INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF TRADITIONAL ASIAN MEDICINE पारंपारिक आशियाई स्वास्थ्य परिषद – भारत



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NEWSLETTER

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Connecting Systems; Bridging Disciplines

Ayurved Yoga Unani Siddha Asian Medicine

"It takes both sides to build a bridge"

- Fredrik Nael

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${ m P}_{ m RE~NOTE}$

10th series of IASTAM Oration and Awards and Conclave on AYUSH & Cancer

Dr. Narendra Bhatt

The 10th series of IASTAM Oration and Awards 2019 and the Conclave on 'Cancer Care & Research in AYUSH: Developing a Roadmap' was organised at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences [AIMS], Kochi. In the presence of renowned stalwart awardees from Ayurveda and other fields of science, this 5th function in a row was a momentous event for our association and turned out to be a useful event for deliberations on Cancer with support from the School of Ayurved, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham at AIMS.

Guest – Throughout the event, the Personal presence and encouragement of the Chairman of our National Advisory Council **Shri Shekhar Dutt**, Former Governor of Chhattisgarh and Former Secretary of AYUSH added to our enthusiasm and his guidance at various phases was very valuable.

Dr. W. Selvamurthy, Chancellor, Amity University, Director General and Former Chief Controller R&D for Life Sciences, Defense Research and Development Organisation, Government of India made extra efforts, despite the cancellation of flights, to be up early in the morning to take the 5.30 am flight so as to be in Kochi for the event. His encouraging remarks and the words of wisdom he offered, with scientific clarity in different conversations, added value to the event. With this function IASTAM moved one step ahead in its growth.

Orations – *Padmabhushan Vd. Devinder Trigunaji* shared his experience of the last several decades and provided important points for further development of Ayurved.

The presentation of *Dr. Robin Marles* turned out to be not only that of a regulatory expert but also one of a scientist rooted in the ground and conversant with realities. His faith in the principles of indigenous systems and traditions gave new insights for scientific exploration of ethnomedicine. Information about the approach of 'Health Canada'to regulate the products under this category provided an interesting insight to develop a new approach where tradition and science could be balanced.

Dr. S. C. Lakhotia was another example of one, who despite cancellation of flights and change in schedule made it a point to be with us on 16th February, not only to receive the award but to lead the discussion on integration and actively participate in the event.

Awardees - The story of flight cancellation was repeated even with *Dr. B. N. Gangadhar*, Director of NIMHANS who also had to rush from airport to venue. After attending the function, he had to rush back to take the return flight.

Vice-Chancellor of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg; *Dr. Shailendra Saraf* gave his valuable inputs

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both at the meeting and in personal communications. We have requested him to pursue the need for framing a program for Quality Control, Standardisation and Research of AYUSH Products. We hope that the agenda developed at the previous meet at Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University under the guidance of Prof. Ramesh Goyal, could further be developed.

The purpose of such a course is not only to provide certification but to create an environment for an integrative approach that should interest and attract post graduate scholars and students both from pharmaceutical and AYUSH disciplines to undertake such learning.

Dr. Neeraj Tandon with her active participation during deliberations provided a clear view of the approach followed by the Indian Council of Medical Research. This was one more opportunity for her to get acquainted with AYUSH principles and approaches.

Dr. S. D. Kamat with his quiet demeanour expressed the depths of thought acquired of shastra and of Dravyaguna with his occasional clear but relevant thoughts from the texts.

Dr. S. Natarajan provided industry views based on his long association with industry.

The presence of *Dr. S. S. Savrikar*, Chairman, Scientific Body, Pharmacopeia Commission of Indian Medicine and Homeopathy; Adviser; State Minister of AYUSH; Govt of India and Adviser; Minister of Medical Education, Govt. Of Maharashtra, provided glimpses of happenings at the administrative level where he emphasized the need for giving priorities to system needs.

Dr. Kishor Patwardhan from BHU, Varanasi and **Dr. C. Suresh Kumar** from Trivandrum provided valuable information and guidance in their fields of expertise.

Prof. Dr. Angelika Messner - Thanks to the presence of *Prof. Dr. Angelika Messner*, International President; we not only look forward to strengthening the relationship between International IASTAM and IASTAM — India but also hope to bridge AYUSH disciplines with the Humanities. I was happy to observe her getting exposed to realities, to both the strengths and weaknesses of AYUSH systems — Asian Medicine. With her charming influence I am sure she has returned back with more friends and new linkages.

