

Volume 67 - August 2021

President's message

Power through turbulent seas, for there is light at the end

Editor's notes

The progress of Indian Science in the world

UPCOMING EVENTS

IACTS CARDIAC CME AND MIDTERM GBM

IACTS THORACIC CME

MASTERCLASS 2021



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Member



Secretary's Message

Dear colleagues and friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about much pain and suffering in the lives of those afflicted, their dear ones and those involved in alleviating the sufferings of the distressed. The sudden halt in life that resulted from this global health crisis continues to be seen well over fifteen months in the form an inertia that clearly allows us to see the fissures in our society.

As we continue to collectively brave the storm, we are encountered with numerous challenges within our own domains as we seek to lessen the sufferings of the world. Resuming surgical work when the natural history and etiology of the disease was unclear was a daring act of conscience, for the conditions we are accustomed to working on remain intrinsic to the present scenario. The suffering of patients with acquired and structural defects remained masked behind the wailing of those millions of souls who fought in this battle. Today, we are equipping ourselves to deal with crises on multiple fronts while ensuring that those involved in caring for the sick continue to do their best in this daunting task of maintaining emotional and work balance alongside mitigating the looming crisis at hand.

Our prayers go out to those “martyrs” who lost their lives in this battle as they put their patients before their own selves, which is reflective of the true meaning of caring for the sick. We salute the indomitable courage and persistence of all those who are involved in filling the crevices left behind by this crisis. As we all are braving this storm and doing the maximum we can with the ardent hope for a strobe of light, we must ensure that we collectively cross each phase while ensuring that the last person in the line has crossed the crisis, just as the first person does not enter the vicious cycle brought about by this disease.

This issue is being brought out in the midst of a second-wave of the pandemic in our country. The future remains uncertain, but the task at hand seems formidable as ever-to defend until the last man stands.



This issue is a potpourri of some advances in our Association through a fervent effort to keep the progress of science, learning and exchange of ideas consistent despite the storm we are currently rowing in.

As we set out in this task bestowed upon us, we must take every member of the society with us and work fervently in the herculean task of rebuilding the world that remains ahead of us. We shall bear through the storm and set shore for a new normal, nevertheless new-for change is the changeless law of the universe.

I seek your kind support and involvement in keeping up the camaraderie and spirits of our entire fraternity in carrying out our duties and sustaining our spirits to win this global health crisis.

With warm regards,

Dr. C. S. Hiremath

Secretary

Indian Association of Cardiovascular - Thoracic Surgeons



President's Message

It is indeed a privilege and an honor to take guard as the President of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons. I have been fortunate to take on the mantle from my numerous illustrious and distinguished predecessors who have toiled hard to bring the association to its current standing in the international arena.

I am also fortunate in having an executive team that is like minded, enthusiastic and passionate. The Executive Committee is single minded in its pledge to take the Association to greater heights in the forthcoming years.

Year 2020 was a challenging year for our specialty thanks to the Covid 19 pandemic. Lockdowns, travel restrictions and diversion of hospital resources to Covid care resulted in a sharp decline in surgical numbers in most hospitals and severely impacted non-emergency cardiac care. We had to learn how to conduct routine work while protecting ourselves, our staff and the patients. 2021 started with hopes of return to some level of normalcy, aided by the launch of a vaccination drive. However, the last few weeks have rung in alarm bells with a resurgence of cases and fears of a second wave. If that happens, we need to yet again brace ourselves for challenging times.

Rising to the challenge of the Covid crisis the erstwhile EC rapidly adopted an online model for communication, meetings and academic activities. The Master Classes brought the best faculty from across the Globe to the doorsteps of our students. For the first time the Annual meeting was held in a totally online format and was a runaway success. Much of the credit for this goes to our dynamic and indefatigable General Secretary – Dr. Hiremath. He continues to be the passionate charioteer for the EC.

The new EC has many plans for the forthcoming year. The Master Classes will continue however, in a different format. We hope to design teaching curriculum for our PG students so that have access to the best faculty in the country and abroad. We also hope to start a mentorship program where each student is assigned a senior member of the Association as a guide and philosopher. The National database has been inaugurated and during the course of the year we hope to recruit as many centers as possible for data entry. I solicit the cooperation and involvement of all our members to make this project a success. There will be hurdles in the beginning but we are geared to smoothen every bump and make the process streamlined and user friendly.



