

IASTAM

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Connecting Systems; Bridging Disciplines

Ayurved *Yoga* *Unani* *Siddha* *Asian Medicine*

**ASIAN
MEDICINE**

EVENTS
AYUSH Research for New India
Amrita Samyogam 2017
ICTAM IX

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Presidential Note

Why Asian Medicine?

Dr. Narendra Bhatt

Why Asian Medicine?

In global context Asia represents ancient civilisation and oriental thinking. Obviously, Asia also is a cradle of medical thoughts, philosophies and practices. Even today, unlike in other parts of the world, particularly in the western world dominated by biomedical advances of last 150 years; the traditional systems of medicine in Asia have deep roots and have survived in many countries either by practices or as institutionalised systems of medicine.

Asian Medicine has a long history. It is widely accepted and practiced in Asian Cultures. Asia is the most heavily populated continent with 60% of the world population and more than 50 countries with similarity in culture, beliefs, approaches to purpose of life and living, knowledge about medicinal herbs and ingredients of natural origin and even systematised knowledge of structure functional relationship. These systems have common approaches to link the personal health care in the context of nature (cosmos) and balance between the two forms the basis of health and illness.

It is therefore but natural that the Asian countries face similar challenges for their approach and utilisation of ancient knowledge base either in fully systematised or traditional way to integrate it with present day medical needs that are highly defined and dominated by the bio medical thought processes. It is desirable that these systems come together having common roots to share their experiences, examine challenges and evolve solutions that will benefit major proportion of their population in effective, economic and safe manner.

India is the only country with recognised medical pluralism in the world. It is in the interest of its own systems like Ayurved, Unani, Yoga and others to provide a platform and to take initiative to bring together the Asian medicine so as to develop a roadmap for mutual benefits and complementary outcomes. It will also help to create conducive environment and regulatory acceptance. To follow the simple principle of Ayurved, "*Vrudhi Samanehi Sarvesham*", similar increase, it is desirable to come together due to common roots to take on present day

medical challenges originating from different paradigm. Such an approach will help greater awareness and reach of AYUSH systems.

The need for *Asian Meet* has now been recognised. I am in touch with the Ministry of AYUSH to initiate the process. India should initiate the activities for the Asian Medicine to come together. While editing the book on Asian Medicine, this has become more and more clear to me. There are many similarities, common requirements and ethno-cultural similarities in Asian Medicines. The need is to ensure the role these systems can play in their own socio-political structures. Keeping this in mind there is need for us to meet together and an international initiative can be taken by India.

IX ICTAM

It was interesting to participate at IX ICTAM, eighth in a row for me. It was interesting for being a witness to the changes on nature and shape of interest and activities in Asian Medicine from 1984 till 2017; probably being the senior most and the only one. Thanks to persuasion by Prof. Angelika Messner and Reinhard Bogle that I could meet many old friends and office bearers of International council as Paul Unschuld, Judith Farquar, Volker Scheid, Vivienne Lo, Herbert Schwabl, Yeonseok Kang, Dominik Wujastyk, Marta Hanson, James Flowers, Stephen Kloos, Marten Bode, Nicole Barnes and several others.

It was an experience to address the group at the Key Note Panel; 'Health Promotion through Yoga, Ayurved & others' and Round Table on 'Standardisation, Evaluation and Implementation of Asian Medicine in Global Health Settings' chaired by Michael Heinrich of UCL school of Pharmacy, with key notes by Nenad Kostansjek of WHO and others.

Dr. G. J. Meulenbeld

While in Kiel I learnt of the sad demise of the legendary Sanskrit scholar Prof. Dr. G. J. Meulenbeld. At III ICTAM in Mumbai he was the recipient of the Basham Award 1990. He was a true rishi of ancient knowledge in spirit and action. The next issue will carry a separate feature on this great scholar.

IASTAM International

Prof. Angelika Messner has taken charge as the President of IASTAM International along with the new council members. A new constitution will be registered in Germany as there was no constitution in place for many years. The council and its approach are dominated by scholars from humanities like social sciences, anthropology, and linguistics. Though there is representation from Yoga and

Sowa Rigpa the dominance remains that of Traditional Chinese medicine. I wonder whether the activities will be more an international event every 3 – 4 years and a Journal continued with much effort. Primary objective of IASTAM is linking professionals and scholars to activities. We at IASTAM – India have rightly emerged with a new theme "***Connecting Systems; Bridging Disciplines***" that proves to be an important step. We will persuade it further.