Conclave - The conclave on Cancer was useful as it offered one more step towards evolving a roadmap. The abstracts received from the young students for the conclave required careful scrutiny for selecting the best Oral and Poster Presentations; and it showed the increasing interest and potential in this field and sector. The details will be made available on our Website and in the forthcoming issues of the Newsletter.

The most important outcome of the event was

the formation of four working groups in the areas of Cancer Prevention – Dr. Manohar Gundeti; AYUSH Treatment Modalities – Dr. Ram Manohar; Drug Development - Dr. Narendra Bhatt; and Cancer Biology & AYUSH Principles – Dr. Satish Kitambi. The experts will coordinate the group bringing in more experts to develop the activities further. Hope these groups will work quickly to provide an action plan.

Unani Participation - Despite efforts and positive feedback from *Prof. Asim Ali Khan*, the Director General, CCRUM could not attend the event due to administrative priorities. We look forward to further interaction.

IASTAM Baidyanath Awards in three categories for Best Research in relation to Classical Product were awarded for the third time.

Workshop - Workshop on *AYUSH Treatment modalities* was highly interesting for the practitioners and students thanks to the presence of three excellent speakers.

I take the opportunity to place on record the support of Dr. Ram Manohar and Swami Sankara Chaitanya along with the whole team including Dr. Sushma, Dr. Minisha, Dr. Prajeesh, Dr. Nandakumar and many others. IASTAM team comprising of Dr. Manasi Deshpande, Dr. Vandana Kozarekar, Dr. Kirti Bhati and Ms. Anagha Vaidya have handled things in an efficient way.

Members of the managing committee of our association participated actively along with the other awardees and speakers. I sincerely thank all the members for their commitment.

Our association will reach its 40th year next year. It has established uniquely 'an aspiring tradition' with multi-disciplinary approach and adherence to inflexible methods of selection. This event was one more milestone of our commitment to our theme 'Connecting Systems; Bridging Disciplines'. With this event we have learnt a few more lessons and we will continue to move forward.

Seminar at Pune - In order to benefit from the presence of the seniormost official at Health Canada, a Seminar on the subject of "AYUSH Products, Regulatory Aspects for Global Reach" was organised on 18th February 2019 along with the Poona College of Pharmacy, BVU and SFE, Pune at Poona College of Pharmacy. Dr. Robin Marles was the Chief Guest and Main Speaker with Dr. S. S. Savrikar as the Guest of Honour along with four experts who were invited as speakers - Shri Chandakant Bhanushali, Dr. Sunil Bhaskaran, Dr. Vinod Kuber and I provided the Pharmaceutical, Ayurvedic, Industrial and. Research perspectives.

The next issue of our newsletter will cover detailed reports of both these events.

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Happenings

IASTAM Award Function 2019



Swami Sankara Chaitanya Medical Director, Amrita School of Ayurveda



IASTAM Awardees 2019, Guest and Organising Team



Inauguration -IASTAM Award Function 2019 &



Dr. Manasi Deshpande, Secretary General, IASTAM - India



Valedictory - IASTAM Award Function 2019 & Conclave



Dr. Vandana Kozarekar Treasurer, IASTAM - India

Happenings

Pandit Shiv Sharma Oration For Promotion of Ayurved



Vaidya Devinder Triguna

Zandu International Oration (International Expert) For Research Contributions to Natural Products



Dr. Robin Marles

Zandu International Oration (Indian Expert)
For Research Contributions to Natural
Products



Prof. S. C. Lakhotia

Dr. C. Dwarkanath Award For Contribution to Contemporary Interpretation or Application of Ayurvedic Principles



Dr. Neeraj Tandon



Prof. Dr. Kishor Patwardhan

Vaidya Haribhau Paranjape Award For Excellence in Shalya Tantra

Dr. K.M. Parikh Award For Contribution to Development of Ayurvedic / Herbal Pharmaceutics



Prof. Shailendra Saraf

Shri Mathuradas Parikh Award For Excellence in Ayurvedic Profession



Dr. S. D. Kamat



Dr. C. Sureshkumar

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Happenings

Yoga Forum Munchen Patanjali Award For Excellence in Interdisciplinary Development of YOGA



Dr. B. N. Gangadhar

Shri Gopaldas Parikh Award For Phyto pharmaceutical Research



Dr. S. Natarajan

Rasvaidya Nagindas Shah Award For Contribution In Rasashastra



Prof. Dr. Shriram Sawarikar

IASTAM Baidyanath Award for Best Research in Standardization



Dr. Vatsala Nayak



Dr. Santosh Subhash Bhujbal IASTAM Baidyanath Award for Best Validation / Clinical Research

IASTAM Baidyanath Award for Best Validation / Clinical Research



Dr. Sathiyanarayanan L.