Simultaneously we also need to have a registry of cardiothoracic services in our country so that we have some hard data to negotiate with our policy makers. Here again I solicit the cooperation of all our members to faithfully fill and submit the forms that will be shortly sent out.

It is likely that this year also we will not be able to conduct our CME's in the physical format. We will be conducting them online and we hope this will have a wider reach and be more impactful. One thing that the Pandemic has taught us is that we need to be nimble on our feet and should quickly change gears and adapt to the rapidly changing environment.

As an Association we stand by our resolve to continue to serve our patients with sincerity and deliver to them care of the highest standards with compassion and humility.

Long live the IACTS.
Jai Hind.

Dr. Krishna Subramony Iyer

52nd President

Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons



Editor's Musings

Dear Friends,

With the euphoria attendant to PubMed inclusion settling, the reality is sinking in. We now have to live upto the expectations of that hallowed benchmark and therefore the quality of the scientific material that we publish assumes all the more importance. Though we have made steady progress, however, I sincerely believe, we have a long way to go. In fact, Indian science in generic terms leaves much to be desired of. Leaving political and military polemics aside, we seem to have lagged behind our peers in quality of science generated, in a journey we started with a lead. Yes, I am referring to China. We were ahead of them in the 1980s, but somehow, in the last 20-30 years, we have been left behind, rather miserably, with a scientific output quantitatively barely one-fourth of theirs, and qualitatively, probably even worse.

Its therefore important that each one of us, instead of allocating mundane and trivial studies for doctoral (M.Ch/DNB) thesis, start thinking in terms of conducting prospective and randomized controlled trials. We must encourage experimental studies looking at mechanistic basis of a phenomenon, rather than just looking at events. Even centers which do not have high-end facilities for experimental work can consider looking at low-hanging fruits of translational clinical research in subject matters relevant to our subcontinent. All of this will find higher readership and wider dissemination to the advantage of the researchers themselves, the Journal, the Association and as a corollary to the country as a whole. I therefore exhort all my senior colleagues to inculcate a sense of enquiry in our trainees and to shun the path of least resistance of carrying out retrospective audits as their dissertation or thesis.



As for us, we have been systematically reducing the number of case reports that we are accepting and we plan to reduce them even further in proportion to increase in original and review articles. Henceforth, rarity of a case will merit publication much less than novelty.

Wishing you a great publishing experience with IJTC.
.....And don't forget, it's still COVID times.....
Please take care of yourself and stay safe.

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

67th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons

IACTSCON 2021- A Virtual Symposium

Much uncertainty had loomed over the occurrence of the annual conference this year, thanks to the pandemic. Would Covid-19 cause a lockdown on the annual interaction of the cardiovascular-thoracic fraternity? This much was clear, though – Jaipur would now host the conference in 2022. The adapted IACTS Masterclass initiated during the lockdown as a remote learning series served as a model to surge ahead with IACTSCON 2021 as a virtual symposium.

The Organising Committee under the leadership of Organising Secretary Dr. C.S Hiremath, Organising Chairman Dr. V.V. Bashi and Scientific Chairman Dr. Krishna S. Iyer curated a programme that was no less engaging than the physical format of the phrontistery, held virtually across 7 subspecialties in a virtual format-a debut in the 67 years of this Association. The organising committee included Dr. Rajendra Umbarkar, Dr. O.P. Yadava, Dr. Zile Meharwal, Dr. Yugal K. Mishra, Dr. Shiv K. Nair, Dr. A. Rathinavel, Dr. Sundar Ramanathan, Dr. B.R. Ravindra Setty and Dr. Vivek Pillai.

The 67th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons, IACTSCON 2021 – A Virtual Symposium, was themed around shaping better outcomes with indigenous innovation. As has been the case in previous conferences, this one was replete with an inaugural program, the annual general body meeting, and the election of office-bearers to the Association – albeit in an online format.

The 51st President of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons Dr. Bashi V. Velayudhan rendered his Presidential Oration titled, “Embracing Uncertainty with Empathy and



Resilience”, to mark the completion of his term ending on Feb 28, 2021.

