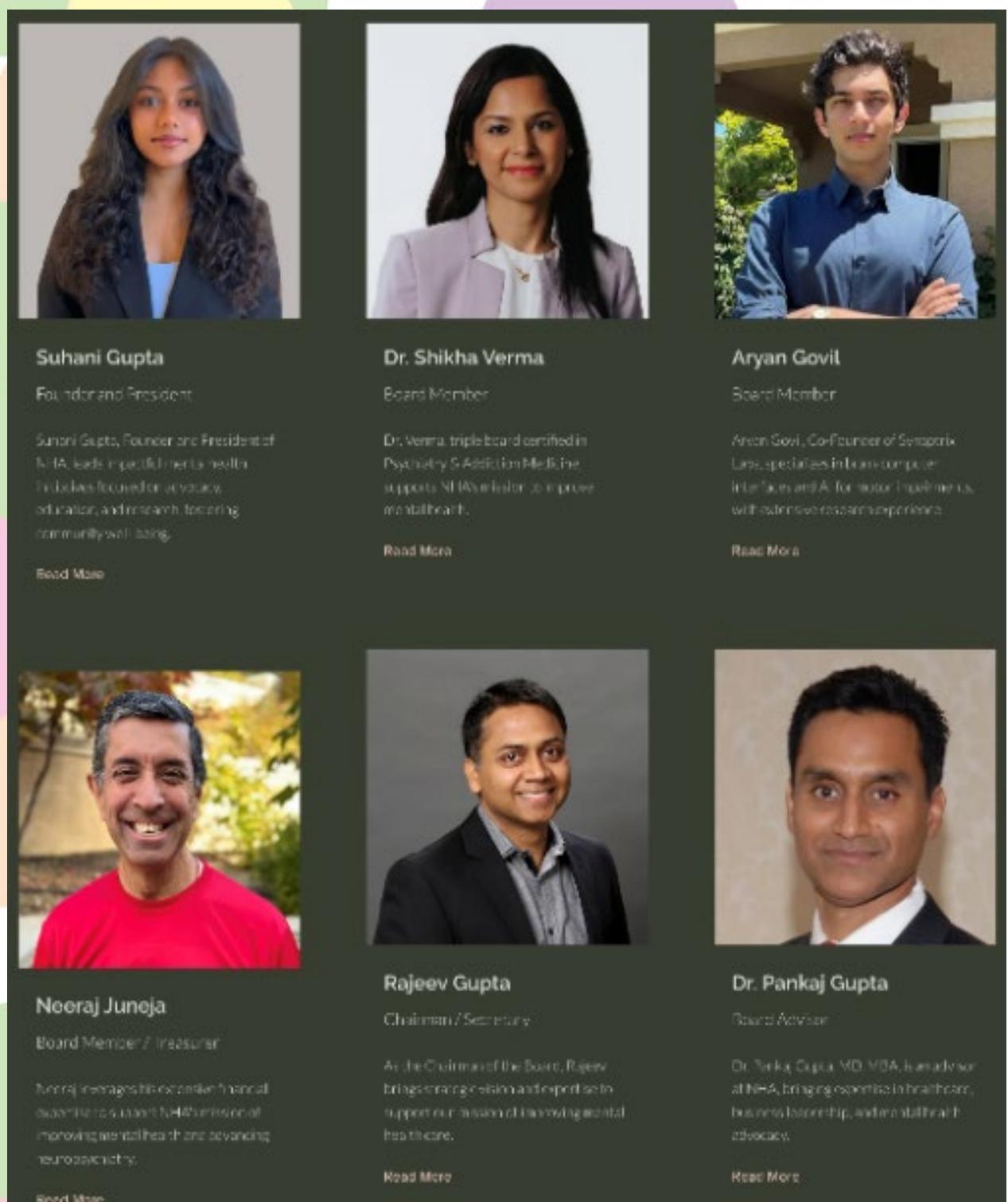


ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

NEURO HEALTH ALLIANCE

NOMINATOR: RAM LAKSHMANAN



The Neuro Health Alliance (NHA) worked throughout 2024 to bring mental health support and awareness to the Dublin community. Through programs like its youth art and writing initiative, NHA created a safe space for young people to express their thoughts and experiences around mental health. This program provided a meaningful outlet for creativity while fostering empathy and understanding across the community. NHA also began collaborating with the Dublin Mayor's Council to plan a mental health forum aimed at creating a space for residents to share their challenges, access resources, and build connections. By partnering with the Dublin Unified School District, NHA supported efforts to integrate mental health conversations into schools, ensuring students and educators had access to the tools and support they needed. At its core, NHA operates with the belief that helping one person can create a ripple effect, where those who feel supported are then able to support others. Every program, event, and collaboration were designed to make Dublin a more connected and compassionate place to live.

One of the biggest challenges NHA faced in 2024 was addressing the way mental health is often talked about without true depth or understanding. While it is encouraging to see the term "mental health" gaining attention, it sometimes feels like a buzzword. People acknowledge its importance, but the deeper struggles, like ongoing stigma and the lack of genuine solutions, are often ignored.

NHA worked to go beyond surface-level conversations by creating programs that encouraged meaningful engagement. The youth art and writing initiative, for example, gave young people a space to reflect on and express their experiences in ways that felt safe and empowering. The challenge has been not only to get people talking, but also to foster a deeper understanding of mental health and what it takes to support real progress within the community.

The success of NHA's initiatives in 2024 was only possible because of the support of the Dublin community. The Dublin Unified School District offered partnership and collaboration, helping bring mental health conversations into schools. The Dublin Mayor's Council provided guidance and worked with NHA to prepare for the launch of the mental health forum, creating the foundation for meaningful dialogue.

NHA's board, made up largely of Dublin residents, brought dedication and insight to every project. Families, nonprofits, and volunteers contributed their time, resources, and encouragement, helping NHA reach more people and strengthen its impact. This mutual support from the community not only made NHA's work possible but also reflected the heart of Dublin, a place where residents work together to build a stronger, more caring city.