Pre-Conclave Workshop



Dr. Ankesh Kumar Agrawal



Press Conference



Award Sponsor & Members - Reading the citations



Delegates

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RESPONSE

"Reforms in Ayurvedic Education, A Predicament" - Part II

-Prof Dr. Shriram S. Savrikar

The Prenote "Reforms in Ayurvedic Education, a Predicament" has generated much interest. Here is an elaborate viewpoint. We need to continue debate on the subject at this important juncture of academic transition.

Pre note on "Reforms in Aurvedic Education, a predicament" authored by Dr. Narendra Bhatt in IASTAM Newsletter, January 2019, deserves to be applauded. However, the author is not privy to some of the behind the scene activities at the level of Central Government and Central Council of Indian Medicine, who are the key actors in this field. In the capacity of Advisor, Ayurved (2000 to 2003) and Member of CCIM (2006 to 2011), the author of this article had witnessed every action in this field. Hence an attempt is being made to bring forth these activities by this author as part II of the Pre Note.

In 2000 the author was given the responsibility of coordinating activities for bringing reforms in Ayurvedic education by the then Secretary Smt. Shailaja Chandra during last two months of her tenure in the Dept of ISM&H, Govt. of India. But before the work could even start, she left the Dept of ISM&H to join Delhi Govt as Chief Secretary. It proved a great setback for the activity. Still this author continuing with the job at hand, held many personal interactions and official meetings with expert academicians, CCIM members including the then CCIM president Vaidya Shriramji Sharma. Following all this exercise a 50-page odd report was prepared and was submitted by this author to the then Secretary of Dept of ISM&H, Smt Malati Sinha, whose response was irritatingly cold. As a result, the report was completely ignored and dumped and all the efforts and exercise of preparing the report became futile.

This author took up the left out job in his hands in the capacity of Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar (2005 to 2008) and took up the issue with the then Secretary, ISM&H Smt Anita Das. Incidentally then the author was also a member of CCIM. As a result of persistent efforts Secretary Smt. Anita Das constituted a National level committee to examine the issues related to upgradation of UG/PG AYUSH Education. Since the committee was to consider reforms in all AYUSH systems, it comprised of experts from Ayurved, Unani and Homeopathy as well. Some experts from Modern Medicine were also included in this committee.

Dr. Narendra Bhatt, the author of the first Pre Note and the present author both were members of that committee. Dr. V.V. Prasad, the then Director, Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth (A Govt of India undertaking) was convenor. Prolonged discussions were held in the meetings of this committee. The committee took a pragmatic view of status of AYUSH and specifically Ayurved education. Observations and recommendations of the committee were then submitted to the dept. of ISM&H. Some of the salient observations and recommendations of the committee are reproduced below for the appraisal of the readers. The Committee unanimously agreed that the education in ASU&H should be objective based, to develop confident physicians who could shoulder the ever increasing challenges in health care scenario and credible researchers who could address the issues related to the development of each of ASU&H as a system of medicine, but not a therapeutic intervention alone.

Expert members in the committee unanimously concluded that the status of education in ASU&H system is very poor and it requires change in every aspect. The Committee further identified certain problem areas and made some recommendations to improve the status and standard of education in ASU & H both at UG and PG.

The committee then observed and discussed following issues: Breakdown of regulatory framework, Poor infrastructure, Lack of qualified and committed teachers, Mushroom growth of sub-standard colleges and Unsatisfactory curriculum and content. Detailed discussions and deliberations were held and then recommendations were given on following issues by the committee:

- Upgradation of UG/PG AYUSH education to make it more relevant to health problems of the country and to make curricula appealing to students with science background having good academic record
- 2. Upgradation of AYUSH teaching methodology/increasing interface with modern sciences and research component in UG/PG education.
- 3. Streamlining of Continuing Medical Education in AYUSH systems/updation of teachers /promotion of Guru- Shishya tradition.
- 4. Increasing clinical teaching component in UG/PG courses.
- 5. Preparation of an action plan for all the above with short term, medium term and long term strategies and goals.

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The salient recommendations of the committee included exposure of graduate students to the clinical study right from the first professional year. Weeding out theoretical subjects. Associating chapters of Samhitas with relevant subjects instead of teaching Samhitas as an independent subject. Study of Sanskrit on the basis of a text book specifically prepared for Ayurved students. Inclusion of relevant modern medicine subjects as independent subjects to be taught by modern medicine experts.