Amrita Samayogam 2017

It was interesting to participate at the 'Amrita Samayogam 2017'. There were very useful discussions and several initiatives have been planned. The outcome of those discussions will be eagerly awaited.

National Symposium

The National Symposium on 'AYUSH Research for New India: Vision and Strategies' gave new dimensions in research. The challenges are many. I am sure this discussion will provide a road map for evolving new integrative modalities. We will have to ensure that it works within the framework of the Ayurvedic fundamentals to enrich and nourish our systems.

The new enthusiasm and interests are observed. Let us hope that in all these areas of research and academia, the activities will take shape for better and richer growth of our systems. There is a palpable change if one goes by these events.

High Level Committees – Cancer Project

It is very appropriate that the Ministry of AYUSH has decided to take up challenges in the field of Diabetes and Cancer. Necessary steps are being taken by formation of 'High Level Committees' in these areas. In cancer, we have to define the role that our researchers can offer in a novel way rather than following a path that may not give opportunity to document true attributes of AYUSH. It is desirable that we undertake a systematic approach to these challenging disease conditions. The approach should be how to derive maximum benefits in a specific manner and less time rather than diffusing our energies. Defining achievable goals will be a key to success.

IASTAM Awards and Function 2018

The selection procedure for the IASTAM Oration and awards has been initiated. We plan to complete the process by 30th October 2017. This will help us to organise the next event in a proper manner. The selection procedure for the IASTAM – Baidyanath Awards 2018 has also started.

We had approached several institutes and responses were received for the award function 2018. We have received confirmation from Prof. Ramesh Goyal, Vice Chancellor,

Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences & Research University, Delhi. *Accordingly, 2018 function will be held in Delhi on 3rd – 4th February 2018 along with an International Seminar on subject of significance. A pre-conference workshop is also proposed.*

Dr. G. V. Satyavati Proposal

We have made announcement of the ‘Fellowship’ and ‘Short Research Project’ sponsored by Dr. G. V. Satyavati. We are also planning a workshop. Prof. Kalpana Sathe will

be joining us at the next managing committee meeting to work out the details of the workshop.

Journal, Website and Social Media

Preparations are already on for a practitioner oriented journal under the leadership of Prof. Kavita Indapurkar.

We are in the process of revamping our website. The use of today’s technology tools will help in reaching more experts from the fraternity and remain connected. We welcome your suggestions.



Editorial

Dear Members,

Hello, Greetings from IASTAM India!!!

Three major events were organized by various institutes in the month of August at Pune, Kochi and Keil, Germany.

Ministry of AYUSH has awarded a grant for Center of Excellence to build a collaborative research network of premium institutes from India and abroad for strengthening research in AYUSH. Amrita Samyogam 2017 was focusing on the Integration modalities for Cancer, Diabetes, Neurodegenerative Diseases, Musculoskeletal Diseases and Mental Health.

Language, concepts, world practices of Traditional medicine knowledge needing precise translation with help of scientific tools and clinical models was the major outcome ICTAM IX. President Dr. Narendra Bhatt actively

participated in all the events and shared his wide experience, views and suggestions.

You can find the reports of events in the following pages.

We have initiated the Baidyanath Award procedure. I request all our distinguished members to propagate and circulate the information of Baidyanath awards to the researchers, faculties working on Ayurved Classical products in the category of Standardization, Validation and Technological adoptions. You can find guidelines on the page no.8 and also log on to website www.iastamindia.org.in.

We look forward to your full participation through review articles, book reviews, and most importantly, your support in any small way possible.

Prof. Dr. Manasi Deshpande



2nd International Conference on Vedic Living & Healing at Mauritius

16 – 20 September 2017

Organised by

International Vaidik Foundation & All India Ayurvedic Specialists (P.G.) Association

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Tadvidya-Sambhasha Ayurveda XII

Saturday 18 to Sunday 19 November 2017

India's preeminent platform for Integrative Ayurveda

Organized by Dr.Palep's Medical Education and Research Trust

Venue: (YeshwantBhavan, 2nd Floor Auditorium, Lower Parel, Mumbai)

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