

Volume 66 - November 2020

# COVID - 19

*Tribute*

*Task Force*

*Demographics*

## Events inside :

IACTS CON 2020

IACTS SCORE 2020

IACTS Masterclass

**Editor's notes**  
*Rejection of manuscripts  
and how to get better*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

IACTS CON 2021 : A VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

IACTS CMEs

# IACTS

N E W S L E T T E R

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# Executive Committee

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President



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Secretary



DR. KRISHNA S. IYER  
Senior Vice President



DR. ZILE S. MEHARWAL  
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Member



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Member



DR. VIVEK V. PILLAI  
Member



# Secretary's Message

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Dear Members,

Trust this issue finds you and your dear ones are well and safe.

At this critical juncture when we find ourselves at odds with this unprecedented global health crisis in over a century, I would like to notify two important developments in these rather unusual circumstances, which may be of interest and help to you in the clinical setting.

As mankind continues to grapple with the escalating situation of COVID-19 and hopes of the society stay pinned up to our fraternity on an unprecedented scale, the expectations and stakes are high-as is always the case in cardiothoracic surgery.

Yet, what has changed this time is the rapid development of this pandemic and the inflection it continues to show before man can trace or predict its course. Data and information have become vital in making decisions-more so in the operating room and intensive care where the atmosphere to perform flawlessly has the added burden of determining the COVID-status of the patient every step along the way.

By an initiative of the Executive Committee, the IACTS COVID-19 Task Force was formed under the leadership of President Dr. Bashi V. Velayudhan. Members of this task-force included Drs. K.S Iyer, Z.S Meharwal, O.P Yadava & C.S Hiremath.

Among its mandate in helping mitigate through the present scenario and re-establish practice in the “new setting” was to establish a stare decisis for units across the country to adopt and incorporate. The official IACTS Guidelines were authored and have now been published through a stringent peer-review process in the IJTC with the primary intent of helping CTVS units across the country deal with clinical enigma and challenges that may be associated with COVID-19 with more clarity and evidence. This document is intended to serve as a guide or a template for units to modify and use suitably in exercising clinical care of patients with cardiovascular, vascular and thoracic disease.

Needless to say, you will find that the document is comprehensive, and that the authors have tried to cover all aspects of cardiothoracic surgery that have been convoluted by the coronavirus pandemic.



Given the novelty of this disease across geography, the rate of reporting and information published hitherto has been found to be at an all-time high and with substantial variance. This has made it difficult to assess and gauge the accuracy and efficacy of the information we see and read.

An official IACTS portal detailing the consensus on various issues, again from credible sources has been published on the website along with a tab on the main-page dedicated for issues related to COVID-19. Every attempt has been made to ensure that the resources published are open source and free to access. Please note that it is being updated on a daily basis with information that is relevant, accurate, up-to-date and authentic.

Do feel free to use this facility to maximum benefit and kindly share them with colleagues and peers who might find it useful.

The link to the IACTS COVID-19 portal is <https://iacts.org/content/covid-19>

Cardiothoracic diseases as we know are absolutely intrinsic to any pathological condition. The numbers and extent of diseases have played at the same tenor since this pandemic took shape. Despite preparing ourselves, our fraternity has been challenged by the ways and means of carrying out clinical work in this hour with added precaution and methodical testing.

As our scientist & virology colleagues on the other side continue to work day in and out in discovering methods to limit the sequelae of the pathogen and are striving to develop a vaccine, it is absolutely essential that all of us on the clinical front ensure that adequate precautionary measures & contingency plans exist for every member of our teams to carry out their duties & deliver their best in times of this crisis.

We as a species have overcome calamities, both experimental and natural of unprecedented scale with collective dedication, endurance and hope. This shall be yet another episode with victory.

In true spirit, *this too shall pass*.

With warm regards,

Dr. C. S. Hiremath

**Secretary**

**Indian Association of Cardiovascular - Thoracic Surgeons**



# President's Message

The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons steps into 67 years of dedicated, self-less and passionate service to mankind by means of surgical treatment for cardiac and thoracic lesions. The Association has been at the forefront of representing the fraternity of cardiothoracic surgeons in India, across all sub-specialties in rendering quality healthcare that resembles standards set by our peers across the world.

The specialties of cardiac surgery are constantly evolving with changes in technology and sciences to combat and match up with the complexities and challenges of diseases. The Indian Association has been at the forefront of promoting and promulgating the practice among its members, a majority of whom are involved in clinical care of patients and research, to stay at the forefront of clinical care and translational research.

The Association by means of its capable and experienced Executive Committee, who have been duly-elected by the General Body, has invested its efforts in training and academics of residents and registrars -in training who shall be the back-bone of this profession in some time. The combination of prudent research, scientific temper and translational pedagogy are fundamental to the development of an academic-surgeon, just as the Association has envisioned to emulate in each of its budding members.

The long-term vision of this apex-body is to ensure quality and excellence in patient care, by means of academic research opportunities being offered for skill-building, in an effort to scale-up to heights of expectations and self-measure the distance to reach goals of excellence that match-up with global standards.

The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons seeks support of all its Fellows & members, including prospective-ones to participate in this ongoing quest!



Dr. Bashi V. Velayudhan

*51<sup>st</sup> President*

*Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons*





# Editor's Musings

Friends,

Its time yet again for a Pow Wow.

Thanks for all your congratulatory messages on IJTC being indexed by PubMed Central. Sure enough they warm our cockles and inspire us to go for more. Equally, felicitations are due to all of you – the reviewers, authors and *raison d'être* of our very existence, our readers. Lest I fail in my duty, I appreciate the dedication of our Associate Editors and can't thank enough the Editorial Board members, for guiding us like a beacon. Last post is reserved for salutations to the esteemed former Editors, for laying a strong foundation, for us to carry forward.



Darting a little askew, our rejection rate of the manuscripts has gone up. Its not that all the papers that were rejected were of a poor quality, to the very contrary, a number of them had scientific material of substance, but unfortunately had not been packaged well. Hence, I thought of communicating with you.

