



# NEWSLETTER

1992

## Indian Association For The Study of Traditional Asian Medicine

आशियाई पारंपारिक स्वास्थ्य परिषद : भारत

Office : C/o Zandu Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., Gokhale Road South, Bombay-400 025. • Tel. : 4307021 • Annual Subscription Rs. 15

### Editorial

#### 'WELCOME 1993'

*IASTAM was established in 1980 with a view not only to provide a bridge between experts from different fields but to motivate students and scholars from diverse areas to put their efforts in identification and development of the role of the indigenous systems of medicine for the health care of people.*

*After more than a decade of its existence and two successful international conferences, it has established itself as an important organisation to present views related with various aspects of the indigenous systems of medicine. Two conferences, the ACTAM in 1983 and particularly the ICTAM III held at Bombay in 1990, are very much remembered by many for efficient organisation and large participation of scientists from diverse fields from all parts of the world.*

*The new working committee has been formed and IASTAM is now on the path of developing newer vistas. **It is our sincere desire that IASTAM should become a multidisciplinary, multifaceted organisation of active members with wider range of activities.** We are working in this direction and will be pleased to have your views.*

*We are fortunate to have a good number of life members. Our intention to expand our activities demands active and large support from our existing members and increase in membership. We request our members to express their views and put their efforts to bring other friends and colleagues interested in indigenous systems of medicine to our forum.*

*1993, the new year will be arriving by the time this issue will reach you. **We, at IASTAM look forward to 1993 with much hope and wish all our members a HAPPY NEW YEAR.***

- Dr. Narendra S. Bhatt

#### **IASTAM : NEW WORKING COMMITTEE TAKES OVER**

As per constitution elections to the Working Committee of IASTAM were held in August 1992. The posts remaining vacant were filled by nomination in the combined meeting of the old and new working committee.

The newly elected IASTAM -

**Working Committee (1992-95) is as under.**

**President : Prof. R. K. Mutatkar**

**Vice Presidents :**

**Dr. S. K. Jain**

**Dr. C. L. Jhaveri**

**Dr. K. G. Desai**

**Dr. V. N. Pandey**

**Secretary General : Dr. Ashok B. Vaidya**

**Treasurer : Dr. K. M. Parikh**

**Joint Secretary : Dr. Narendra S. Bhatt**

**Regional Secretaries :**

**Prof. R. H. Singh,**

**Vaidya S. C. Chaturvedi**

**Prof. Vimla Devi**

**Dr. (Mrs.) G. V. Satyavati**

**Members :**

**Vaidya Shriram Sharma**

**Dr. S. P. Kinjawdekar**

**Vd. Padhye Gurjar**

**Prof. B. V. Sathaye**

**Vd. Dinanath Upadhyaya**

**Dr. A. K. Jain**

**Vd. Ramesh Nanal**

**Shri M. M. Pandya**

**Internal Auditor : Vd. Mohanlal Gupta**

## From Our President

### *IASTAM - SOME QUESTIONS*

**Prof. R. K. Mutatkar**

IASTAM-India was established as an Indian Chapter of the International Organisation. The international scholars have been interested in the studies of Asian Systems of Medicine in the historical perspectives, textual interpretation, sociological dimensions and the dynamic aspects, namely, the relationships with modern medicine and the structure that is adopted in training, practice and production and marketing of pharmaceuticals. The therapies have to be understood in terms of local, economic and political situations, as also the health care delivery systems at the Governmental and non-Governmental sectors.

A large number of practitioners of traditional medicine in the Asia region are exercised over their survival and propagation in comparison to modern medicine particularly due to proliferation and protection of modern medicine received in the colonial period. Medical pluralism exists in the Asian region and the national governments exhibit a secular attitude to all types of medicine. However, comparison continues to take place between modern medicine and traditional Asian systems of medicine. There is a yearning among young trained physicians of traditional medicine to be equated by the Government with practitioners of modern medicine in terms of job opportunities and pay scales, etc., since the training period is similar in all systems of medicine.

On one hand, there is this comparison, while on the other, there is demand for integration of modern medicine and traditional medicine. Modern physicians also prescribed traditional medical drugs manufactured by traditional pharmaceuticals. There has also been resentment among some scholars about the use of the word tradition in IASTAM. Professor Charles Lesile has written about it in an article in the International Newsletter. This matter needs academic discussion.

IASTAM---India successfully organised the Asian and International Conferences on Traditional Asian Medicine at Bombay in 1983 and 1990 respectively. However, these have not led to follow up activities.

