

Protests over move to create new cadre of rural doctors

"A wholly misguided, potentially damaging and populist step"

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Members of the Delhi Medical Association, various State branches of the Indian Medical Association, medical students from Delhi, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, members of various human rights groups and several non-government organisations held a protest demonstration on Thursday at India Habitat Centre where a workshop was under way to discuss the proposed new under-graduate medical course for creation of a cadre of rural doctors.

Deans of various colleges, vice-chancellors of professional medical universities and other dignitaries participated in the protest. IMA Cochin also joins the agitation in New Delhi



Protest Dharna at Delhi



Dr. V.D. Pradeep Kumar and Dr. Abraham Varghese participates in Dharna

Govt. of India and Medical Council of India have drawn plans to introduce a short term (3 years) medical course meant for rural areas. Initially named as Bachelor of Rural Medicines & Surgery (BRMS), it is envisaged as a medical course parallel to the MBBS Course. IMA has strongly protested against the introduction of BRMS, since this step is sure to dilute the standard of medical education in India. IMA Kerala State Branch has taken the lead in protest, though many State Governments (like West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh) have expressed a favourable stand to start the course. As per the proposal, each district can start a medical school in the District Hospital. Whatever

facility is not available in Govt. District Hospital, the course can be started in private institution or self financing private colleges. Govt. will pump in Rs.20 crores from NRHM to each medical school.

MCI had called a meeting of Vice Chancellors of all medical Universities and Principals of all medical colleges at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 4th February 2010, to chalk out the curriculum. A strong protest demonstration was held by IMA at the venue. Dr. V.D. Pradeep Kumar and Dr. Abraham Varghese from IMA Cochin took part in the protest in New Delhi. National newspapers and many TV channels gave wide coverage in Delhi edition.



Black Day at Kochi

IMA BLOOD BANK Silver Jubilee Celebration

Saturday, 27th February 2010 6.00 pm



Our Blood Bank, which has the credit of pioneering the modern blood banking services in Kerala, is celebrating the glorious 25 years of its existence and service. Please be present in IMA House with your friends and family members to make this occasion a memorable one.

Hon. Justice K.G. Balakrishnan (Chief Justice of India) will inaugurate the Silver Jubilee Celebrations. Dr. Sreekumar Vasudev (President, IMA Kerala State Branch) will deliver the keynote address.

Venue : IMA House

Time : 5.00 - 5.45 pm - High Tea (3rd flr) 6.00 pm - Inaugural function (4th flr - Auditorium)

'Padmashri' Award to an IMA Cochin Member

Dr. Philip Augustine, Managing Director & CEO, Lakeshore Hospital and Research Centre Ltd., Cochin, has been honored by the prestigious **PADMASHRI**, the country's highest civilian award, on the eve of the 61st Republic Day for his outstanding contribution to the Gastroenterology and Pancreatology.



MONTHLY CME

Date : 24.2.2010 (Wednesday), 8.00 p.m.

Venue : IMA House, Kaloor

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

- Chairperson **Dr Sanjeev K Singh**, MD (Paed), MPhil (Hospital Management)
 Sr. Medical Administrator, AIMS, Kochi
- Topic Hair transplant: Current Status
 Speaker **Dr Sundeep Vijayaraghavan** MS, MCh, DNB
 Asso. Professor, Dept. of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, AIMS Kochi
- Topic Management of Brachial plexus injuries
 Speaker **Dr Kishore P** MS MCh
 Consultant, Dept. of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, AIMS Kochi
- Topic Management of facial paralysis & microtia
 Speaker **Dr Subramania Iyer** MS, MCh, FRCS
 HOD and Professor, Dept. of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, AIMS Kochi

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Printed & published by IMA Cochin for circulation among IMA members only. Designed & Printed by Pixel Studio, Cochin-28 © 2806 301

President's Column

Dear colleagues,



Last month the State Branch of IMA was busy with the burning issue of BRMS. We had represented our Branch at the Raj Bhavan Dharna and also at the protest held at Delhi. We hope that the issue will be settled amicably without any setback to the health care system especially in the rural areas of our state.

The awarding of PADMASHRI to Dr Philip Augustine was a proud moment for our Branch. He is the first person from our Branch to be bestowed with this great honour of the nation to be presented by the President of India next month.

The initial planning and work for the successful conduct of the annual state conference has already started by forming different committees. I request all of you to become part and parcel of that mega event by becoming Reception Committee members and also to give support and advices whenever and wherever needed.