The common causes of rejection of manuscripts in our experience have been:

1. **Not in scope of the journal** – probably not relevant to this readership.
2. **Not conforming to the norms of IJTC** – Please read 'Instructions to the Authors' very carefully. The manuscript should be structured on IMRaD (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion) format and references must follow Vancouver style. All details are available on our manuscript submission portal [www.editorialmanager.com/ijtc](http://www.editorialmanager.com/ijtc).
3. **Poor Language** – Commonest mistake here is non-uniformity of tense (e.g. writing one line in present and another in past tense). Others are using complex sentences, flowery language and euphemisms, which may be appreciated in English literature, but not in scientific writing. One should construct short sentences and convey one idea per sentence. Always try and keep the verb and subject together.
4. **Grammatical mistakes** – Incorrect use of upper and lower case in text, comma & full stop.
5. **Poor methodology** – The primary and secondary end points, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and aims and objectives of the study are either not pre-specified or not defined with clarity. In fact, at times they may be missing altogether !





6. **Statistical analysis inadequate** – The logic behind the calculation of the sample size is not brought out clearly and the power of the study is not worked with due diligence so that the study may be under-powered in reference to a specific end-point. Even the statistical tools used may be inappropriate.
7. **Review of literature archaic** – Authors should do an exhaustive literature search and present contemporary data.
8. **Improper use of acronyms** – At first usage, full expansion of common and oft repeated terms should be used and paraphrased by an acronym. Thereafter only the acronym should be used and not the full form.
9. **Citation of references** – They should be in square brackets and always in ascending order i.e. in order of their appearance in text.
10. **Limitations** – Not listed out in details.
11. **Conclusions** – Not borne out of the study.

Always try to bring out what's new in the manuscript that it adds to the existing literature. A 'Take Home' message, if worthy, increases the chances of the manuscript getting published.

Wishing you an enhancing and rewarding publishing experience with IJTC.

Dr. O. P Yadava

***Editor - in - Chief***

*Indian Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*

*The Official Publication of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons*



# Recently Concluded Events

## *66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons*

*Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
February 6th-9th 2020*



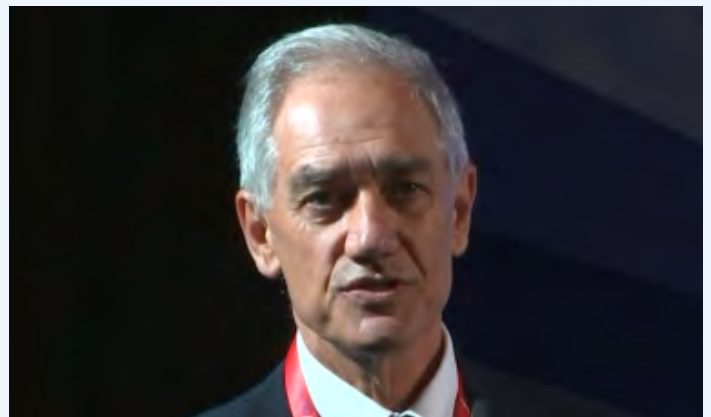
The 66th Annual Conference of our Association was held at the resplendent city of Ahmedabad in the western state of Gujarat between the 6th and 9th of February this summer.

The conclave was themed on integrating innovations with innate skills to lay emphasis on the evolution of education in the midst of evolving technology and techniques in our profession. This was part of an initiative to give an impetus to skill-based learning with functional understanding of techniques, aided by the use of seamless cutting-edge technology for the perfection of technique and delivery of prudent

healthcare services in the specialties of cardiac, thoracic and peripheral vascular surgery.

This enterprising event had in store multiple avenues for discussion, deliberation and dissemination of the approaches, management and training in CT Surgery. Innovative training and teaching modules for residents, panel discussions on standards and controversies, wet labs, learning modules with doyens, scientific presentations, landmark memorial orations, research and development exhibits and much more, await to involve anyone with the interest of furthering care, research and the fundamental-advanced practices of cardiothoracic surgery across the global spectrum.

A first of its kind, the event was jointly conducted in collaboration with the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the European Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the Australia & New Zealand Society of Cardiac & Thoracic Surgeons—signalling the changing dimensions of friendship and collaboration between the larger fraternities representing the practice of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery in Asia, North America, Europe and Oceania.



The first of four days was dedicated to resident education and was hosted in collaboration with the American Association for Thoracic Surgery titled 'IACTS-AATS Postgraduate Course'. The keynote address in the postgraduate course was rendered by Dr. Richard A. Jonas, Former President of AATS and Honorary Overseas Fellow of the IACTS(2013).



The 50th President of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons Dr. Shiv Kumar Nair completed his term on 7th February and rendered his Presidential Address themed 'Surgical Excellence: An Ongoing Quest'. The 51st and incumbent President Dr. Bashi V. Velayudhan was passed on the baton the next day.

The scientific committee under the leadership of then Senior-Vice President Dr. V.V Bashi, then President Dr. Shiv Nair, Secretary Dr. C.S Hiremath and the organising committee under the leadership of Organising Secretary Dr. Dhaval Naik D., Organising Chairman Dr. Sukumar Mehta, Organising Treasurer Dr. Bhupesh D. Shah, Head of Scientific Planning Dr. Trushar P. Gajjar and Dr. Sanjeeth Peter worked to establish a program that would go a step beyond amalgamating the latest changes and shifts in the fields as part of the scientific content, by bringing together the expertise of numerous faculty across the cohort in engaging sessions based on practical exposure and skill-based training.

Numerous boxed model sessions, practical demonstrations and small group training camps on 'How I do it' were organised to help disseminate

practical working knowledge and innovations among the participants.

