations working in sexual health and community services, particularly those in the field of HIV/AIDS and working with immigrant and newcomer communities. He has a strong understanding of the social determinants of health that directly impact the gender and sexual minority communities, especially newcomers and international students in Canada. Praney works from an anti-oppressive framework and has a comprehensive understanding of the systemic issues and challenges faced by marginalized communities.

Praney has been transitioning with members of the Board’s ad-hoc Operations Committee over the past week and begins full-time on Monday, August 10, 2020, and will join me at the co-location meeting scheduled for the afternoon of August 10th. Praney will reach out to get more acquainted with the breadth of initiatives and services underway as well.

Please join me in welcoming Praney Anand (back) to ASAAP. He can be reached at [ed@asaap.ca](mailto:ed@asaap.ca) if you would like to send him a note of welcome.

As always, I appreciate your support and care you exhibit for the work we do. See you tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Dirk

Dirk J. Rodricks, Ph.D.