

Editorial

Fifty-third Annual Conference of the National Academy of Medical Sciences held at Jodhpur was a milestone in the progress of National Academy of Medical Sciences towards achieving its objectives. The Inaugural Address delivered by Dr. R. Chidambaram, DAE-Homi Bhabha Professor, BARC, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet, Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India lauded the role of National Academy of Medical Sciences during the last five decades since its inauguration by Sh. Jawaharlal Nehru in 1961, and the first Convocation Address delivered by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan in 1963. He felicitated the Academy for recognizing the outstanding research by awarding Fellowships of the Academy to biomedical, clinical, public health scientists and medical educationists as well as health administrators. He referred to the role of the Academy in organizing continuing medical education programmes and scientific symposia relevant to the health needs of the country.

He observed that such academic activity can be further enhanced by strengthening and reinforcing continuing professional development through its connectivity with National Knowledge Network (NKN).

Dr. Chidambaram stated ***“After enormous work spread over 4 years, the second Working Group has compiled the SOPs (Scientific Operating Procedures) as a Report, which, I believe, would be of immense use to practicing medical professionals, the nursing staff and the hospital administrators. My Office will be happy to work with NAMS to run a web-cast Workshop (through NKN) on this subject, which can also be archived and made available on request.”*** The inaugural lecture reflects his concerns in 'Health Care and Medical Research'.

The President of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, Dr. C.S. Bhaskaran awarded scrolls to the newly elected Fellows and Members. He conferred Lifetime Achievement Award on Dr. S. Padmavati, a past President of the Academy. Dr. Padmavati at the age of 94 years not only attended the Convocation but also participated in all scientific sessions including the Orations and Scientific Symposium on Regenerative Medicine. The present issue of the Annals include some of these Orations which reflect scientific excellence in basic sciences including development of new drugs, reappraisal of drug resistance in epilepsies through the study of molecular genetics, new imaging modalities, innovative technology such as cochlear implantation, and life-style interventions in the prevention of cardio-metabolic

disorders. The quality of the scientific research exhibited in these Orations delivered by the Fellows of the Academy not only reflects the life time dedication and devotion of these researchers but also inspires younger Fellows and Members of the Academy (elected directly or after obtaining DNB). Keeping this in view the President-in-Council decided that the copies of each issue of the Annals should also be distributed amongst the Members to serve as the source of new current developments in medicine.

Jodhpur conference also showed the valuable contribution of NAMS-AIIMS Collegium which was established in February, 2013. The new AIIMS have been established by the Ministry of Health, Government of India during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan with objectives similar to that of AIIMS, New Delhi. These institutions have initiated programmes contributing not only to under-graduate and post-graduate education but also strengthening continuing professional development. NAMS has provided both academic and financial support to some of these institutions.

For the first time, both the scientific proceedings and the NAMS Convocation were web-cast and are now available on NAMS website : nams-india.in.

Recognising the leadership of Dr. Sanjeev Misra, Director, AIIMS, Jodhpur and the organizing capability of Dr. Kuldeep Singh, it was decided that Annals of the National Academy of Medical Sciences will be printed at Jodhpur. The editorial responsibility will continue to remain at the office of the NAMS, New Delhi. Accordingly, the January-June issue of 2013 'Golden Jubilee Lectures' and July-December issue of 2013 on 'Sleep Medicine' were published at Jodhpur and the copies have been sent to all Fellows of the Academy. In addition, the contents of these two issues are also available on the NAMS website (free of charge).

In these efforts, I shall like to compliment Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa, Chief Editor & his associates and thank the Members of the Editorial Board, Editorial Associates & Members of the Advisory Editorial Board for their continuing guidance.

I acknowledge the assistance of the staff of the NAMS in accelerating the progress of the Academy in its academic activity.



(Prof. J.S. Bajaj)
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