

From Editor's Desk

Dear friends,
Happy to note the increasing involvement of members in IMA activities. That is reflected in the number of IMA members interacting with Megaphone as well. Dr. M.M. Hassan phoned up me to tell that there was overwhelming enthusiasm from members to join SS Scheme after reading the information in Megaphone. It indeed is satisfying.

Please get involved in activities of IMA. Mobilise more members to join IMA. To achieve we need total unity. More the numerical strength, more is the power. Come and strengthen IMA.

Dr. V.D. Pradeep Kumar
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Bouquet of congratulations from Dr. Vaghese Cherian, Secretary IMA to Dr. N.S.D. Raju, National President of Indian Ophthalmic Society



Reception to Mr. Padmakumar IPS, IG, Ernakulam Range by IMA Cochin on 25.1.2012

Our Column

Dear friends,
It's the Ides of March and the future of our profession is at stake. The three year Bachelor of Rural Health Care course which gives the license to diagnose diseases and prescribe drugs, physiotherapists claiming the right to prefix Dr. to their name and thereby justifying their desire to diagnose and treat and the Clinical Establishment Act are just a few of the burning issues. If we don't unite and take measures to protect our profession from such inroads, our professional standards will be in jeopardy.

It was in this context that the IMA staged a protest during the Raj Bhavan march held at Trivandrum on 3rd March 2012. IMA members, Medical students and Young Doctors Association members participated in the march. This was to show our protest against the Govt. of India's decision and Planning Commission's recommendation to introduce BRHC, urban nurse practitioners and bridge course for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Sidha & Homeo) graduates to be conferred MBBS degrees. If our profession is to maintain its rightful place in our dynamic society, each and every one of us has to be an active participant in this protest.

With regards,
Dr. Abraham Varghese President
Dr. Vaghese Cherian Secretary

FEBRUARY CME Urinary Tract Infection in Children and Septic Shock in Newborns & Children



Dr. Mohan K. Abraham, Prof. & HOD, Dept. of Pediatric Surgery & Pediatric Urology, AIMS & **Dr. P. Sasidharan**, Prof. & HOD, Dept. of Pediatrics and Neonatology, AIMS.

On the Wings

Across Kabini River, Wynad

We were exploring the scenic Wynad. Our team started from Sultan Battery and reached Mananthavady. Travelling 17 km from Mananthavady, we reached on the banks of a tributary of Kabini river. Kabini originates from Wynad and flows eastward to join Kaveri River in Karnataka.



Just across the Kabini River is Kuruva Dweep (Island). This fabulous picnic spot with its serene silence and wide expanse of evergreen forests left us stunned. The island is uninhabited but for an array of uncommon birds and herbs.

Our team stood on the banks of Kabini River ready to cross it. Our conveyance was ready - a big bamboo raft. Bamboo raft is made of 3-4 layers of fairly big and old bamboo poles. It is quite wide and just floats on water. Raft is handled by experienced men of forest dept.

A rope is tied between trees on either shores and the raft is controlled by pulling on these ropes. The ebullient waters of Kabini River makes this rafting really thrilling. River is quite deep in some areas. It is said that there are crocodiles in this river. Fortunately we didn't have any encounter with them.

On getting down from the Bamboo raft we saw the safety jackets which were supposed to be given to visitors seen piled up on the river bank...

(Sent by Dr. Mathew Varghese and Dr. Deepak R. Nair, EMC)

Have you renewed your membership in Schemes?

All Scheme members are requested to renew membership every year on time. For any assistance, directly contact office of Scheme Secretary, at State level.

Annual membership in Cochin Branch has to be renewed before March 31st.

Valid membership at Branch level is a must to get the benefits of all Schemes of IMA Kerala State Branch.

Medical Camps



Conducted awareness class on lifestyle diseases at Tripunithura South Residents Association, on 19th February.

Eye Camp and Hypertension check up was done on 10th March by IMA in association with General Hospital, Ernakulam at Nettu U.P. School.

Dr. Mahadevan, Convenor, Medical Camps

Congrats COGS!

Cochin Obstetric and Gynaecological Society has won many laurels at National and State level.

- 1) President's Rotating Trophy for the Best Society of FOGSI (Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecological Societies of India);
- 2) Dr. Duru Shah's Trophy for the best activities for adolescents;
- 3) Trophy for the best activities on FOGSI Girl Child Day.



Good luck new office bearers, **Dr. Gracy Thomas** (President) and **Dr. Sheela Sadasivan** (Secretary).



Samkrama Suryante Nizhal, a travelogue written by Dr. N.J. Natarajan was released by Sri Kochouseph Chitilappilly. Mr. Jehangir is seen receiving the first copy. Dr. Abraham Varghese, President IMA offered felicitations.



IMA Cochin is on Facebook now. You can visit the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/imacochin/>. Please join the group for better communications.

HUMOUR

'Now the meeting is adjourned for fellowship and dinner'

We hear this sentence at the end of many a medical meetings. The innocents might wonder what this 'fellowship' is. Of course, it is an euphemism for consuming a couple (or more) of pegs of any alcoholic beverage.

Dictionaries define fellowship as 'pleasant social intercourse'. In the western societies, where social taboos on drinking are non-existent, a couple of pegs might be considered part of social intercourse. (We know that, used well, it is a great social tool in our set up too). But our society with its typical parochial narrow-mindedness invented this veiling of truth.