In a substantial collaboration with the industry and scientific firms various working models were housed across the four-day phrontistery to enable and provide an opportunity for participants to acquire skills and techniques in numerous procedures through practical tryouts and assessment, which was positively received in addition to the flexibility of taking part in such sessions round the clock and after hours of the scientific fora.

Dedicated sessions were conducted along the sidelines of the conference for members of the heart team. Platforms with good exchange of ideas and state of the art technology enabled separate sessions for perfusionists, nursing staff and physician assistants to engage and discover practices that are greatly diverse across the country and the world.



### Honorary Overseas Fellowships

The Honorary Overseas Fellowship is the highest honor accorded to a surgeon with their practice established outside India, for extraordinary efforts and contributions to cardiothoracic surgery by the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons. This year, the Honorary Overseas Fellowships were awarded to :

**Dr. Marc R. Moon (United States of America)**

**Dr. Tom R. Karl (United States of America)**

**Dr. Paul G. Bannon (Australia)**

**Dr. Paul T. Sergeant (Belgium)**

**Dr. Heinz G. Jakob (Germany)**





### Lifetime Achievement Award

The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons honored Dr. Shrikant Dada Kole, an eminent member of our fraternity who has made innumerable contributions to the practice and progress of cardiovascular surgery and extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation technology in our subcontinent through innovation and innate conceptualisation.

Few distinguished women and men from our midst have been awarded the highest honor of our Association, for their vision for the society at large and mission of improving healthcare by means of this profession. Dr. Kole has made notable contributions that have made perfusion protocols and conduct of cardiopulmonary bypass more systematic and safer. His innovations have significantly brought down the expense of consumables in the practice of cardiac surgery-which has benefited thousands of patients over the decades. The fraternity could not be more fortunate in honoring him for his teachings and contributions.



## Memorial Orations

Orations in the memory of some illustrious pioneers of cardiovascular surgery in India have been a longstanding tradition of our fraternity, in recognising the work of members whose life's work stands significant and commendable in the eyes of the fraternity and befits the virtuous memory of our forefathers. The following faculty were orators for 2020 :

| Category         | Orator  | Theme   |
|------------------|---|---|
| C.S Sadasivan    | Dr. Chandrasekar Padmanabhan<br>(Coimbatore)  | Live Workshops: Making An Academic Surgeon                                  |
| Meherji P. Mehta | Dr. Surendra Kumar Agarwal<br>(Lucknow)       | Thoracic Surgery in India: Past to future<br>(a tertiary center experience) |
| K.N Dastur       | Dr. Shivaprakasha Krishnanaik<br>(Mumbai)     | Success in congenital heart surgery in contemporary times                   |
| P.K Sen          | Dr. Sandeep Gangaya Attawar<br>(Secunderabad) | Future Trends in Thoracic Organ Transplantation                             |
| Godrej Karai     | Dr. Krishnarao Narayan Bhosle<br>(Mumbai)     | Experience with Thoracic Outlet Syndrome                                    |



The Indian Journal of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery Awards for the year 2019 were adjudicated. The best original article was awarded to the authors of *Malhotra A, Siddiqui S, Wadhawa V, Pandya H, Patel K, Shah K, Gandhi H, Garg P, Adalti S, Sharma K. 'CLAS' score: an objective tool to standardize and predict mitral valve repairability. Indian J Thoracic Cardiovascular Surg. 2019;35:15-24.*



The best case report was awarded to the authors of *Awasthy N & Sharma R. Congenitally corrected transposition with isolated atrial septal defect and apicocaval juxtaposition: a hitherto undescribed cardiac cause of central cyanosis. Indian J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg. 2019;35:237.*



The best reviewer award for 2019 was shared by Dr. Shamsheer Lohchab (Rohtak) and Dr. Maruti Y. Haranal (Bengaluru).



## Poster Presentation

### 1st Prize

Dr. Ananthkumar  
Dr. Noaman Shaikh

### 2nd Prize

Dr. P. Vivekanand  
Dr. Shubhi Bhatnagar  
Dr. Suresh Babu  
Dr. Dhaval Naik

### 3rd Prize

Dr. Iresh Shetty  
Dr. Sana Fridas  
Dr. James Thomas





## Residents' Quiz

### 1st Prize

Dr. Samir (SCTIMST, Trivandrum)  
 Dr. Sudheer (SJICSR, Bengaluru)  
 Dr. Dineshkumar (SSSIHMS, Bengaluru)

### 2nd Prize

Dr. Nikunj (Star Hospital, Hyderabad)  
 Dr. Ritesh Mate (LTMMC, Mumbai)  
 Dr. Sagar (UNMICRC, Ahmedabad)



## 66th Annual General Body

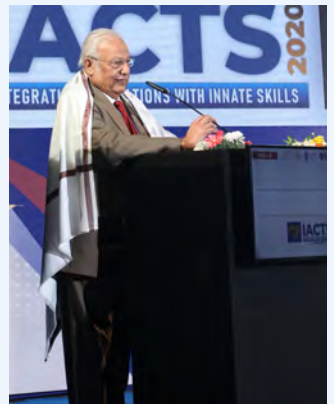


The 66th Annual General Body was held on the evening of February 7th 2020 under the Chairmanship of the 50th President.

The Secretary, Treasurer and Editor presented their respective reports before the General Body. All three presentations were approved by a majority of the sitting quorum.

Dr. Devendra Saksena, 32nd President of our Association was honored by the General Body for being awarded the Pfizer Humanitarian Award by the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Saksena is the first Indian to be accorded this honor for his numerous contributions to the fields of general and cardiothoracic surgery.



Dr. K.M Cherian, 24th President of our Association was honored by the General Body for his lifetime of contributions to the progress and dissemination of cardiovascular surgery in our country. Dr. Cherian's latest scientific compendium was released and dedicated to all surgeons on this occasion.

Dr. Anand Sancheti retired as Senior Past President and was felicitated for his services to the Association.

Dr. P. Chandrasekar and Dr. Manoj Durairaj retired as Executive Committee Members and were duly thanked for their contributions to the Association through the Executive Committee.