Dr. Joy Joseph

Abstract of previous month Scientific Session



The January meet was a joint scientific session of the IMA and COCHIN CLINICAL SOCIETY held on 27th January 2010. Dr. G.N Ramesh and Dr. Varghese Cherian, Scientific Committee members of the IMA were the chairpersons. Meeting started with the awarding of the trophy for the best COCHIN CLINICAL SOCIETY Meeting of 2009 organised by the IAP Cochin Chapter. This everrolling trophy donated by Late Dr. C.M. Joseph, was awarded by Dr. Joy Joseph IMA President to the IAP President Dr. Tonny Mampilly.

The scientific session started with Dr. Ajish from AIMS presenting a case of Sarcoidosis. This was followed by a case of

recurrent very large dermato fibrosis of the retroperitonium presented by Dr. Thomas Varghese and Dr. Jose Tharayil of Lakeshore Hospital. Dr. Selvam / Dr. Sooraj from PVSM / LS presented a case of Acetaminophen over dosage and acute liver injury which was managed by N-acetylcysteine.

Dr. Roshan from Roshan Eye Care Hospital, Thripunithura presented an interesting case of Retinitis Pigmentosa, who presented with concentric visual field defects. Last case was by Dr. Sethu of Cardio Thoracic Society presented a case of lung cancer presenting as non resolved pneumonia. This grand meeting was sponsored by Roche Pharmaceuticals.



New Directory

A new Directory of IMA Cochin members was released by handing over a copy of it to the President Dr. Joy Joseph and Secretary Dr. Sunny P. Orathel by Dr. Abraham K. Paul who was the Editor of the Directory.



Best Scientific Session

IAP bagged the trophy for the best scientific programme of last year conducted by the Cochin Clinic Society. The everrolling trophy was presented to Dr. Tonny Mampilly, President of IAP Cochin by our President Dr. Joy Joseph.



ACTIVITIES OF WIMA - JAN 2010

General Body Meeting held on 30.1.2010. Glass Painting by Dr. Chandrika, regular adolescent health programmes by Dr. Chandrika. Marital classes conducted. Mega camp conducted at Malaya by Dr. Manju too part. Radio talks on Asthma in FM Radio. Walkathon organised to create awareness - Walking for health on 13.2.2010. starting from IMA House at 6.30 a.m. **Next meeting on 27.2.2010 on Fabric Painting.**



Glass Painting by Dr. Chandrika

Secretary's Desk

Dear Colleague,

Modern Medicine is facing another threat from MCI & Govt. of India. Last year it was re-registration of medical degree and this year it is BRMS / BRHC. It was said that the re-registration of medical degree is to keep the standards of the profession high up among all professions in the country. Surprisingly the very same MCI is playing behind the curtain for the unholy condensed medical course. At any cost we have to object the move of MCI for this course.

As said earlier Cochin IMA is hosting the State Annual Conference of IMA in November 2010 and hence I request one and all to be part and parcel of Cochin IMA by renewing the membership or becoming a new life member of Cochin IMA. The blood bank owned by Cochin IMA has completed 25 years of meritorious service to humanity. We have made all arrangements for the silver jubilee celebration of Blood Bank on Saturday 27th of February 2010 at IMA House, Cochin. Honorable Chief Justice of India Dr. K.G. Balakrishnan will be the guest of honour on that day. We solicit the whole hearted co-operation of all members of Cochin IMA in this solemn function.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Sunny P. Orathel

Malayalee Leaders for Indian Pancreatic Club



Dr. Philip Augustine, Managing Director, Lakeshore Hospital & Research Centre Ltd. has been elected as the President of Indian Pancreatic Club, the national association of Pancreatologists. Dr. Rakesh Tandon handed over the responsibilities to Dr. Philip Augustine at the governing council meeting recently held in Calcutta. Dr. H. Ramesh, Director & HOD, GI Surgery has been elected as the Secretary of the Indian Pancreatic Club. International Pancreatic Society's Annual Conference will be held for the first time in India at Cochin in February 2011, according to Dr. Philip Augustine.

Congratulations!



Dr. N.S.D. Raju has been elected as the National Vice President of Ophthalmological Society of India. He is now the President Elect and will take over as President in 2011.

Dr. Sreekumar Vasudev, President IMA Kerala State Branch addressing the Executive Committee members of the Cochin IMA.