The conference was declared open by Dr. Harsh Vardhan MS, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, as the Chief Guest. Dr. Vardhan applauded “the sustained efforts made by the Association towards scientific research and education, while also enhancing the reach of medical care to every citizen of India”. The e-book series for these Masterclasses was released by him during the inauguration of the conference. The minister also unveiled the Indian Journal of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery (IJTCVS) website and the National Database dedicated towards capturing cardiovascular and thoracic surgical procedures with the aim to enable surgeons provide high-quality care through education and evidence-based research.

The Guest of Honour, Padma Vibhushan Prof. M.S. Valiathan, among the senior-most members of our fraternity, delivered the keynote address on the progress and prospects of aortic surgery in India. He shared anecdotes involving several leading cardiac surgeons and his experience with valves and shunts, and called upon for more advances in aortic surgery.



The theme of the conference was centered around Shaping Better Outcomes with Indigenous Innovations to deliberate on the management of healthcare infrastructure across the subspecialties of cardiothoracic surgery to tailor care for patients on an individual basis and formed on indigenous approaches and innovations that often proves to be the threshold of care in our centers. Combined with experience, knowledge and feedback-a centre in any corner of the country, and extrapolative to the world should be able to deliver cardiovascular surgical care to patients with an established strategy funneling fundamental and translational research from contemporary and collaborative knowledge, experience with patient care and encouragement to academic standards-a triangulated approach for maximal benefit to the patient.

Although this conference was not conducted in person, the organisers sought confidence in 2 principal objectives-to maintain continuum of scientific and academic teaching, and to provide the same scientific feast as deliberations would in a physical setting. Every effort was made to ensure that the computers and broadband connectivity ally the spirit of learning rather than possessing as frontiers of challenge, to maximise interaction, collaboration and deliberation on contemporary issues that one may face in caring for their patients globally.

The theme was arrived at, after some serious considerations on the situation that was looming at-large and precluding the conduct of this conference in the same format as its 66 predecessors- the COVID-19 pandemic. A beleaguerment in reality afflicting most aspects of our personal and professional lives-that at times threatens to impose a

new way of life in practise, did not hamper the spirits of the scientific committee in charting out a course that would focus on most aspects of cardiothoracic sciences, that is of immediate concern in this milieu. The subspecialties of adult cardiovascular, thoracic organ transplant, congenital cardiovascular, airway-lung-esophageal, mechanical circulatory and minimally invasive surgical sciences were charted out with equipoise-dedicating autonomy in their spheres, without the constrictions and jugglery of time and space in itinerary.

To maximise the experience for the attendee, each subspecialty eluded to was given a separate “virtual hall” that would focus on pertinent issues concerning practise in a domain. This hall would host plenary lectures, orations and panel discussions with experts in a domain as per a format found most effective composition combining individual experience, case scenarios, case-in-a-box, techniques and consensus-to deliver the most effective way to take home messages of relevance to reflect in practise.

The conference, on the 27th and 28th of February had seven live-halls running simultaneously in these formats for 8 hours straight. A total of 154 sessions were held across various categories in these halls. The scientific program saw over 230 national and international faculty in attendance and deliberation. A separate scientific program was also curated for other members of the heart team-namely nursing personnel and physician associates, to suitably inform and update medical practise in relevant and evolving spheres of cardiothoracic surgery. 27 sessions were conducted under the initiative undertaken by the Association for nurses and physician assistants, under the leadership of Dr. Balram Airan and Dr. V. Devagourou.





The conference was preceded by two pre-conference workshops conducted at the MS Ramaiah Center for Advanced Learning in Bengaluru. A hands-on workshop on heart transplantation and LVAD implantation was conducted on the 26th of February with a pre-selected delegation of 27 surgeons selected pan-India through a competitive application process. Another workshop on Everting Accidents on Cardiopulmonary bypass was conducted for residents and perfusion-trainees, in an effort to acquaint them with the endless spectrum of pump-patient discord and measures to manage cum avoiding them in practise. Both workshops received overwhelming responses during the application process and on the day of the sessions. Given the physical encumbrance in accommodation with a stringent universal precautions policy in place, both workshops were broadcast online for delegates to benefit from the same on a virtual scale.