The report of the committee was submitted to the Secretary, ISM&H. Following communication for Secretary, ISM&H, CCIM president agreed to take action on this issue. Suddenly a meeting was convened by CCIM president. Selected members were invited to attend the meeting without communicating them the subject matter. Author was also invited as a CCIM member for this meeting. All the members came to know about reforms in Ayurved syllabus as a subject matter of discussion of meeting after reaching to the venue of meeting. This author requested the president to table the Expert committee report for discussion. The then President Dr. Raghunandan Sharma denied the knowledge of existence of any such report in CCIM. This author reminded him of his own communication with CCIM in which a copy of the report was submitted. He was also reminded of a communication from the Secretary in this regard. In fact, the meeting was being held as a follow up of this communication. But all fall in vain. In spite of repeated requests, the report of the committee could not be made available for the discussion in the meeting. Two members including Dr. S.K. Sharma, who incidentally chaired the meetings of the expert committee in the capacity of then advisor also refused knowledge of any such report or committee. Thereafter formalities of discussion on reforms in syllabus were completed within two hours. The format of 1+1+1+1.5 years of 4 professional years was adopted. This format was proposed in the expert committee report. It was an evidence that the key people were having knowledge of this report. However other content of the expert committee recommendations was totally ignored. The subjects in the old syllabus were then shuffled in four professional years like pawns on a chess board. All the exercise was completed in two hours and reforms in Ayurved education were implemented.

The reformed form of B A M S syllabus was a derogation of the old syllabus. It didn't serve any purpose. On the contrary, it made teaching and learning of Ayurved more and more difficult. Subjects requiring 1.5 years duration were forcefully pushed and compressed in one year. Because of inadvertent shuffling of subjects, the chronological sequence of subjects was distorted. As a result, the subjects which need to be taught in second year were pushed in third year. Whereas subjects of third year were brought in second year. All this exercise was done without any rationale. The sad part of all this event is that such practice of reforming of syllabus has become a trend in CCIM since then.

Thus derogation and degradation of Ayurved education is progressing very fast from that moment onwards. Now education barons have taken over Ayurved. They are using Ayured as an additional source of their financial power. Today the object of running Ayurved colleges is nowhere near the object of propagating Ayurved but it is simply to generate half trained practitioners practicing conventional medicine under the disguise of Ayurved. People devotionally working for Ayurved are intentionally kept away from the point of action. Nobody knows when our country will recognize the true strength of Ayurved and find out the appropriate method of using this strength for protection, promotion and maintenance of health and alleviation of disease, which is the real object of Ayurved. Let us all wait for such a day to arrive. 000

News

Asian Herbal Formulas are now an integral part of Medicinal Products in Switzerland

To our knowledge this is the first time in modern Europe that Asian herbal formulas are officially recognized as an integral part of a national medical-pharmaceutical system.

In 2016 the Swiss parliament amended the existing law for medicines which has come into force on Jan 1st, 2019. This amendment defines Asian medicines as part of the officially recognized medicines in Switzerland. Asian herbal medicines are now an integral part of the Swiss pharmaceutical system under the section of complementary medicines:

(Art. 4 Abs. 1 Bst. ater) Complementary medicines with indication: Medicinal products with regulatory approval of a specific indication that are manufactured according to the manufacturing prescriptions of complementary medical therapies such as homeopathy, anthroposophic medicine or traditional Asian medicine, and whose field of application is determined according to the principles of the appropriate therapeutic direction;

According to this law the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products Swissmedic issued a decree on how to register complementary and herbal medicines according to Swiss quality standards. Swissmedic also defined traditional Asian medicines according to the law, mentioning explicitly Chinese, Tibetan (Sowa-rigpa), and Ayurvedic medicine: (Art.4.4 a) Asian medicines: Chinese, Tibetan, or Ayurvedic medicines.

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I *Dr. Vandana Kozarekar* hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dr. Vandana Kozarekar Date : 01/03/2019 Publisher "IASTAM Oration & Award Function 2019" Conclave On "Cancer Care & Research In AYUSH: Developing A Roadmap"

Vital Statistics of the Event

Felicitation of IASTAM Awardees - 11; IASTAM Baidyanath Awardees - 4

IASTAM Oration Speeches - 2

Conclave on "Cancer Care & Research in AYUSH: Developing a Roadmap

Resource Persons - 50

Four sessions - Panel discussions - 4

Round Table - 1

Registered Delegates - 300

Oral Abstracts - 75.

Poster Presentations - 84

Pre Conclave workshop - Speakers - 3; Delegates - 70



Delegates - IASTAM Award Function 2019 and Conclave on Cancer Care and Research in AYUSH: Developing a Road Map

The Complete Report of the Conclave in Kochi and Seminar in Pune will be published in the next issue

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To,

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