

The President's Inaugural Address during ISACON 2019, on 26th Nov. 2019 at Bengaluru

"From history, to the Future"

Greetings from the Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists (ISA)!

On behalf of ISA, I welcome the guests, the ISA national office bearers, the members of the Organizing Committee, the Past Presidents and GC members of ISA, the faculty, the members of ISA, international guests including from SAARC nations, all the delegates, the representatives of the trade, the press and the media to Bengaluru and the 67th ISACON.

The most cosmopolitan of all places in India, with a rich history and very pleasant climate and most hospitable people, Bengaluru is the place to be for all in India. The Silicon Valley of India is also home to great institutions and is among the busiest hubs of Medical tourism in India.

About ISA: ISA is recognized as the representative body of the specialty by the Medical Council of India (MCI), the Government and the Universities of India. The Society was founded in 1947 during the national surgical conference in Mumbai and separated out with dedicated conference in 1964. ISA is committed to improving the Healthcare Standards, Education and Research in Anaesthesia, Pain and Palliative Care, Intensive & Critical Care, Primary Trauma Care and Resuscitation, apart from Perioperative Medicine. Our body is currently the 2nd largest in the World in our speciality.

The official publication of ISA is the Indian Journal of Anaesthesia, first published in 1953 and it has grown in status internationally with indexation in major indexing agencies and with high impact factor.

We as a body have been the founding members of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) and the South Asian Confederation of Anaesthesiologists (SACA). The next SACA Congress will be held in India in 2021 in Cochin and let us all make it a successful one. The next World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA) is to be held in Prague during the first week of September 2020 and let us attend it in great numbers both as delegates and academicians so that our leadership in the field is strengthened internationally. We provide the WFSA inland fellowships within India for the benefit of youngsters in different specialities from all countries; we are open to increase number of centres so that more youngsters are exposed to quality services. I attended the Chinese Society of Anesthesiology (CSA) Annual Conference at Hangzhou during October 31st to November 3rd 2019 on the invitation of CSA. I was impressed with the large delegate participation within the halls of the conference and also, the large number of participations from Societies from other nations. This gave an opportunity for me to interact with them and exchange pleasantries and understand the status of the speciality in those countries. Our Society is also open to become more interactive with other Societies; as a past EIC of IJA, for example, I propose that we can routinely invite at least one Editor of other major journals of the World and use their presence to discuss research, paper presentation and publication from our members.

The ISA GC was very active this year. Apart from the physical meetings, we had many online meetings including one on 18th November so that decisions are taken as and when needed without wasting time and also save on any additional physical meetings. Because of this arrangement, for the first time in recent years, the GC members will be free to participate in the first few hours of the CME and provide feedback on the sessions. I thank all the GC members for this very sincere decision. We have also taken decision to use the services of past GC members to attend to the scientific sessions and provide us feedback on how to improve them in future conferences.

The ISA has also been actively supporting many branches with sponsorships for CMEs, PG Assemblies, Workshops (ISA-IJA Research Methodology Module and ISA Airway Module) every year. We are ready to extend the number of sponsored programmes if the branches apply and request, because, we believe, growth of the branches reflects the growth of the whole Society.

Moving with the times! We are in an era of internet and internet of things. With the idea and zeal shown by Dr Kuchela Babu, the Academic Committee Chairman of ISA, we have had series of webinars across the country, covering various sessions of interest to practitioners and students. The feedback from the members have been great. I have attended many CMEs and Conferences across India in the past two years. They are conducted beautifully with great participation and numerous new ideas implemented during the programmes. I am proud of these achievements; I have however, found that the protocols of ISA are not practiced to the fullest, such as use of the logo, the flag, the stage protocol, etc and appeal to all to take care to stick to the regulations.

I thank the outgoing members of GC who have contributed very actively to the ISA in the last three years. I wish the incoming President, Dr Muralidhar Joshi all the best for the next year and I assure him all my support in his mission. I have great expectations for ISA from him.

Good news to all members: The long pending issue of a permanent Registered Office of ISA is now addressed. The ISA has had a dedicated corpus for the building and the previous building committee with senior members had explored multiple possibilities for the registered office of ISA. Due to some important considerations not under our control, the same could not fructify. We had the mandate of our august general body to take a decision. It is to the credit of members of the Building Committee of ISA, the GC and all senior members and Past office bearers of ISA that this is being presented to the GB for approval. I request for unanimous support for this effort from senior members and all members in the general body so that the property is acquired after legal opinion, within next 2-3 months.

