

Volume 69 December 2022



Upcoming Events

IACTS Thoracic CME 2022
IACTSCON 2023
IACTS SCORE 2023

Recent Events

IACTS Techno College CME 2022
IACTS Cardiac CME & Midterm GBM 2022
IACTS Outreach

IACTS

NEWSLETTER

www.iacts.org

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IACTS Executive Committee



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Member



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Member



Dr. B. R. Jagannath
Member



Secretary's Message

Dear Members,

As 2022 draws to a close, there's much to look back on the year that was. The most notable happening this year was reuniting at in-person meetings after juggling online learning while braving the pandemic.

At the first-returning wet lab held during the Techno College CME, there was palpable relief in many junior colleagues at being able to attend hands-on workshops again. The Cardiac CME, which hosted workshops on the bovine heart with a session on mitral valve repair technique and one on vascular anastomosis, was also received with much enthusiasm.

The Executive Committee has been actively working to realise initiatives that expand our ecosystem. IACTS Outreach is one such start that aims at, among other goals, dispelling myths about CTVS by engaging with the public and demonstrating that surgery is indeed a safe option to deal with cardiovascular disease. The program utilises social media's intrinsic reach to disseminate CTVS knowledge to the public in easily comprehensible bytes. On September 29th, coinciding with World Heart Day 2022, IACTS Outreach was launched with pan-India public events such as organ donation awareness camps, CPR training, cycle rallies, walkathons, and yoga camps. All of us involved were heartened by the response, which was more than anticipated. Follow the Association on our official social pages and invite your patients and colleagues to follow us too. You can also contribute articles and blog posts that are easily digestible by the layperson.

While we wrap up the 2022 calendar with the Thoracic CME, there's a lot more in store for 2023.

The elections to the Executive Committee of the Association are scheduled to take place during the 69th Annual Conference of the IACTS. Last year, the Association integrated the election process into its website, which shall continue in 2023 too. While efforts have been made to make the election process user-friendly for all voting members, the quality of electoral rolls is a prerequisite for free and fair elections. I appeal to every member to sign up for the online voting facility immediately, if you haven't done so already. Also, the nominations to the Executive Committee posts are



open till December 31, 2022 (refer to the section in this newsletter titled [Elections 2023](#)). The contestant list will be published in the next volume of the IACTS newsletter.

Nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award, self-nominations for Memorial Orations to be delivered at IACTSCON 2023, and bids to host CMEs in 2023 and IACTSCON 2026 are also closing soon. Those interested may kindly file these applications before December 15, 2022.

The Executive Committee is presenting (at the time of publishing this newsletter) the collective views of the Association members to the Executive Director and President of the National Board of Examination with regard to change in curriculum of the DNB course. It was heartening to receive many well thought out recommendations by our members to revise the DNB curriculum, which would improve CTVS training to meet the need of the hour.

My sincere request is to keep such active participation going in the new year to come too. As always, for any questions/feedback, please feel free to contact me on secretary@iacts.org.

I leave you with this Helen Keller quote: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2023!

Dr. C. S Hiremath
Secretary - IACTS



From the President's Desk



Dear Friends,

I hope all of you are happy and healthy with your family! As the Covid pandemic subsides, we are happy that life has become normal and our clinical and academic work has normalised after a long period.

IACTS Techno College held in Delhi was in a pure physical mode for the first time after the pandemic. Surgeons and students from across the country came to attend the event and interacted with each other face to face. It certainly was a welcome change. Our IACTS Cardiac CME, which was held in Mangalore, was also in physical format. I hope we continue to conduct all our IACTS academic events in the physical format in the future too.

The IACTS National Database is picking up fast. We already have data of more than 11,000 patients entered into the Database. We plan to present the first analysis of the Database in the upcoming Annual Meeting in Coimbatore. I encourage everyone to join the Database so that we would be able to have our national database in the near future. This will help us not only to look at our number of different procedures, but also to evaluate and improve our outcomes. We will also be able to use our national data for publications when required.