More and more Ayurvedic Medical Colleges are being opened in the cities. What is its impact on Ayurvedic medical education? In what areas are people adopting traditional medicine and in what details the medical pluralism exists or functions? What could be the contribution of traditional medicine in national health

programmes and in community health?

At the two conferences, we realized that our research papers lacked the rigour of scientific research methodology. How to remedy these situations? What kind of workshops we have to design? These and many other ideas and programmes need to be promoted by IASTAM. The Newsletter is a forum for such communication as to who thinks what, what is being written and what is being done in the world of traditional medicine.

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## From Our Secretary General

### *IASTAM : ALTERNATE PATH OF GROWTH*

**Dr. Ashok B. Vaidya, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.I.M.**

Recently, I read a book entitled "ZAPP! The Lightning of Empowerment" by William C. Byham. This was kind of a preparatory reading for a senior management seminar. The book deals in a readable narrative how to improve quality, productivity and employee satisfaction. There are principles of revitalization in this book which can be pragmatically applied to the IASTAM for the sea-change in member participation and satisfaction.

Firstly, we need a guiding ideal for the IASTAM, a kind of vision that energises and motivates all the members and not only some office bearers of the association. We all need to evolve such a vision rather than impose it from above. The apathy of most of the members of many professional associations springs mostly from them not being partners in the process of strategy and direction decided. Once there is a widespread enthusiasm and commitment to mutually agreed paths of growth, activities can flourish countrywide. Imagine the possibilities, which open up, once the relative energies and skills of members are liberalised and productively flow in the directions of achievement.

For a dialogue we propose the following mission for IASTAM. It is a tentative putty crying to be moulded by your kneading initiative.

*MISSION* : IASTAM would strive for a healthier India, through the practical and priority-based application of the wisdom and practices of traditional systems of Asian Medicine. For the success of such mission, we need to understand, in the priority- areas of health, what Indian healing arts can offer, in a practical manner and with an edge over the other options. The activities of IASTAM, to fulfil the mission, can only be defined once we, in a way, do some introspection and perceive our areas of strength.

*The major areas of strength of IASTAM are :*

1. The members---their wisdom, experience, skills, information and diversity of disciplines.
2. Our exchange linkages with the international organizations and centres interested in traditional Asian Medicine.
3. The industrial, academic and government bases, available for IASTAM activities. We must build essentially our activities and new programmes on these strengths.

*ACTIVITIES :* Some of the activities we propose are :

Establishment of Pandit Shiv Sharma Memorial Library of Traditional Medicine. The members, institutions, publishing houses can donate manuscripts, textbooks, notes, journals etc. to such a library. The library can be a state-of-the-art documentation and information base to serve the needs of students researchers and practitioners of traditional medicine. A corpus of fund has to be raised and the location in an academic set-up has to be identified.

A directory of the practitioners of traditional medical systems and of institutions and centres conducting service, education or research, to be prepared with the industrial support and widely distributed throughout India.

To develop professional consensus on the management of certain major problems of health in India and then widely disseminate the key agreements on preventive and remedial measures, in different Indian languages through original outlets of IASTAM---friendly institutions. The list of such problems can include :

1. Institutional care of the pregnant woman.
2. Iron-deficiency anaemia.
3. Diarrhoeas in infants and children.
4. Principles of personal and community hygiene.
5. Arthritic disorders.
6. The immune resistance.
7. Allergic disorders.
8. Parasitic infections.
9. Skin infections etc.

The list is tentative and can be later changed.

To create a seminar and training centre for core modules of education in future for the practitioners of modern and homeopathic systems of medicine. The centre can also conduct advanced educational and scientific seminars in traditional Asian systems of medicine. Such a centre should be located at an academic institution but can derive the faculty from all the quarters.

To establish a Centre for Advanced study in Traditional Medicine, essentially for the senior scholars and scientists who can stay there for 6-12 months and complete a book, a review or a monograph on the thrust aspect of Traditional Medicine. Their daily needs, stress support, bibliographic assistance etc. will be looked after by the centre. The latter will have a liaison staff and the support will come from a special corpus.

Finally, as I mentioned earlier, for achievement and success, the members of IASTAM would need the empowerment to conduct the activities, in a decentralised manner. We would need not only leadership and direction to define our key result areas, goals and measures of progress, but also need the knowledge, resources and support to bring some of these activities to fruition. The new team elected by IASTAM requests ideas, suggestions and criticisms from members in the union and activities proposed.

I would end with an encouraging statement from Euripides, "Gods manifest in many forms. Bring many matters to surprising ends. The things we thought would happen do not happen. Things unexpected God makes possible." For IASTAM to take alternate paths of growth and fulfillment, we need the zeal and commitment of each of us. Let us rededicate ourselves to a healthier India !