# Elections 2020

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## *66th Annual General Body*

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The elections for the positions of Junior Vice President and two Executive Committee Members as well as for the Venue of the 69th (now 70th) Annual Conference of the Association (to be held in 2024) was held during the General Body.

Dr. Zile Singh Meharwal (New Delhi) was elected the Junior Vice President of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons.

Dr. Chandrabhanu Praja and the city of Bhubaneswar (Orissa) were elected to conduct the 69th (now 70th) Annual Conference of the Association.



**Dr. Zile Singh Meharwal**  
Junior Vice President  
IACTS (2020 - 21)



**Dr. Chandrabhanu Parija**  
Organising Secretary  
IACTSCON 2024

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## *Ratification of results of Election 2020*

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The results of the election of two Executive Committee members of the Association were withheld and retroactively nullified in the better interests of the Association and electoral conduct. The same was conveyed by means of a formal memorandum to all nominees and members of the sitting General Body on August 4th, 2020.

The memorandum read as follows :







**INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
CARDIOVASCULAR- THORACIC SURGEONS**  
(Registered under the Societies Act, 1860 and Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950)  
(Registration No.: Reg No: F 14902(Mumbai))

**iacts.org**

**Dr. C.S Hiremath DNB, MNAMS, M.Ch, FLACS**  
**Secretary**

OS/WF/082004/8

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Bash V.V  
President

Dr. C.S Hiremath  
Secretary

Dr. K.S Iyer  
Senior Vice President

Dr. Z.S Mcharwal  
Junior Vice President

Dr. Rajendra Umbarkar  
Treasurer

Dr. O.P Yadava  
Editor

Dr. Yugal K. Mishra  
Senior Past President

Dr. Shiv K. Nair  
Junior Past President

Dr. A. Rathinavel  
Member

Dr. Sundar Ramanathan  
Member

Dr. B.R Ravindra Setty  
Member

Dr. Vivek V. Pillai  
Member

To  
**The Honorable General Body of Fellows & Life Members**  
**Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons**

**August 4, 2020**

This is to inform the General Body of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons vide this communication of a collective resolution (Ref: OS/WF/ 072031/1) of the Executive Committee of the Association in matters of dispute w.r.t. the election of Executive Committee Members(Two Positions) during the proceedings of the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting held on February 7, 2020 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on the sidelines of the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons.

The following facts are to be established on record.,

1. A senior member of the General Body raised objections to the candidature of a nominee at the conclusion of the election based on a prior constitutional amendment. At this point of time the majority of the general body had dispersed and initiating an alternate solution in the form of a re-election was not possible since less than 1/3rd of the quorum was present in the hall. The result was therefore announced based on the validity of the objection that was raised and considered constitutionally valid.

2. The nominee whose application was in question, had agreed to abide by (either) outcome of the election, as deemed appropriate by the General Body and the Returning Officer. However, a group of members approached the Executive Committee at the conclusion of the election citing impropriety and unfairness in the manner in which the issue was handled and the result was announced.

3. The Executive Committee admits to an oversight in the screening process of the application of the concerned member due to an inconsistency in records (Art. 13, Constitution) sought to detail the plan of action for such a scenario.

The Executive Committee notes that this situation is unparalleled without any precedence and believes in respecting the opinion and suggestions of all members of the fraternity. It wishes to offer an unconditional apology to all nominees for the uncertainty and degree of anxiety it may have created over the course of this time.

After reviewing this situation from all perspectives – constitutional and logical and in an effort to maintain impartiality and respect the opinions of all stakeholders, the Executive Committee (in accordance with Art.3 of the Bylaws of the Association) has arrived at the decision to retro-actively nullify the election for the two positions in question. All candidates on the said ballot shall have the liberty to contest for the said position in the subsequent general body election, alongside any fresh candidates for four positions that shall serve for a term between 2021-2024.

This is for the kind notification and attention of all Fellows & Life Members of the Association.

With regards,

Dr. C.S Hiremath  
Secretary

Dr. Bash V. Velayudhan  
President

Dr. Krishna S. Iyer  
Senior Vice President &  
Returning Officer

**Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons**

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## IACTS SCORE 2020

IACTS SCORE was a two-day orientation program designed for students pursuing residency in cardiothoracic surgery. This is a national effort aimed at acquainting residents about the know-hows of examination patterns, tips and tricks to fare well in the evaluation of their knowledge, skills & competence. It is a national effort of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons for the benefit of residents that has been designed with a feedback channel with a platform for students to undergo a mock examination, evaluate themselves, clear any conceptual lacunae with the help of faculty & peers and gauge their competence to appear for the examination.

The fourth recension of IACTS SCORE saw over 170 residents in attendance who participated in a wemblem of sessions that included case presentations in cyanotic, acyanotic congenital groups, valvular etiology, thoracic etiology and redo surgical case.

Eminent teachers engaged classes on the fundamentals of catheterisation, ECG and interpretation of numerous imaging modalities including X-Rays, Echocardiography, Computed Tomography and Cardiac Magnetic Resonance from the purview of preoperative and postoperative



evaluation of patients. Based on feedback and requests, special sessions covering valve technology, historical advances in cardiothoracic surgery, biostatistics, recent clinical trials and interpretation of thoracic imaging were convened. Interactive didactic forums on conduct of cardiopulmonary bypass, mechanical circulatory support and instrumentation were organised.

Professor Balram Airan, an authority in the practice of cardiothoracic surgery who has created a niche for himself in the areas of complex corrections for congenital malformations and academic administration was the keynote faculty this year.

Dr. Bashi V. Velayudhan and Dr. Sathyaki P. Nambala, recognised experts in the fields of aortic and minimally invasive surgeries, respectively, shared their experiences on the basics of practice in the novel masterclass sessions.