I must emphasise on the streamlining of our financial practices. The Treasurer, along with a team of new auditors, is working hard to ensure that all previous pending deficiencies in the accounts have been corrected and we continue to fulfil statutory requirements of the

Income Tax department and the Charity Commissioner.

I hope those of you who have subscribed to International journals are finding it useful.

IACTS plans to recommend a wire skill program in the MCh and DNB curriculum. In this regard, we plan to meet the President and Executive Director of the National Board of Examinations and submit our suggestions and recommendations. If implemented, this will help our next generation to enter into the field of various interventional procedures and widen their area of practice.

The IACTS Fellowship Programme is running smoothly. We have added a VATS Fellowship this year. This will help young surgeons who want to practise thoracic surgery to excel in this field.

IACTS launched an outreach program on World Heart Day (29th September 2022). The aim of the program is to reach a wider section of our society to create awareness about heart diseases and make them aware of the best possible treatment options available in the country. Multiple events were held in different cities across the country on this day as part of the IACTS Outreach. We will continue to have these activities in the future also. I would like to applaud the continuous efforts of the Outreach Committee of IACTS for taking it forward.

The preparations for 69th Annual Conference of IACTS, to be held in Coimbatore, are in full swing. The organising team of the conference is working very hard to make sure that it turns out to be an academic and social feast for all the participants. We expect a large number of international faculty also in this meeting. I encourage all the members to participate in the conference to make it a memorable one. I hope to see you all in Coimbatore in February 2023.

I wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you all have good health and happiness!

Dr. Zile S. Meharwal

53rd President

Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons



Editor's Musings



Dear Friends,

Coimbatore in February is at its resplendent best and the conference buzz has started reverberating. We too are looking forward to our Annual Conference and what better place than Coimbatore to unwind, and as well enjoy the scientific extravaganza being planned.

This is also an important time for the Journal, whence we take stock of our performance and reconstitute our Editorial Board. Last year, we received a number of representations from colleagues wanting to serve on the Editorial Board of the Journal, but alas, after the board had been constituted. We therefore invite and solicit expressions of interest by those with an academic bent of mind, and more importantly, willing to invest time in providing academic leadership to the Journal, besides taking active part in peer reviewing. We request that these nominations may kindly be filed with the undersigned latest by 15th of January, 2023.

I also exhort our existing Editorial Board members to please express their desire to continue on the Editorial Board by the same date, lest we presume that they are not keen. But here, running the risk of being repetitive, I

want to reiterate that anyone offering his or her services for the Journal must factor in some quality time for the Journal.

Looking forward to meeting you all soon and very best from all of us at the editorial office for the festive season ahead.

Take care.

Dr. O.P. Yadava
Editor-in-Chief
Indian Journal of Thoracic and Cardio-Vascular
Surgery



A Roundup of Recent Events

IACS Techno College CME 2022



The IACS Techno College CME 2022 was held at the Roseate House, Aerocity, New Delhi, on the 20th and 21st of August, 2022. The CME, themed “LEARNING THROUGH INNOVATIONS - TOGETHER”, also hosted a pre-conference workshop-cum-wet lab.

The pre-conference workshop-cum-wet lab was conducted on 19th August at the Roseate House, New Delhi. The workshop was attended by 70 trainees and junior CTVS surgeons from across India. The session was moderated and led by Dr Jacob Jamesraj with hands-on supervision from Dr. Z.S. Meharwal, Dr Ritwick Raj Bhuyan, and Dr M Kalmath. The 4-hour session was very interactive, during which all the attendees practised both coronary and large vessel anastomosis. Also, during the session, two candidates were selected for best anastomotic techniques for an online Asia-Pacific contest (from Ethicon).

The main conference consisted of eight sessions with very informative and relevant talks. The Techno College



meeting was attended by 300 delegates including 120 faculty members from across the country with an additional 80 industry participants.

