

My mother-in-law, Louisa Watson, was a patient of Dr. Bhagalia from July 2015 to her death on 28 January 2016. We want you to know and add to her personal file our sincere appreciation for the wonderful care she extended to Louisa during the last six months of her life and for her wise counsel to my wife and I as Louisa's caregivers.

We have nominated Dr. Bhagalia for "Doctor of the Year", and below is a copy of the text of our nomination submitted today to [ncdoctorsday.org/nominate](http://ncdoctorsday.org/nominate). Whether she receives that recognition or not, she will always be "Doctor of the Year" to us.

Please include a copy of our comments in her personal file, and feel free to share any or all of it with prospective patients, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

R. Paul and Marguerite W.

### **2016 Doctor of the Year Nomination of Dr. Parul Bhagalia**

*My wife and I cared for my 99-year-old mother-in-law, Louisa Watson, in our home for the last 10 months of her life. She suffered from end-stage dementia and required care 24/7. Her apraxia and demential made it difficult, if not impossible, to take her outside the home for treatment, so we contacted Doctors Making Housecalls, and they sent Dr. Parul Bhagalia to our home.*

*In her demented state, Louisa was distrustful, even fearful, of strangers, but from the first moments of her visit, Dr. Bhagalia made an immediate connection with Louisa on both a personal and a professional level. It was such a relief to my wife and I to see that Dr. Bhagalia was obviously skilled at interacting with and treating geriatric dementia patients, but we were most impressed with her gentleness and sensitivity to my mother-in-law. On her very first visit, Dr. Bhagalia took time to establish a level of trust that Louisa had with few other people, and on subsequent visits Louisa remembered and responded positively to Dr. Bhagalia.*

*Never having had to care for a dementia patient before, my wife and I had many questions regarding both Louisa's medical needs as well as routine care. Dr. Bhagalia was always there with practical, extremely helpful advice. Whether it was helping Louisa sleep, treating her anxiety and "sun downing", or controlling her incontinence, Dr. Bhagalia's counsel was always effective and very much appreciated. As well, she provided a "DNR" for posting in Louisa's room.*

*Finally, we truly appreciate Dr. Bhagalia's timely and thorough responses to our email inquiries. She was always available for consultation and advice. At the end of Louisa's life, she was in obvious distress and pain. One email to Dr. Bhagalia was enough to bring her to Louisa's bedside early in the morning She prescribed medication for pain which significantly eased Louisa's distress and discomfort in her final hours, allowing her later that day to pass peacefully from this world.*

*Dr. Bhagalia treated Louisa, but in so doing, also ministered to my wife and I during a very trying period in our life. We will always remember her sweet, gentle disposition, her patience, her skill as a physician, and her professionalism. Anyone would be fortunate to have the care of Dr. Bhagalia. She is more than a physician; she is a healer and a care-giver. In dispensing medical care to treat Louisa's body, she also ministered to Louisa's mind and spirit, and to ours as well.*