This year, a team of exam-going residents in groups of 3 were given the unique opportunity to prepare, evaluate and present cases in the mock examination rounds, where overall performance was evaluated to great detail and conveyed to candidates to identify and improve their efforts in the direction to excel in the examination as a precinct to the longer journey of an academic surgeon.

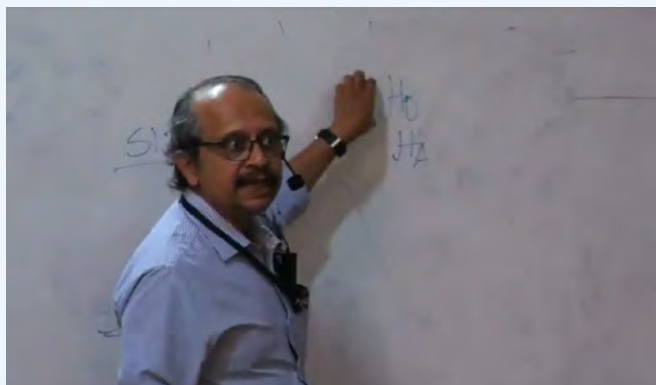
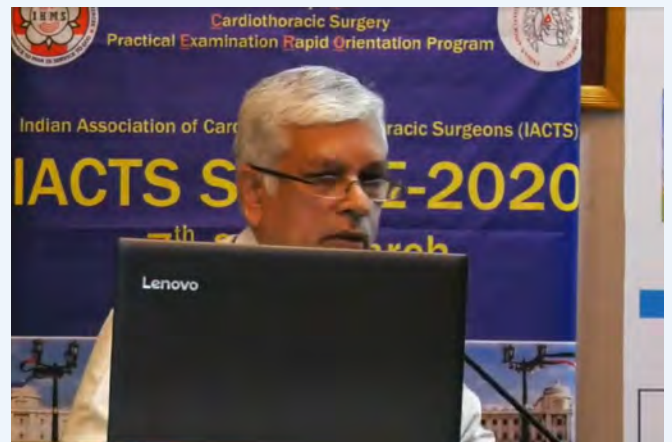
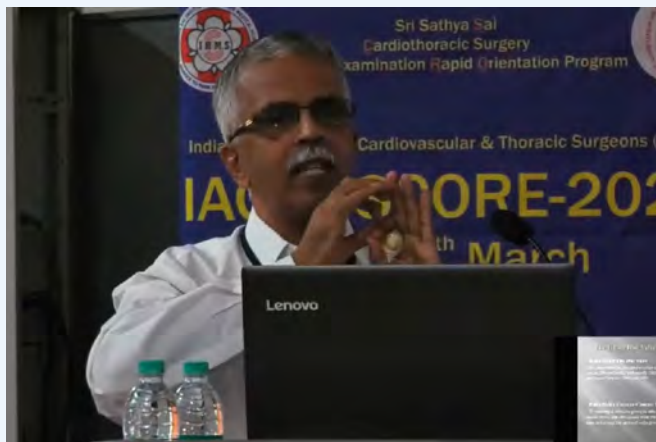




Experienced faculty including Dr. Anil Tendolkar, Dr. Balram Airan, Dr. Seetharama Bhat, Dr. Shekhar Rao presided over the congenital sessions, amidst Dr. Vinayak Shukla, Dr. Prasanna Simha and Dr. Neelam B. Desai who guided the students in adult and redo case presentations, while Dr. Srikrishna S.V, Dr. S. Sosale and Dr. Shivakumara Swamy T.S rendered their insights on thoracic lesions.

For the first time in CME history, IACTS SCORE went live online for the benefit of residents who could not make it to the event.

All in all, the program was curated by the residents-for the residents with the guidance of eminent faculty. The team promises to come back with more energising and innovative ideas in the next recension of IACTS SCORE.





# COVID-19 : Life and surgical practice in its midst

## Tribute

The coronavirus pandemic has brought the world to an unprecedented shock and standstill-never experienced by man in modern times. The effects have been tough on life and families causing extreme forms of changes and torment and it unfortunately continues to prevail despite the best efforts of all sectors afflicted.

The disease has brought the world closer and societies in extreme understanding and solidarity, however it has taken away and shattered numerous families and communities. Many workplaces deranged, children have lost parents and grandparents, colleagues have lost many fellow-co workers and back home there is a chair at the dining table that is now empty.

The world has acknowledged its heartfelt gratitude to the frontline workers including doctors, nurses, sanitary workers and law enforcement agencies. We have lost many to this unfortunate scenario- in a valiant attempt to save lives or even protect many. The families of many of these moral-bearers have lost a dear one and so have we-the scientific community witnessed the loss of hardworking and sincere colleagues who selflessly sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

The cardiothoracic fraternity has been no different. Given the extremity of presentation across age groups, we were left with little choice to resume work, trying to assimilate what time and best precautions and protective resources we could find to get back and serve our patients. We have lost many colleagues and co-workers in this endeavor where the patient comes first.

As we pay homage to the numerous physicians, nurses, paramedical staff and sanitary workers who did not flinch before the welfare of patients, one can remember this sonnet by Walterrean Salley to eulogise their colleagues:

*Fallen warriors, gone too soon  
The best, the brave-bold and bright.  
Like a comet thrust from the skies  
On a late-summertime night.  
Men and women who'd taken up the cause-  
Giving no less than their all.  
Thirty-one brilliant, eager minds  
For whom we silently pause.  
In behalf of their motherland  
They've paid the ultimate price.  
We acknowledge now their families  
In memories of their sacrifice.  
And of their story, time will tell.  
For they shall be remembered well.*



## Practice of CTVS in COVID-19 era

The Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons constituted a Task Force under the leadership of the President Dr. Bashi V. Velayudhan.

Members of this COVID-19 Task Force included Senior Vice President Dr. K.S Iyer, Junior Vice President Dr. Z.S Meharwal, Editor-in-Chief Dr. O.P Yadava and Secretary Dr. C.S Hiremath.