Day 1 started with the welcome address by the Organising Chairman Dr. K.S. Iyer, followed by a speech by the Organising Secretary Dr. Z.S. Meharwal.

The scientific sessions started with the first session on “Ischemic Heart Disease” with Dr. Sanjeeth Peter’s talk on the selection and configuration of conduits for total arterial revascularization. It was followed by the forum in coronary artery disease where renowned coronary surgeons shared their knowledge and experience with the audience. Informative talks stressed on the use of internal mammary artery and radial artery. A talk on viability assessment in CAD was delivered by Dr Vijit Cherian. Dr. O. P. Yadava shed light on CABG in severe LV dysfunction. Several talks by veteran surgeons such as Dr Lokeshwara R Sajja also featured on Day 1. There was also a panel discussion on the management of post MI ventricular septal rupture (VSR) with Dr. Chandrashekhar Padmanabhan as the speaker.

The chief guest at the CME inauguration was Dr Minu Bajpai, Executive Director of the National Board of Examination in Medical Science, New Delhi. He highlighted the need of many more cardiac surgeons in our country and emphasised the need for a collaborative



effort to strengthen the DNB programmes in super speciality branches. Dr. Bajpai also thanked IACTS for organising this scientific feast as well as for its hospitality.



Day 1, Session 2, comprised topics related to valvular heart disease. It was quite an interesting session with various speakers addressing the basics, approach to valve surgeries, valve repairs, the ideal valve substitutes, and the choice of mechanical or tissue valves in the Indian context.

The post-lunch session addressed AORTIC diseases where renowned experts in the field of aortic surgeries shared their knowledge and experience on challenges faced in redo aortic surgeries, timely management of aortic dissections and the hybrid approach to manage complex aortic diseases. Session 3 talks started with Aortic Dissection by Dr. Anil Bhan, followed by Brain Protection by Dr. M M Yusuf, Root Enlargement by Dr. Vivek Pillai, Hybrid Treatment for Arch Aneurysm by Dr V V Bashi. They ended with a talk on Bentall Procedure by Dr. Zainulabedin. An in-depth panel discussion by several expert panellists followed these talks.

The last session on Day 1 was on heart failure. Session 4 had very informative talks on surgeries for heart failure, which covered topics such as Heart Transplant Current Status by Dr. K. R. Balakrishnan, Medical Management of Heart Failure by Dr. Balbir Singh, Atrial fibrillation Management by Dr. Shamsheer Singh Lohchab, Surgical Management of HOCM by Dr. P. K Varma, and Long-term Care After Transplant by Dr. Dhiren Shah.

A cocktail dinner on the evening of Day 1 presented all the attendees with a chance to unwind and catch up with friends and colleagues.

The opening session (Session 5) on Day 2 featured various aspects of minimally invasive cardiac surgery (MICS), including Mini AVR by Dr. Brij Mohan, Mini MVR by

Dr. Yugal Kishore Mishra, MICS-CABG by Dr. Chirag Doshi and Dr Rajneesh Malhotra, and Endoscopic Vein Harvesting by Dr. Anil Furtado. An extensive panel discussion followed these lectures.

Session 6 was dedicated to congenital heart disease (CHD). The paediatric cardiac surgery forum covered essential topics such as safe re-entry in redo CHD, management of TOF and BT shunt, VSD, AVSD, and arterial switch. An active interaction ensued between teachers and students. Renowned surgeons Dr. K S Iyer, Dr. Raja Joshi, Dr. C. S Hiremath, Dr. Sunil Kaushal, Dr. Sachin Talwar, and Dr. Praveen Reddy were the key speakers in this session.

“HOW I DO IT” was the focus of Session 7 with discussion on the various aspects of tricuspid valve repair, Ross in children, Transaxillary AVR, Cannulation



in MICS, OPCABG and LIMA-RIMA harvesting. The final session of the CME (Session 8) covered miscellaneous topics on pulmonary thromboembolism, infective endocarditis, post op AF management, CytoSorb application, and sternal wound infections.