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## NEWS

### *A GOOD BEGINNING BY KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT*

Good news have come from Karnataka. Dr. K. G. Desai, our Vice President sent us the declaration of the State Government to suitably include subjects pertaining to Ayurveda in text books of primary and secondary education from 1993-94.

From time to time Ayurvedic profession and in recent times the social scientists working in the field of primary health care have put forward suggestions to include Ayurvedic subjects in the curricula of school education. In last few decades we have seen decline of the information of health related principles from our own systems. This has resulted in complete unawareness of simple practices or use of home remedies, particularly in urban industrialised population. The Karnataka government and those who made efforts to get this declaration deserve our compliments. Hopefully other active groups will take up this matter with respective governments to follow the same.

## BOOKS

### **MEDICINAL PLANTS OF INDIA in Two Volumes**

Written by distinguished botanists **Dr. S. K. Jain**, former Director of the Botanical Survey of India (IASTAM-Vice President) and **Robert A. DeFillips** of the Smithsonian Institute - this title provide a survey of the medicinal resources of India including Nagaland and Sikkim. The book provides a list of plants used in western, Ayurvedic and Unani medicine covering 1844 species and include 248 full page illustrations. Vernacular names are in Hindi, Sanskrit, English and regional dialects and it includes extensive bibliography. Published by Reference Publications Inc., 218 St. Clair River Drive, Box 344, Algonac, Michigan, 48001 (313) 794-5722, U. S. A., the price is \$ 94.95 (ISBN No. 0- 917256-39-5)

There is an International Association of Ethnobiology with base in Belem- para, Brazil. From 1988, it started organising an International Congress of Ethnobiology in alternate years.

The I was held at Belem, Brazil. The II was held in 1990 in Kunming, China. About one dozen scientists from India participated in the II Congress in China. The III Congress 1992 had been already decided for Mexico.

During II Congress, Dr. S. K. Jain, President, Society of Ethnobotanists extended invitation for the IV Congress at Lucknow in 1994. It was provisionally accepted, subject to ratification at Mexico.

The III Congress will be held at Mexico 10-14 Nov. 1992. Dr. S. K. Jain is going to Mexico to reiterate the invitation, and to convene a Symposium during ICE on Ethnobiological inventories.

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## Announcements

### **ICTAM IV**

The 4th "International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine (ICTAM IV)" will be held in Tokyo, Japan from August 19-21 1994 under the joint auspices of the *International Association for the Study of Asian Medicine (IASTAM)* and the *Japan Society for Oriental Medicine (JSOM)*.

'ICTAM IV' follows the Congress in Canberra (1979) Surabaya (1984) and Bombay (1990).

The General theme of ICTAM IV is History, Culture, Society and Medicine.

The scientific sessions sill include presentation of papers, symposia and lectures.

The official languages of the Congress are english

and japanese.

A reduced registration fee is offered to the participants from the developing countries and a discounted air fare is offered through the designated travel agency in Japan.

*IASTAM - INDIA has received limited copies of the first circular which are posted only to life members of IASTAM.*

Others interested in attending ICTAM IV and who wish to receive further information should write to:  
THE SECRETARY, ICTAM IV,  
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL HISTORY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, JUNTENDO UNIVERSITY  
2-1-1 HONGO, BUNKYO KU, TOKYO 113 JAPAN.

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### **IASTAM SYMPOSIUM CUM WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH MODALITIES**

Increasing research activities are carried out in the areas of traditional systems of medicine in last few decades. However, majority of these activities have been in the areas of drugs, and therapies and at times in basic research in respective system of medicine. In last 10-15 years many new developments have taken place in different spheres of health related subjects.

To site some examples it has been observed that social scientists and anthropologists the world over have been taking keen interest in alternative systems of health care and their role and impact in respective societies. Very limited work is carried out by Indian scholars in this field. Similarly, novel methods of biomedical sciences are applied by experts to understand the complexities of drugs and therapies in challenging areas. These new developments can provide newer areas and newer dimensions to the research activities. There is an urgent need to create greater awareness of these potentials and make efforts to evolve suitable modalities.

IASTAM plans to organise a National Symposium-cum-Workshop in 1993 to discuss and develop these modalities for research in different areas of traditional systems of medicine.

We invite IASTAM Members to express their opinion for useful organisation of this event.