Among its mandate in helping mitigate through the present scenario and re-establish practice in the “new setting” was to establish a stare decisis for units across the country to adopt and incorporate. The official IACTS Guidelines were authored and have now been published through a stringent peer-review process in the IJTC with the primary intent of helping CTVS units across the country deal with clinical enigma and challenges that may be associated with COVID-19 with more clarity and evidence. This document is intended to serve as a guide or a template for units to modify and use suitably in exercising clinical care of patients with cardiovascular, vascular and thoracic disease.



To view the official IACTS Guidelines  
Please Click Here :

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12055-020-01016-w>

Given the novelty of this disease across geography, the rate of reporting and information published hitherto has been found to be at an all-time high and with substantial variance. This has made it difficult to assess and gauge the accuracy and efficacy of the information we see and read.

An official IACTS portal detailing the consensus on various issues, again from credible sources has been published on the website along with a tab on the main-page dedicated for issues related to COVID-19. Every attempt has been made to ensure that the resources published are open source and free to access. Please note that it is being updated on a daily basis with information that is relevant, accurate, up-to-date and authentic.

To visit the Official IACTS COVID-19 Resource Center Click Here :

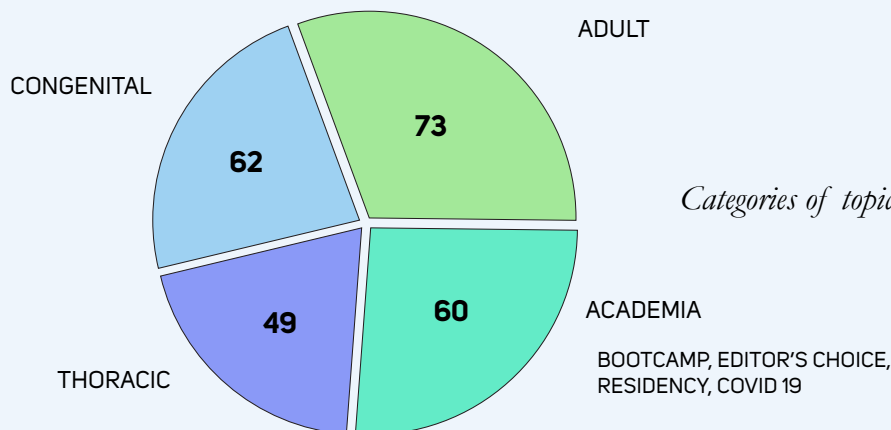
<https://iacts.org/content/covid-19>



## IACTS MASTERCLASS : The next frontier in cardiothoracic education

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a nation-wide lockdown for over 3 months in India that brought surgical practice on the cardiothoracic front to a complete grinding halt. To ensure that this difficult time does not weight a negative effect on the minds of junior doctors and resident-trainees, the leadership of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons began organising a non-stop series of educational webinars on the Zoom platform for the educational, pedagogical & conceptual benefit of residents. The program is an ongoing process, and has benefited the entire fraternity of cardiothoracic surgeons across the ranks of leadership, from professors, senior consultants to associates, junior associates and trainee-fellows, aside residents.

The MASTERCLASS series covered a host of topics that summed up to :



This web-series has also benefited numerous other professionals from lines of work that include (but not limited to) cardiologists, radiologists, anaesthesiologists, critical-care specialists, paramedical staff including nursing, perfusion, anaesthesia technicians & biomedical engineers.

The program has been well-received by professions from India and across the world (23 countries). To ensure that the quality of education and concepts meted out is maintained to the highest standard, faculty who excel in their subspecialties (documented by peer respect, publications, experience & interest for teaching) were invited to take part in the program.

To befit the experience, the series was aptly nomenclated as the 'MASTERCLASS' series under the ambit of the Resident Academic Forum of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons. A total of 244 webinars were conducted & aired in the duration between (including limits)

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The series ran back-to-back on a daily basis (with an average of 3 sessions) up till 31st May 2020. Thereon it has broadcasted 4 webinars every weekend.

Dr. Ali Zamir Khan kindly consented to ally and organise his classes to benefit the attendees on matters concerning thoracic diseases and surgery. With a demand on certain topics and given their elaborate expanse, four web-series were conducted and included, webinar series on Lung & Heart-Lung Transplantation (with UTSW Dallas), Heart Transplantation (with University of Minnesota), Bootcamp on Cardiac Morphology with Prof. Robert Anderson and Editors' Choice series on Scientific Writing and Presentation, the Masterclasses will resume the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

For suggestions and queries, please feel free to write to [masterclass@iacts.org](mailto:masterclass@iacts.org)



# Obituaries

The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons mourns the passing away of the following members, with grief and dolour. It thanks them for their service to mankind through the practice of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and prays for the bereaved to find strength and solace at this difficult hour.



**Dr. Anil Gupta**

Agra

Born to a family of teachers, Dr. Anil Gupta took up teaching as his passion through cardiothoracic surgery. He graduated from SN Medical College and went on to complete his M.Ch in the first batch at LPS Institute of Cardiology, GSVM Medical College, Kanpur.

He was a hardworking, compassionate, humble & soft-spoken gentleman with big dreams who went on to bring cardiothoracic surgery to the city of Agra at the SR Medical Institute & Research Center, where he served as Senior Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon in-charge. He drove his interest in clinical practice into substantial research and was seen presenting his work with great enthusiasm at many of our conferences as well as international symposia. Dr. Gupta is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son-in-law.

*Courtesy of Dr. (Mrs.) Ritu Gupta, Agra*



**Dr. Sunil Agarwal**

Vellore

Fondly known as “Agru” to his colleagues, Dr. Agarwal was a son of the soil of Christian Medical College, Vellore. The rock behind the vascular surgery program at his alma mater, Dr. Sunil took up the initiative of training numerous registrars and post-graduates in this sub-specialty that he dedicated himself to, and inspired scores of undergraduate students to pursue a career in surgery with his enthusiasm and operative exposure.