Techno College 2022 was a very well-structured and organised CME. Residents and young surgeons benefitted from the talks, panel discussions, and workshops as they paved the foundation with insights into the future on which knowledge and expertise in cardiac surgery could be built.

The CME concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Z.S. Meharwal, Organising Secretary of IACTS Techno College CME 2022, New Delhi. He graciously acknowledged the support of the organising team from Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, New Delhi, the industry, the event management team, the sales and marketing teams, and most importantly, the delegates and faculty who made this meeting a memorable event.



IACS Cardiac CME & Midterm GBM 2022



The IACS Cardiac CME and Midterm GBM 2022 was held on October 15th and 16th, 2022, at Justice K.S.Hegde Charitable Hospital in the vibrant, coastal city of Karnataka-Mangalore. A didactic itinerary was crafted by Organising Secretary Dr. A.G.Jayakrishnan and his team, centred over the theme of the conference, “Inculcate and Assimilate”.

The first day of the conclave began with a session on coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), including topics on total arterial revascularization and a debate between on-pump and off-pump CABG. An inaugural ceremony followed, in which two stalwarts in the field of cardiovascular thoracic surgery in India, Padma Vibhushan Dr. M.S.Valiathan and Padma Shri Dr. K.M.Churian, were felicitated. They shared their experiences in cardiothoracic surgery that were words of inspiration to both the postgraduate trainees and fresh as well as seasoned cardiac surgeons alike.

The sessions continued with a wide range of topics in cardiac surgery, covering congenital heart disease, valvular heart diseases and recent advances in mechanical circulatory support devices, heart transplantation, minimally invasive cardiac surgery, and TAVR.

The IACS Executive Committee meeting and the Midterm General Body Meeting were also held on the first day of the conclave. The first day concluded with an exquisitely arranged banquet dinner at the A.J. Grand Hotel.



A magnificent Yakshagana performance in English enthralled the audience. A few delegates captivated the audience with their song and dance talents.



The second day of the conclave began with sessions on many topics of cardiac surgery focussed primarily on postgraduate trainees. The second session of the day involved an interactive session with the postgraduate trainees on cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) accidents by Dr. Prasanna Simha, Dr. C.S. Hiremath, and Dr. Anil G.Tendolkar. After lunch, the postgraduate trainees got involved with workshops on bovine heart with a session on mitral valve repair technique instructed by Dr. Jacob Jamesraj and a session on vascular anastomosis by Dr. Anil G.Tendolkar.

The meeting concluded with the closing ceremony and the vote of thanks, followed by the national anthem.



IACS Outreach

IACS Outreach, aimed to serve patients and the public, was launched on 29th September, coinciding with World Heart Day 2022. The vision of the program is to lead cardiac health and make every heartbeat count.

Several centres across India participated in the launch through various activities such as organ donation awareness camps, free cardiac camps, cycle rallies, walkathons, CPR training sessions, painting contests, free health checkups, and YouTube and Facebook live shows. Custom t-shirts and caps were distributed to members and program participants.

The primary objective of this initiative is sensitisation on preventive and health-promotive activities revolving around simplifying the true science of cardiac surgery and changing the mindset from fear-inducing myths. The goal is also to inspire a young breed of scientific minds, initiate their journey into the super specialties of cardiovascular-thoracic surgery, and encourage advances in technology, techniques, and skills.

primary media for reaching out to the public. In the days to come, e-newsletters will also be sent via email to non-CTVS surgeons and other medical professionals.

The IACS Outreach Committee consisting of Dr. Manoj Durairaj, Dr. Gaurav Goel, Dr. Alok Mathur, Dr. Siva Muthukumar, and Dr. B.R. Jagannath, are at hand to answer any queries that you may have on the Outreach program, or support you in an outreach activity.