The Indian Resuscitation Council (IRC): Under the Chairmanship of Dr Chakra Rao, the Past President of ISA has created a revolution of sorts in the Indian healthcare and public. It has encouraged and activated the members of ISA across India and it is to the credit of Dr Chakra Rao, Dr Rasesh Diwan and others who have this year enabled COLS training for about 5,00,000 on the occasion of the World Restart a Heart Day (WRAH) and Dr Chakra Rao. Preparation of BCLS Videos is completed and this movement has only one way to go; up! ISA congratulates ISA-IRC for strengthening and enabling the public to be 'Life Savers'.

Indian Journal of Anaesthesia (IJA) has got a further fillip with Dr J V Divatia steering the journal for the past three years with the number of submissions reaching almost 1000 per year. I appreciate the contribution of Dr Divatia who is completing his term. The award papers submitted at ISACON will be published as an IJA supplement this year which is a policy decision of ISA. Bengaluru will be creating history and I thank the organizing committee for the cooperation in enthusiastically taking up the ISA decision.

The ISA National thanks ISA Karnataka and Bengaluru for their contribution to the programme. I appreciate the Organizing Committee of ISACON 2019 led by Dr SB Gangadhar, the Chairman, Dr Vijayanand, the Secretary, Dr Nethra, Chairman, Scientific Committee, Dr H K Venkatesh, Chairman, Workshop Committee, Dr Sudheesh K, in-charge of the paper presentations, all workshop coordinators and the respective hospitals in Bengaluru for their preparation and hard work.

This Conference is also special because the ISA has introduced new programmes so that young anaesthesiologists, innovators, trainees, practitioners can present lectures on both academic and practice-oriented topics. These programmes are the Young Anaesthesiologist Session, Trainee Talent Session, the One Minute (OM) Session, the All by myself session (ABM) and the Innovation Session.

Litigations and Practice: To maintain good standards of practice, we have to follow standard guidelines of practice and spare time to streamline record keeping and patient counselling. In fact, the Private Practitioner's Forum of ISA addressed this issue along with many other Practitioner centric recommendations. The second precaution is we have to protect ourselves against financial liability by getting insured under Professional Indemnity Insurance Schemes which many of us had ensured, through many Agencies over the years. The ISA GC suggested and approved a specific scheme for its members with Cover U, an agency for ICICI, without any financial obligations from ISA but with better terms for our members. This Scheme currently has 1500 members from across India.

Beyond these initiatives, to help our members to have a confident practice and to be better prepared to face the legal challenges, ISA has decided to have more guidelines instead of depending on other Society Guidelines to suit the healthcare climate within India. We have the ISA Monitoring Standards (published more than a decade ago) and more recently, the Private Practitioners Guidelines and CPR. The ISA decided to have guidelines on additional 4 important practice areas nearly 2 years ago; the Perioperative Fasting and Feeding, the Preoperative Investigations, Anticoagulants and Regional Anaesthesia, Day Care Surgery and Anaesthesia. We also decided to update the Monitoring Guidelines so that the patient care and our practice standards also improve. I am happy to declare that the first one of these guidelines is ready and is placed before the Governing Council and will also be placed before the General Body of ISA for feedback before finalizing and publication in IJA. I thank the ISA GC, all the core group members and the Experts who have made this possible. We will join exclusive group of Societies with their own Guidelines for practice.

I congratulate the winners of the Presidential Appreciation Awards, for their selfless services to ISA and to the Society at large. I also congratulate all winners of ISA National sponsored Awards under different categories. They are the examples and trendsetters for rest of the members to follow. I also appreciate the activities of our members in underserved and low resource areas in different parts of India.

Family Benevolent Fund of ISA (FBF) is a major social initiative of ISA, where we as members contribute to families of deceased members. Currently we have 2228 members and there were 12 claims approved this year. Elections were conducted for this body for the first time. I appeal to our members to join, not for your sake, but for your colleagues.

I welcome new members of ISA, who are the future of ISA. Let us all dedicate ourselves to the well-being of human kind; let us all dedicate for a pain free society.

Wising You all a Very Happy New year!

Long Live ISA!

Dr Bala Bhaskar S
President, ISA 2019