A gifted surgeon, he found the right place to practice and live by principles in an institution that believes in doing unto others what you would have them do unto you. A remarkable leader in the field of surgery, Dr. Agarwal treaded his administrative responsibilities with as much vigor in the capacity as Professor and in-charge of the Vascular Surgery division, as much as he mentored post-graduates with their very first anastomoses/ hernioplasties.

All those who had the fortune of knowing him will remember him as one who walked the talk with his altruistic principles of life. Dr. Agarwal is survived by his aging parents, his wife- a paediatric nephrologist, two sons, two siblings and a large extended family.

*Courtesy of Dr. Vinayak Shukla, Vellore*







### **Dr. Vijoy Kumar Sinha**

New Delhi

Dr. Sinha was an eminent Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon who practiced at National Heart Institute and Holy Family Hospital for more than 30 years. He did his schooling from Bhagwanpur, Bihar; his MBBS from Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital; his MS from Patna Medical College and Hospital and M.Ch from King Edward Memorial (KEM) College, Mumbai. He received the gold medal in multiple subjects and was selected for the Starwood Fellowship and Training in USA. Dr. Sinha returned to India from USA to serve his country and was actively engaged in charity-related surgeries across India, particularly in remote districts where health and medical facilities were either absent or inaccessible to the less privileged. He dedicated himself entirely to the cause of curing patients with heart ailments. He had many landmark surgeries to his credit. One such rare surgery got him international recognition. In spite of his illustrious career, he was known to everybody as an extremely humble and kindhearted human being who was always accessible to his family, relatives, friends and patients. His sudden demise has left a huge void in our lives and in the medical fraternity. Dr. Sinha served as Associate Editor of the Indian Journal of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery.

*Courtesy of Dr. O. P. Yadava, New Delhi*



### **Dr. Probal Ghosh**

Tel Aviv

A dedicated cardiac surgeon and an eminent research scientist Dr. Ghosh passed away on 19th January 2020 in Tel Aviv, Israel. He was a citizen of the world, yet truly Indian in spirit. He set up an open heart surgical program in Alwaye, Kerala and organised an international conference in Salzburg.

After completing his MBBS from Calcutta University, he did his General Surgical and Cardiothoracic Surgical training from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

He served as Professor and Chairman of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Dean at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow and as a consultant at Ichilov Hospital, Tel Aviv for decades.



### **Dr. Nitish Kumar**

Kolkata

Nitish dreamt of becoming a cardiac surgeon. Coming from a humble background he overcame many hardships along the way and joined the DNB Cardio-Thoracic course in 2014 at Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences, Kolkata.

He was a sincere and hardworking doctor, a kind and simple soul, who always managed to carry an endearing smile. So close to realising his dreams he lost the battle with COVID-19 and was taken away from us by the cruel hands of death. He is survived by his wife and a 2-year-old son and shall continue to live in the minds and hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

*Courtesy of Dr. Pradeep Narayan, Kolkata.*





### **Dr. R. Selvaraj**

Madurai

Dr. Selvaraj served as Former Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Government Rajaji Hospital. He completed his MCh in 1970 from the Madurai Medical College.



### **Dr. K. Purnesh**

Bengaluru

Dr. K. Purnesh, Retired Professor & Unit Head of Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery at the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research was among the first team of cardiothoracic surgeons in Bangalore who also served as a Governing Body member of the Institute. He was one of the early proponents to put the handful of bronchoscopes available in the eighties to use, both-at the academic as well as patient-care ends, in training many postgraduates who passed through the doors of this institution and saving the lives of multiple children who were brought with foreign bodies obstructing their airways.

As a passionate teacher he was instrumental in training many surgeons and provided ample opportunities to his residents. A kind gentleman who always brought smiles about the faces of his patients and acquaintances alike, was an active participant in all conferences of our Association.

Beside cardiac surgery, he found solace in farming and maintained an active interest in establishing a coffee estate in Chikkamangalore.

*Courtesy of Dr. P.S.S Bhat, Bengaluru*



### **Dr. N. Jothilingam**

Chennai

Our fraternity mourns the untimely loss of Dr. N. Jothilingam, Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery at the Omandurar Government Hospital, affiliated to Madras Medical College, Chennai. He is remembered among his colleagues as a young and dynamic surgeon, who was extremely sincere, hardworking and devoted with an interest for teaching and research.

Dr. Jothilingam was a formidable member of the team that commenced cardiac transplantation in his institution & is considered to be a backbone in sustaining this program for the masses.

His contributions in advancing cardiac care to the common man will be fondly remembered among his many virtues as a kind human.

*Courtesy of Dr. A. Rathinavel, Madurai*





## Dr. Stanley John

Bengaluru

Dr. Stanley John was a pioneer and a selfless caregiver whose skill and compassion palliated and touched numerous lives throughout his long and illustrious career. He is among the first generation of cardiothoracic surgeons in India who has been testament to the days of inception and struggle in establishing open heart surgery in India up to the current trends and advancement in this profession.

Dr. John was born in Munnar and proceeded to complete his under-graduation, post-graduation in General Surgery and super specialty training in thoracic surgery from the prestigious Christian Medical College & Hospital, Vellore. Among the first few trainees in thoracic surgery in India, Dr. John chose to stay back at Vellore and continued to render his services over a span of 35 years.

He leaves behind an indomitable legacy and track record that continues to inspire hundreds of his successors and students. Dr. John has trained 70 post-doctoral trainees, who are today heading some of the most successful programs across the world. His meticulous approach to clinical practice, compassionate attitude towards his patients and unflinching guidance towards education are hallmarks of an academic cardiothoracic surgeon till date.

His stellar work in the treatment of juvenile mitral stenosis, adult congenital cardiac disease (particularly tetralogy of Fallot) are noteworthy and considered examples of exemplary clinical practice and has set the foray for practice even today. His selfless and stellar practice can be seen in the words of numerous publications of repute. Indeed Dr. John's contributions hitherto brought Ida Scudder's vision of providing compassionate, quality care for all regardless of religion or social standing.