To begin with, the Association's official Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram pages are used as

A picture speaks a thousand words. Here are a few snapshots from the IACS Outreach launch.





Announcements

Call for Memorial Orations

The Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons (IACTSCON) is a much-awaited scientific congregation to engage with experts and learn about new developments in cardiothoracic-vascular surgery. It celebrates collective academic achievement, scientific advancement, and our community's progress. It is also a time to renew our pledge to further science and improve the lives of those afflicted with cardiovascular-thoracic diseases.

Themed "Grassroots to Innovation", the 69th Annual Conference, IACTSCON 2023, will be held from February 16-19, 2023, at Le Meridien, Coimbatore.

As is done traditionally, IACTSCON 2023 too, through the award of Memorial Orations, will honour and recognise individuals who have contributed to scientific progress across the disciplines of cardiovascular-thoracic surgery.

The five Memorial Orations were instituted in the virtuous memory and legacy of pioneering efforts of individuals who helped establish our Association to preserve and promulgate the practice and progress of the disciplines of cardiothoracic surgery.

Fellows, Life Members, and Overseas Life Members practising any divaricate discipline of cardiothoracic surgery are encouraged to apply under the relevant category listed below.

Name of the Memorial	Subspecialty	Eligible IACTS Membership Category	Minimum Membership Period*
C.S Sadasivan Memorial Oration	Cardiovascular Surgery	Fellow/ Life Member/ Overseas Life Member	20 years
P.K Sen Memorial Oration	Cardiovascular Surgery	Fellow/ Life Member/ Overseas Life Member	20 years
Meherji P. Mehta Memorial Oration	Thoracic Surgery	Fellow/ Life Member/ Overseas Life Member	10 years
Godrej S. Karai Memorial Oration	Thoracic/ Vascular Surgery	Fellow/ Life Member/ Overseas Life Member	10 years
K.N Dastur Memorial Oration	Cardiovascular Surgery	Fellow/ Life Member/ Overseas Life Member	10 years

*Minimum years of Membership as of January 01, 2023.

Applications by self-nomination are invited from eligible members of the Association who have made distinguished contributions in either academia, research or patient care in cardiothoracic surgery.

The applicant must submit the following:

1. A cover letter with a statement of purpose (Word limit: 200 words)
2. A copy of the membership card
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. A recent passport-size photograph
5. A summary of the topic of the presentation (Word limit: A minimum of 400 words)

The IACTS Executive Committee reviews all applications and its decision shall be final.

Applications may be addressed to the IACTS Secretary on secretary@iacts.org with the subject line containing the name of the oration applied for.

The deadline for receipt of applications by email is 23:59 IST on Thursday, December 15, 2022.



Elections 2023

As conducted every year, the fellow and life members of the Association shall convene at IACTSCON 2023 to elect officers to the Association. The newly elected office bearers shall assume their responsibilities from February 2023, as per Article 6 of the IACTS Constitution (For more details, please visit: <https://www.iacts.org/content/constitution-and-rules>).

The Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons invites applications from Fellows/ Life Members to the following positions of the Executive Committee, to be filled by election.

- **One** position for Junior Vice President, and
- **Two** positions for Executive Committee Members.

Nominations to the IACTS Executive Committee must be proposed by an IACTS Life Member/ Fellow and seconded by another IACTS Life Member/ Fellow.

Members will cast their vote online to elect the new office bearers. The results of the voting will be announced on Friday, February 19, 2023 at the General Body Meeting at IACTSCON 2023.

How to Apply

Those interested in applying for the aforementioned offices of the Association may duly submit either of the below documents to the Secretary - IACTS on secretary@iacts.org

Fill the form available at: <https://www.iacts.org/node/add/iacts-elections-2023>

OR

Fill, print, scan, and email [Affidavit 4](#) (see Annexure of this newsletter).