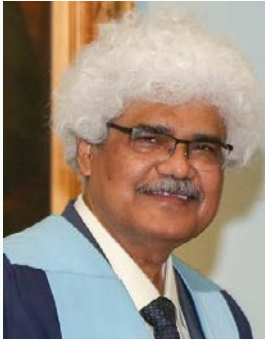
Interaction and deliberation were maximised with online tools for a continuous exchange of ideas from the command centre and the personal space of delegates attending remotely. All in all, the phrontistery served its objective of upholding prudent scientific deliberations as has been the standard, alongside incorporation of untested techniques to achieve this to the greater satisfaction of attendees and safety of the conveners and for whom it is convened!



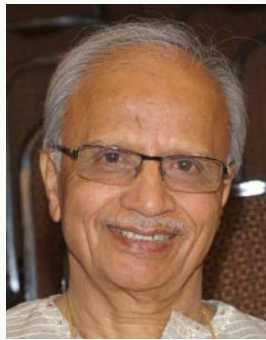


Lifetime Achievement Awards

Every year, the Executive Committee of the Association resolves to recognise contributions in the field of cardiothoracic surgery in India with the Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor is a rare distinction bequeathed to select individuals who have made selfless and stellar contributions to the progress and practice of cardiothoracic surgery. The Awardees for the year 2021 felicitated at the 67th Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons - IACTSCON 2021 - a Virtual Symposium, on the evening of February 27, 2021, during the Inaugural Ceremonies were:



Dr. Bhabatosh Biswas M.Ch



Dr. Sudhir Bhate M.Ch



Dr. Soma Guhatbakurta M.Ch



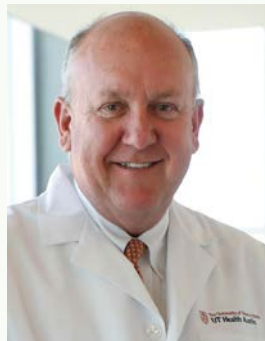
Dr. Jagdish Prasad M.Ch

Honorary Overseas Fellowships

The Honorary Overseas Fellowship is the highest accolade of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons to a surgeon practising outside of India for extraordinary efforts and contributions to cardiothoracic surgery. This year, the Association accorded Honorary Overseas Fellowships to:



*Dr. Robert H. Anderson M.D, Ph.D
United Kingdom*



*Dr. Charles D. Fraser, Jr. M.D
United States of America*



*Dr. Edward P. Chen M.D
United States of America*



*Dr. Patrick Perier M.D
France*



*Dr. Malakh L. Shrestha MBBS, PhD
Germany*



Memorial Orations

The Association continued its patronage of five memorial orations in the virtuous memory and legacy of pioneering efforts of those individuals who helped establish this body to preserve and promulgate the practice and progress of the disciplines of cardiothoracic surgery. Below is the list of orators and the themes around each oration for 2021 :

Category	Orator	Topics
C.S Sadasivan	Dr. Harinder Singh Bedi ^{M.Ch} (Ludhiana)	Innovations in Cardiovascular Surgery
P.K Sen	Dr. Jacob Jamesraj ^{M.Ch} (Chennai)	Simulators and Aids in Cardiac Surgical Training
Meherji P. Mehta	Dr. Abha Chandra ^{M.Ch} (Tirupati)	Surgical Treatment of Tuberculosis past and present - A Tertiary Care Institutional Experience over 25 years
Godrej Karai	Dr. Binay K. Sarkar ^{M.Ch} (Kolkata)	Evolving trends and techniques in managing critical lower limb ischemia
K.N Dastur	Dr. Anshuman Darbari ^{M.Ch} (Rishikesh)	New technology buzzwords: Artificial Intelligence(AI), Deep Learning (DL), Machine Learning (ML):Perceptions, current utility and future for cardiac surgery



Dr. Harinder Singh Bedi
M.Ch



Dr. Jacob Jamesraj
M.Ch



Dr. Abha Chandra
M.Ch



Dr. Binay K. Sarkar
M.Ch



Dr. Anshuman Darbari
M.Ch



Award Paper Presentation 2021

Abstracts were invited from delegates of CTCON 2021 to encourage research in areas of cardiovascular surgery, patient care and translational research. Over 150 abstracts received from across the country were adjudicated by a panel of esteemed physicians with experience in scientific research, the best of which were subsequently shortlisted for award and free paper presentations, along the lines of quality of scientific research and writing. 38 abstracts were selected for free paper presentation and 5 were shortlisted for award paper presentation.