In recognition of his extraordinary services to society through the alleys of Medicine, the Government of India bestowed on him, the Padma Shri in 1975. Dr. John is receipt of numerous awards and accolades, perhaps none to keep up with the satisfaction he received through the gratitude and smile of thousands whom he had the privilege of being service to.

He served the Association as its 13th President between 1981 and 1982.

Dr. John is survived by Dr. Lily John, professor emeritus of Medicine at CMC Hospital Vellore and two sons, Dr. Rohan John- Professor of Pathology at the University of Toronto and Dr. Ranjeet John- an eminent professor of cardiothoracic surgery at University of Minnesota.

The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons, on behalf of all its Fellows and Members, extends its heartfelt condolences to Mrs. John and the entire family. In this descent of gloom, his passing is an irreplaceable loss to the nation and the community of cardiothoracic surgeons.

In recognition of his contributions, the Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons has resolved to institute a Travelling Fellowship, that befits the legacy and vision of this noble soul.

The President and Secretary of the Association met with Dr. Lily John and paid homage to this selfless doyen of cardiothoracic surgery.





# Upcoming Events

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In view of the present situation across the nation as a consequence of COVID-19, the Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic surgeons has come to the conclusion of hosting the **67th Annual Conference (2021)** in a virtual format online.

Consequently, the scheduled annual conference in Jaipur will follow a year later. It shall be henceforth referred to as the **68th Annual Conference** of the IACTS (IACTSCON 2022).

The sixth recension of **IACTS SCORE** will be conducted in a virtual format(online) on 6th & 7th March 2021, registrations for which will be notified in the month of January.

The Coimbatore Conference (earlier scheduled for 2022) will be conducted in 2023 and shall be referred to as the **69th Annual Conference** of the IACTS. Consequently, the Bhubaneswar Conference (initially scheduled for 2023 and as mentioned earlier in this document) will take place in 2024 and shall be referred to as the **70th Annual Conference** of the IACTS.

All continuing medical education(CME) programs scheduled for 2020 shall take place in 2021 in the respective scheduled cities, respecting the mandates accorded to the organisers.

This decision is in consensus with the guidelines from the Government of India and in the overall welfare of the participating attendees, faculty, residents & organisers.

This shall remain effective till the present situation eases. The same has been notified on the website & through personal notification to all Fellows and Members of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons.

For more information, please visit

<https://iacts.org/content/schedule-all-academic-programs-2021>



# Upcoming Elections

## 2021 Elections

The Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons invites applications from Fellows/ Life Members for the following positions of the Executive Committee., One position for Junior Vice President, One position for Editor-in-Chief, Four positions for Executive Committee Members, shall be filled by election.

All office bearers shall begin their term in February 2021, with the exception of the Editor-in-Chief-designate who shall begin their term from February 2022, spending one year of apprenticeship with the incumbent.

**Election Nomination form (AFFIDAVIT 4) is enclosed on pages 30-31.**

## Elections for Conduct of Annual Conference

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 2021 conference shall be conducted as a Virtual Symposium under the banner of the 67th Annual Conference of the IACTS.

The conference slated to take place in Jaipur has been deferred to 2022 (68th Annual Conference). The 69th Conference shall take place in Coimbatore in 2023, which shall be followed by the 70th Annual Conference in Bhubaneswar in 2024.

In view of the uncertainty of events as a result of the ongoing pandemic, it has been decided to defer the voting for the location for the 71st Annual Conference by a year with the hope that some tangible clarity of this global crisis will be made available to us to aid in informed decision making in the best interests of the Association.

**Last Date for Applications: December 31st, 2020; 23:59 HRS**

Applications can be sent to :  
Secretary – Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons  
by email on : [secretary@iacts.org](mailto:secretary@iacts.org)



## INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIOVASCULAR - THORACIC SURGEONS

(Registered under the Societies Act, 1860 and Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950)

(Registration No.: Reg No: F 14902(Mumbai))

www.iacts.org

### ELECTIONS 2021

The Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons invites applications from Fellows/ Life Members for the following positions of the Executive Committee.

One position for Junior Vice President,

One position for Editor-in-Chief,

Four positions for Executive Committee Members, shall be filled by election.

The election by ballot shall be held at the General Body Meeting during the proceedings of the Virtual Conference on February 27, 2021 online. Filing nominations are now paperless and at your fingertips, for the feature has been made available online.

#### How to apply?

1. Applicants interested in applying for the aforementioned offices of the Association may duly fill the form available at: <https://bit.ly/iacts-elections-2021>

#### OR

2. The following affidavit (2 Pages) is to be printed, filled, scanned & mailed to Secretary - IACTS (instructions below)

Last Date for Applications: December 31, 2020; 23:59 HRS

Last Date for Withdrawal of Applications: January 31, 2021; 23:59 HRS

### AFFIDAVIT 4

Name:

Membership Number:

Contesting for (please tick):

☐ Junior Vice President

☐ Editor-in-Chief

☐ Executive Committee Member

Phone:

Address:

Attachments:

- Curriculum Vitae of applicant
- Candidate's profile & message to the General Body (500 words)





This application must be proposed and seconded by two Life Members/ Fellows of the association.

Proposed by

Seconded by

Name:

Name:

Membership Number:

Membership Number:

Signature:

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:

This form is to be sent to:

Secretary – Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons;

by email on [secretary@iacts.org](mailto:secretary@iacts.org) with subject '2021 ELECTION NOMINATION FORM'

*Applicants are requested to refrain from utilizing postal/courier modalities for this purpose, in an effort to limit postal services for essential services at this time.*

**(Page 2 of 2)**



*Brought to you by*

**Dr. C.S Hiremath M.Ch**

Secretary

Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons

IACTS Secretariat

G700, Doctors' Office

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences

EPIP Area, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560066

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