Deadline for Applications: **23:59 IST, December 31, 2022**

Deadline for Withdrawal of Applications: **23:59 IST, January 31, 2023**

A Note to the General Body

Please sign up to vote in the upcoming Elections 2023 during IACTSCON 2023. To do this, on our Association website, log in to your IACTS website profile with your registered email ID and update your mobile number and email ID.

“Democracy is not a spectator sport, it’s a participatory event. If we don’t participate in it, it ceases to be a democracy.”
- Michael Moore



Bids for CMEs in 2023 and IACTSCON 2026

Hosting of Continuing Medical Education (CME) programmes is an opportunity to showcase leadership and organisational skills, needless to mention scientific knowledge and expertise.

Self or nominated applicants are invited to bid for hosting IACTSCON 2026 and the three CMEs—Cardiac, Techno College, Thoracic— for 2023.

Below are a few pointers for interested CME organisers to include in the expression of interest to host a meeting.

1. General information – Host Institute Name/ Venue, Proposed Location, Proposed Dates, Theme of the CME
2. Organising Committee – Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and other key Committee members
3. Draft Budget
4. CME Proposal
 - (i) Destination description, Meeting location (meeting rooms, hall space for keynote, plenary sessions, workshop space, registration/reception, banquet, exhibition), Accommodations/Hotels, Travel Access
 - (ii) Proposed Scientific Programme (with a potential national faculty list) and any other proposed activities
 - (iii) Potential exhibitors

The IACTS Executive Committee reviews all CME bids and its decision shall be final. The decision will be announced at the inaugural event of IACTSCON 2023.

The General Body will elect the Host City for the 72nd Annual Conference IACTSCON 2026. Those interested may please fill, print, scan, and email [Affidavit 9](#) (see Annexure of this newsletter) the Secretary - IACTS on secretary@iacts.org.

The deadline for bidding for the CMEs for 2023 and IACTSCON 2026 is **23:59 IST** on **December 31, 2022**.



Upcoming Events

IACTS Thoracic CME 2022

December 17-18, 2022

National Tuberculosis Institute, New Delhi

Organising Chairperson: Dr. Ravindra Kumar Dewan

Organising Secretary: Dr. Pallavi Purwar

IACTSCON 2023

The 69th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons

February 16–19, 2023

Le Meridien, Coimbatore

www.iactscon2023.com

Organising Chairperson: Dr. Muralidharan

Organising Secretary: Dr. S Thiagarajamurthy

IACTS SCORE 2023

March 4-5, 2023

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru

Organising Secretary: Dr. C.S. Hiremath



Annexure

Affidavit 4

(Specimen declaration on plain paper)

Name:

Membership Number:

Contesting for (please tick):

- ☐ Junior Vice President
☐ Executive Committee Member

Phone:

Address:

Attachments:

- Curriculum Vitae of the candidate
- Candidate's Profile
- Message to the General Body (up to 500 words)

Proposed by:

Name:

Membership Number:

Signature:

Seconded by:

Name:

Membership Number:

Signature:

DECLARATION

I, _____, hereby submit my application to the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons indicating my willingness to contest for the above-said office in the impending elections, the decision for which shall be deemed by vote of the General Body of Fellows and Members.

Signature:

Date:



Affidavit 9

(Specimen declaration on plain paper)

Name of the Organising Secretary:

Membership Number:

Proposed Host City:

Attachments:

- A brief description on the novelty of the host city (up to 1000 words)
- Curriculum vitae of the proposed Organising Secretary

DECLARATION

I, _____, hereby submit my application to the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons indicating my willingness to participate in the bid to host the four-day Annual Conference of the Association (IACTSCON), the decision for which shall be deemed by vote of the General Body of Fellows and Members.

Signature:

Date:



Brought to you by

Dr. C. S. Hiremath M.Ch

Secretary

Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons

IACTS Secretariat

G700, Doctors' Office

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