The presenters in the award paper category were selected in a ranking order on the evaluation of their abstracts for quality in clinical translation, impact in patient care and value addition to scientific work. The presentations were assessed for fluency in and knowledge of research methodology, clinical aspects of their respective clinical work, statistical analysis and contemporary work published in literature. The winner of the award paper presentation would be sponsored to attend an international society meeting in person the following year, by the Association.

Winner of award presentation:



Dr. Sufina Shales

(Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences, Mukundapur)

Topic of Research: Comparison of European System for Cardiac Operative Risk Evaluation (EuroSCORE) and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons(STS) score for risk prediction in Indian patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting

Runners up: Dr. Madhur Kumar (Surgical Management & Outcomes Of Extremity Vascular Trauma), Dr. Yashaskar M (On Pump Beating Heart Versus Off Pump Myocardial Revascularization - A Propensity Matched Comparison), Dr. Srikanth Kasturi (Results Of Mitral Valve Repair In 462 Patients In India) and Dr. Nikhil Dixit (A Study Of Fertility And Pregnancy Outcomes In Women After Surgery For Valvular Heart Disease).



IJTC-Awards for 2020

The Indian Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Awards for 2020 were announced by the Editor-in-Chief of IJCTVS, Dr. O.P. Yadava, at the 67th General Body held during IACTSCON 2021. The adjudicating panel consisted of Editor-in-Chief Dr. O.P. Yadava, Associate Editors Dr. Pradeep Narayan and Dr. T. Sunder, Dr. Balram Airan, Dr. K.R. Balakrishnan, and Dr. Srirup Chatterjee (recused for case reports).

Best Original Article 2020

Sajja L R, Sarkar K, Mannam G, Kodali VK, Padmanabhan C, Peter S, Mulay A, Beri P. Graft patency at 3 months after off-and on-pump coronary bypass surgery: a randomized trial. Indian J Thoracic Cardiovasc Surg. 2020;36(2):93-104.

Best Case Report 2020

Bansal N, Ghosh R, Das S, Sankhyan L K, Chatterjee S, Bhattachariya S, Nayak H, Chatterjee S, Bose S. Pulmonary root translocation and Senning procedure for congenitally corrected transposition of great arteries with pulmonary stenosis: a case report. Indian J Thoracic Cardiovasc Surg. 2020; 36(5):533–537

Best Reviewers 2020

- Dr. Abha Chandra M.Ch
- Dr. Sumir Dubey M.Ch



67th Annual General Body

In these unprecedented times, the Association was compelled to convene a General Body of Fellows and Life Members on a virtual yet unconventional basis. The 67th Annual General Body was held on the evening of February 28, 2021 under the chairmanship of the 51st President Dr. V.V. Bashi. The Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Editor presented their respective reports before the General Body. All three presentations were approved by a majority of the sitting quorum.

Dr. Yugal K. Mishra retired as Senior Past President and was felicitated for his services to the Association. Dr. A. Rathinavel and Dr. Sundar Ramanathan retired as Executive Committee Members and were duly thanked for their contributions to the Association through the Executive Committee.

Elections 2021

With physical voting being ruled out, the most critical aspect as part of the annual conference was the conduct of elections for the posts of office-bearers. Nominations were invited in November 2020 for the positions of the Editor-in-Chief, Junior Vice President, and four Executive Committee members to the Association. With no nominations for the post of the Editor-in-Chief, the Executive Committee unanimously proposed that the current editor Dr. O.P. Yadava continue for another term, which he graciously accepted.

The Association elections were replete with challenges in technology adoption. With several test runs during the month before the elections, members voted online for the first time in the history of IACTS to choose their representative through direct mail to an official secure account. Every voting member had to submit a valid government photo ID to establish proof of their identity. The aim of the Executive Committee was to ensure continuity through transparency and fairness. To this effect, the deadline for voting was extended from 6 PM on Feb 27th to noon of Feb 28th. In spite of technical challenges and delays, the secret ballot was securely maintained. The Returning Officer Dr. Krishna Iyer was ably assisted by two members from the General Body - Dr. Prasanna Simha M. Rao and Dr. S.V. Srikrishna - for the conduct and computation of the results. Below is the list of newly elected representatives of the Association:



DR. LOKESWARA R. SAJJA M.Ch
Junior Vice President



DR. GAURAV GOEL DNB
Member



DR. SHAMSHER S. LOHCHAB M.Ch
Member



DR. SIVA MUTHUKUMAR M.Ch
Member



DR. BHUPESH D. SHAH M.Ch
Member

IACTS Conference Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgDAQdYW1ISTwXF5R9X-yMDqgx4pD8nXq>



IACTS SCORE 2021

3rd - 4th April 2021

The 5th rendition of IACTS SCORE was conducted in a new and novel format this year; as a hybrid program on the 3rd and 4th of April 2021. The program made a slight detour from its usual occurrence in the first week of March to April to accommodate the revised dates of examination announced in the looming situation of the coronavirus pandemic.

