

IASTAM

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Connecting Systems; Bridging Disciplines

• Ayurved • Yoga • Unani • Siddha • Asian Medicine •

"What is great in man is that he is a bridge and not a goal"

- Friedrich Nietzsche

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PRE NOTE

Conclave on Cancer

Dr. Narendra Bhatt

As per a very recent report in 2018 there were 7.84 lakh deaths with 12.1 % rise due to cancer and there was 15.7 % increase incidence in six years. Cancer remains a big challenge in India. The actual figures might be more.

Let me share some information. It is stated that *'after global efforts and more than 40 years of work in the fight against cancer, the "magic bullet" has not yet been found. This is perhaps not so surprising considering the complexity of a disease such as cancer.'* Further, *"The popular understanding of cancer—that if you have even a single cancer cell, it will multiply to the point that it eventually kills you—is fundamentally wrong,"* says Virginia Moyer, M.D., a professor of paediatrics at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and chairwoman of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an independent panel that provides evidence-based guidelines on health care. *"What we've learned in the last decade or so is that cancer doesn't always act like that. Lots and lots of cells in our body turn cancerous and then disappear; others look like cancer but do absolutely nothing."*

Immunotherapy is the buzzword but *'Experts in the cancer field generally have now come to recognize that, in order to achieve a meaningful immunotherapeutic*

effect when treating Cancer, immunotherapy should be used as treatment early in the disease process.' Whereas the limitations of current immunotherapies are stated to be *'(immunotherapeutic) products were not always as pure or specific as they initially were thought to be and were generally more toxic when given systemically, especially when given in high doses.'*¹

These are interesting observations where I strongly feel that AYUSH systems have much to offer. The 5 themes categorised for 'Conclave on Cancer' are of significance.

There is newly found emphasis on signs and symptoms in the field of cancer, for early diagnosis, treatment specificity and non-recurrence. The vast knowledge base as available in our ancient texts are required to be explored in the context of biological and system biology knowledge gathered over last few decades. 'Prevention of Cancer, AYUSH Perspectives and Clinical Insights' put jointly together, if researched, studied and documented have huge potential to prevent this disorder which is *now* considered a group of disease or shall I say a *'dysfunctional chain of biological disturbance'* as could be explained in Ayurveda?

Similarly, if immunotherapy is the solution than

traditional products that are used with clinical – therapeutic wisdom to address various signs and symptoms related to different types of cancerous situations could be systematically studied. Drug research approaches beyond conventional approach are needed to find therapeutic solutions. Such an approach will need integrative approaches in true letter and spirit for new discoveries. Sessions on ‘Developing Drugs and Products for Cancer Management’ and ‘Cancer Biology and AYUSH Principles’ will help provide new perspectives for research.

Documentation – registry of experiences of individuals physicians and institutions is a long felt need though it is yet to be implemented successfully.

I hope the deliberations at the conclave will help us decide on right next steps.

References

1. http://www.cel-sci.com/limitations_of_current_immunotherapies.html
2. <https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2013/03/the-cancer-tests-you-need-and-those-you-don-t/index.htm>

Aligning with IASTAM Objectives

Prof. Dr. A. J. Baxi donates Rs. 50000/-

Prof. Dr. A. J. Baxi, member of our National Advisory Council (NAC) is the former Head of Pharmaceutical Division, IPGT&RA, Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar. He is Chairman of International Ayurved Foundation (India Chapter) and Consultant to Government of Sri Lanka on Ayurvedic Drug Standardization. Prof. Dr. Baxi has always identified with integration of sciences and our heritage of Ayurvedic Knowledge.



Prof. Dr. A. J. Baxi

He has been on forefront of such integration. Last several years he has brought in many people and made sincere efforts to get funds for sponsorship.

Taking a step forward personally, he has expressed faith in our activities and capabilities by donating Rs. 50000/-. We shall remain indebted to our former IASTAM Shri Gopaldas Parikh Awardee for his kind gesture



INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

A WORKSHOP ON “**Pharmacy Practice in Australia: Opportunities for Indian Pharmacists**” followed by interactive discussion on “One year course in Australia for the practice of Assistant Pharmacist” was organized jointly by Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University, New Delhi and Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India on 11th Jan, 2019. Dr. Kanan Shah, Pharmacy Guild of Australia was the Chief Guest. The workshop aimed to provide an intense training and awareness on Pharmacy Practice in Australia at undergraduate level especially for Pharmacy Undergraduate students.

The “Young Scientist Award-2018” was awarded to Dr. Madhu Gupta by The Society of Biomedical Laboratory Scientist, India in Biomedcon 2018 for her outstanding contribution in Pharmaceutical sciences and medical sciences field at Kirorimal college, Delhi University on 28th Dec. 2018.

NEWS

L. M. College of Pharmacy, one of the premier Institutes of Pharmacy in India, successfully organized the three days **International Conference on ‘Herbal Medicines: Research and Commerce – Global Perspectives’** from 27th to 29th December 2018 at Ahmedabad Management Association.

Prof. Navin Sheth (Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Technological University) was the Chief Guest and **Dr. Lal Hingorani** (Director, Pharmanza Herbal Pvt. Ltd, Anand) a keynote speaker in the inauguration ceremony along with many other eminent experts. In valedictory function **Dr. K. S. Dhiman** (Director General, Ministry of AYUSH, India) graced the dais as Chief Guest.

Contributed by Ms. Krupa V. Gadhvi