

PRESIDENTIAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS 2007

DR. CHETAN OBERAI

Respected Honorable Chief guest Mr.Kamlendra Kanwar, Resident Editor New Indian Express, Mr.D.Mukherjee, Director General of Police TamilNadu, Guest of Honor, Dr.Joshipura, Immediate Past President, Dr.Sachhidanand, President elect, Hon.Gen Secretary Dr.Koushik Lahiri, Organizing Committee Chairperson Dermacon 2007 Dr.Jayakar Thomas, Organizing secretary Dermacon 2007 Dr.K.M.Sarveswari, Chairperson Scientific committee Dermacon 2007, Dr.Jayaraaman, Editor IJDVL Dr.Uday Khopkar, Honorary Tresurer Dr. Arijit Coondoo, Vice President IADVL 2006, Dr.Mohan Gupta & Dr.Arun Inamdar, Vice Presidents IADVL 2007 Dr.A.J.Kanwar & Dr.Dilip Shah, Jt.Secretaries 2006 Dr.Raghubir Banerjee & Dr.Sanjeev Handa and Jt.Secretaries 2007 Dr.(Lt Col) Manas Chatterjee and Rakesh Bansal and my senior teachers, Colleagues and students, I welcome you all to Chennai for this Dermacon 2007.

It is indeed a privilege to be the President of this prestigious Dermatological Association comprising of approximately 5000 doctors. I owe this to you all in putting all your faith in me by your valuable votes.

35 years back when our association was founded, it started growing slowly may be due to lack of funds or lack of communication although our presidents were dynamic. But during the last decade the things started changing rapidly. Good quality papers started coming in, financial situation improved, members started taking more interest and pharmaceutical industry backed wholeheartedly during our monthly meetings. In 1973, when I was a registrar, we used to find it difficult to work the cases completely due to lack of facilities and finances but today the meetings are held with complete write up and power point presentations and the attendance is excellent.

Dermacon meetings today are well planned and executed, large number of participants are seen and take advantage of the scientific deliberations. With this scenario the small beautiful venues are shying away to hold the conferences because of the inadequate space for scientific meetings and hotel accommodations. May be in future we may have to think holding Dermacon meetings in alternate years in metro cities and alternate years in smaller cities where the registration may be limited or the conference in the smaller venues could be trimmed to one to two days.

As our specialty is growing, we are trying to work out with the government and the MCI to give us our due recognition. We have made good efforts last year and we are going to pursue the same to its logical end.

Many subspecialty centers have come up in the teaching and non-teaching institutions where we are giving scholarship postings for a year or extended to two years particularly in Cosmetology, Dermatosurgery, Dermatopathology and HIV medicines. Last year our Executive Committee succeeded in arranging exchange visits with BAD and AAD which gives due recognition to our association. We have also succeeded in getting 40 totally free scholarships for our members for WCD 2007 in Argentina. This speaks volumes for the quality of our association.

Our liaison with Leprosy has taken place to improve the therapeutic guidelines. One meeting is already scheduled for tomorrow. Similarly in the field of HIV our members are having co-ordinated meeting with NACO and I hope we will have better co-operation. IADVL has taken leadership of SARAD with our neighbouring countries with Dr.Raja Babu as President and Dr.Sachhidanand as Secretary.

Academic activities have not lacked behind. Various textbooks on various subjects are being released more frequently to give an update account of Indian scenario of dermatology. In addition books on medical ethics, drug formulae and therapeutic guidelines are being published by our members.

Future custodians of IADVL are our postgraduates. Two very important projects have been started for PGs. One is the Quiz with active participation of GSK pharmaceuticals which is an excellent educative and thinking process of learning. Another one where our Maharashtra branch has taken the lead of preparing 22 lectures on

various topics and will be available for postgraduates on CD, a sample of which you will be seeing here. Infact, if you recollect I was instrumental in starting the audio-visual aids in dermatology for us in 1975 with Glaxo India Ltd and they have later used not only in India but in many countries overseas. But these lectures for PG will be state of the art presentations and will be upgraded periodically. To keep you updated our IADVL news is at your doorstep at regular intervals.

Website and Journals are of excellent standard. We are trying to reach international standards and I think the day is not far off when even our election process goes electronic.

I am also keen on starting a psoriasis registry on international lines and a committee will be formed which will work out the details, the finance would come from a pharmaceutical house which will take care of the the expenses involved. In addition an ACNE group under IADVL is also being considered without any financial involvement I assure I shall do my best to carry on the unfinished work of my predecessors and do the new projects to the best of my ability.

Finally, I once again thank the outgoing team for their wonderful job and please give them a standing ovation .

I wish good luck to Dermacon 2007 team and assure you I will do my best.

PROF(DR) CHETAN OBERAI
PRESIDENT IADVL 2007.
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