Fellowships are part and parcel of virtually all medical conferences (virtually all non-medical conferences too). It must have prompted one of our old professors to coin that now famous saying *conference is a fountain of knowledge where people go to drink*. In fact even in so called 'dry' states, this has been observed that the 'fellowship' area is often jam-packed.

Of late it has been observed that the attendance at the fellowships has fallen. There are several reasons for this phenomenon. As far as my specialty in Kerala is concerned, the fair sex has breached another male bastion and has started to outnumber males. (In other specialties like Orthopaedics, males are still the dominant sex and fellowship continues to prevail). And coy Bharat naari just cannot be seen holding a glass with some amber liquid in it. Better implementation of 'driving while under the influence' (of alcohol) laws by the city police might be acting as a deterrent too. Of course, one cannot rule out better health consciousness of doctors as another reason.

While the die-hard fans of *Bacchus might rue the fading out of a tradition, I am sure the spouses (and lady doctors) may not be so unhappy.



(Dr. R.R. Varma, Ophthalmologist and a self-proclaimed worshipper of Bacchus, 66varma@gmail.com)

* Bacchus is the Roman god of wine and intoxication often equated with Greek Dionysus.

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Letter to the Editor

Sir,
A prominent clinic in the city, as part of its advertisement, display photographs, address and ID numbers of patients in large hoardings all along the city roads. If the contents of the advertisements are true, it is highly inappropriate and unethical, confirming to the public opinion that hospitals and clinics are 'business-minded', throwing to the wind, the 'nobility' of the profession. It also tramples upon the privacy of patients.
Dr. George Jacob, Senior Specialist
Lakeshore Hospital, Kochi
(Please send your comments on the matter - Editor)

IMA AMS-CCS meeting

The IMA AMS-CCS meeting was held at Lourdes hospital on 9th Feb. Dr. Prakash Zacharias, Gastroenterologist, PVS Hospital chaired the session. Dr. John Thayil's presentation was adjudged the best.
- Dr. Ramesh Shenoy

Palates tingling during summer vacation?

Watch for announcement of **IMA House Food Festival** April 2012

Dr. M.M. Shaji, MBBS, AFIH
Addl. Chief Medical Officer, FACT bagged Safety Award for Best Medical Officer, Kerala State for 2011-12

Dr. Abraham Varghese, Chief Medical Officer, Binani Zinc Ltd has been awarded the Excellence award by the Govt. of Kerala for the Occupational Health Centre. This is the third time this centre is getting this award.

PHOTO QUIZ - MARCH

Identify the Bride... and send your answer to the Editor. First correct entry will get a prize.
She is fully associated with the affairs of IMA for more than three decades.

She writes about her second love, Indian Medical Association, in the next issue of Megaphone.

FEBRUARY PHOTO QUIZ ANSWER

Dr. A.K. Sabhapathy, Surgeon and Director of Krishna Hospital who served as Secretary of IMA Kerala State Branch consecutively for 5 years from 1973-78.

WORLD SLEEP DAY- MARCH 16TH

Indian Medical Association, Cochin and Sunrises Hospital jointly organised a Sleep Evaluation Camp in connection with the World Sleep Day. **Dr. Renjini Raghavan** co-ordinated the camp.

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PHARMA MEET

As a part of IMA House marketing promotions, the 3rd Pharma meeting was organised on 15.3.2012 at IMA House. Dr. Abraham Varghese gave the walkthrough of the Project and facilities offered, with a detailed presentation. An elaborate description of IMA Cochin ever since its inception to the formation of Club Lagoon was given, which continued to the briefing of rates at IMA House. Presentation was followed by the interactive session. A group of attendees expressed interest in seeing the rooms and banquet facility which was coordinated immediately.

The next Pharma meeting is planned on April 18. Request all members to mobilise Managers of Pharma Companies to attend this meeting. For any assistance, please contact Dr. Varghese Cherian, Secretary 94006 45077.

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If you are a member of all the three Social Security Schemes of IMA Kerala State Branch, your family is entitled to receive nearly **₹38 Lakhs**. Don't be carried away by the sweet and peppy assurance from your insurance agents. Premium for such insurance policies is much higher than you pay for SS Scheme.

No questions asked; your family receives the cheque from SS Scheme office within 7 days. For assistance call **Dr. M.M. Hassan** (Resource Person for SS, PP Schemes) Ph : 94479 00219.

Join Health Scheme of IMA Kerala State Branch. Insurance cover upto 1 lakh against the lowest premium. Covers all major illnesses. You are entitled for payment even if you claim the expenses from any other health insurance policy. Your original bills will be returned after scrutiny.

World Health Day Celebration - April 1st - Venue : IMA House

IMA Cochin in association with Moulana Obesity & Diabetes Care Centre, Perinthalmanna has organised a post bariatric and diabetes surgery support group meeting in connection with the World Health Day on 1st April, Sunday 10am-2pm at IMA House. Hon. Minister **Dr. Muneer** has agreed to inaugurate the function. **Prof. C.K. Ramachandran**, former HOD, Dept. of Medicine, Calicut MCH and **Prof. Sivasankaran**, SCT, Trivandrum will deliver lectures on lifestyle diseases. All members are invited.

Dr. Varghese Cherian, Secretary

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