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**A "NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HERBAL FORMULATIONS : YESTERDAY - TODAY - TOMORROW"** will be held on **28-29 January, 1993.**

Those interested can contact :

Prof. M. Vimala Devi, Convener,  
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences,

Andhra University

Visakhapatnam, 530 003. (Andhra Pradesh)

**RASA SHASTRA CONFERENCE AT B.H.U.,  
VARANASI**

“FIRST CONFERENCE ON RASA SHASTRA” is being organised by Dept. of Rasa Shastra, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221 005 between **19- 21 February 93.**

**AYURVEDA CONFERENCE AT PUNE**

An 'INTERNATIONAL AYURVEDA

CONFERENCE' organised by Institute of Indian Medicine, Pune will be held at Hotel Aurora Towers, Pune between **29-31 January 1993.** Registration fee is Rs.1500/- upto 1st December and Rs.2000/- thereafter. For further details Contact : Prof. P. H. Kulkarni, Institute of Indian Medicine, 36, Kothrud, Pune 411 029.

To  
All IASTAM-INDIA Members  
Sub : IASTAM International Membership

IASTAM International Association is well known to all to us. We are the Indian chapter of this International Association and are organising various activities for the study of Traditional Asian Medicines. The Government of India and also the World Health Organisation have recognised the use of Traditional Systems of Medicines for the Health Care. Study of Traditional Asian Medicines from multi-disciplinary angles is the main theme/objective of the Association. Regular International Congress at an interval of every four years is organised and so far we have witnessed three such international congress.

With a view to give an opportunity for IASTAM India members to become the IASTAM International Member and take advantage at international level, a member has to contribute Rupees equal to US \$ 15/- per annum \*at present Rs.450/-).

All those who have paid the IASTAM International fees of Rs.450/- per annum will also be the member of IASTAM India (No additional fee will be paid).

We are sure all the existing IASTAM India members will take this opportunity to enroll themselves as the members of IASTAM International and shall complete the attached Membership Form and send to IASTAM India Office at Bombay alongwith a Demand Draft of Rs.450/- or a cheque of Rs. 450/- plus Rs. 10/- collection charges i.e. Rs. 460/- (for out station only).

Looking forward to your co-operation,

Yours truly,

(Dr. K. M. PARIKH)  
Treasurer

**FORM V  
(SEE RULES)**

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I. Dr. K. M. Parikh, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

**Dr. K. M. Parikh**  
(Signature of Publisher)

Dated : 30 Dec. 1992.

**• BE A MEMBER, GET A MEMBER •**

You will find with this Newsletter a copy of "MEMBERSHIP FORM".

**If you are not a member, be a member**

**If you are a regular member, be a Life Member**

**If you are already a member, get a Life Member**

**• WRITE TO US/SEND TO US/SHARE WITH US •**

**Congress ? Conference ? Seminar ?  
Symposium ? Workshops ?**

Are you associated with organisation of any such forthcoming event ? Do you know of such event taking place in your area ?

***Do write to us.***

**Honours ? Awards ? Tours ?**

Have you been honoured recently ? Let us share the pride.

***Do write to us.***

**Clippings ? News ? Abstracts ?**

Have you come across any important information that may interest our members ?

***Do sent to us a copy***

**Ideas ? Thoughts ? Views ?**

Do you have any ?

***Do share with us.***

**Books ? Journals ? Periodicals ?**

***Send us a Copy to enlist or review.***

**MEETING GROUND**

Do you need some help ? At times we do. We would like to help you identify a collaborator or an institute by publishing your specific need in brief.

***Do write to us.***

**This NEWSLETTER is yours.**

You are invited to participate in its publication. We assure of our efforts to publish appropriate items falling within the perview of IASTAM from our members.

Please send your matter to :

The Editor,  
IASTAM Newsletter,  
C/O. Zandu Pharma. Works Ltd.,  
Gokhale Road, South,  
BOMBAY-400 025.

**IASTAM International Membership form**

(JOINTLY WITH IASTAM - INDIA MEMBERSHIP)

(ANNUAL ONLY)

Sur Name : ..... First Name : .....

Middle Name : ..... Age : .....

Sex : ..... Qualification : .....

Designation : .....

Mailing Address :

.....  
.....  
.....

Work Done .....

Membership (category) : Regular Membership fees  
Rs.450/- (Equivalent to US \$ 15/- per annum)

Nature of Research Interest : .....

Year :      Mode of Payment :

Cash/Cheque/M.O./D.D.

Cheques to be drawn in favour

IASTAM-India (Up-country Membersh should  
send D.D.)

Date : ..... Signature : .....

**Editor : Prof. R. K. Mutatkar - Dr. Narendra S. Bhatt**