The hybrid program was conducted with adequate safety, verification and precaution for exam-going residents and headquartered at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Bengaluru, whilst ensuring that the learning experience remains as eclectic and effective as intended. 20 exam-going registrars/ senior residents pursuing the DNB/ M.Ch tracks were invited to take part in the program in-person, while junior residents were invited to take part at the click of a button virtually. Over 400 delegates attended the program remotely.

The two-day phrontistery was replete with clinical case assessments, discussions, didactic-lectures and workshops to help integrate, revise and bolster concepts that form the rock-bottom for a cardiothoracic surgeon. The sole purpose and premise of this program was to ensure that the modes of sustaining education and learning remains steady in the not-so-firm environment we are in. The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons has inched closer to perfecting the art



and science of virtual-learning and education, in a combined effort of technical reliance, subject-matter expertise and reflective feedback.

This year's program focused on fostering clinical examination and skills-for no pandemic should be a transgression in the physician-patient-equation. Three cases with congenital malformations, three cases each with valvar etiology, tuberculous/ empyemic etiology and deteriorating primary correction were discussed as part of clinical case presentation and discussion, to train residents to take on examinations in either format., the objective structured clinical examination or clinical case examination.

The highlight of this year's program was the plenary lecture series- Masterclass by doyens in their fields of practise. Professor Robert H. Anderson who was inducted as an Honorary Overseas Fellow of the Association this year rendered an exemplary Masterclass on Sequential Segmental Analysis in Congenital Heart Diseases. This lecture was very well received and appreciated by the audience.

President K.S Iyer rendered his exposition of the Management of Tetralogy of Fallot in patients across all age groups, with emphasis on the outcomes and issues in correcting this cyanotic condition. Dr. Parvathi U. Iyer rendered her plenary lecture on the Fundamentals and Must-Knows of Paediatric Cardiac Intensive Care for surgeons.





Dr. Arkalgud Sampath Kumar (New Delhi) spoke on the Evolution of Valvar Bioprosthesis in the seven decades of CT Surgery. Dr. Balram Airan (New Delhi) introduced the audience to the indications and modifications in mechanical circulatory support in the 21st century. Dr. Deepak Tempe (New Delhi) provided an orientation to the fundamentals of transesophageal echocardiography for the surgeon in numerous procedures. Dr. Anil Tendolkar (Mumbai) expounded on the fundamentals of chest roentgenograms, its characteristics in health and disease. Dr. Pradeep Narayan (Kolkata) appraised the target audience with art of understanding and decoding clinical trials for their essence and their implications in clinical practise. Dr. Prasanna Simha Mohan Rao (Bengaluru) spoke on the interpretation of electrocardiograms and angiograms with practical demonstration of the latter. Dr. Ali Zamir Khan (London) detailed the methodology along with the crucial and critical steps that must be factored in evaluating patients with lesions of the chest. Dr. Parimala Prasanna Simha (Bengaluru) highlighted the must-knows and integral components of blood gas analysis in the perioperative management of cardiothoracic patients. Dr. D. Karthikeyan highlighted the fundamentals of interpretation of



magnetic resonance and computed tomographic imaging- for the diagnosis and evaluation of lesions in the cardiac patients.

Workshops on instrumentation in cardiothoracic surgery and simulated-conduct of cardiopulmonary bypass were conducted by Dr. Prasanna Simha Mohan Rao, Dr. K.S Iyer, Dr. Shiv Kumar Choudhary (New Delhi) and Dr. C.S Hiremath.

The event concluded with the conduct of the National Residents' Quiz, a landmark event under the ambit of the Residents' Forum.

All in all, this program which was truly For the Residents and importantly By the Residents to every bit has served its mandate in education and learning, and promises to be back in its recension with more vigor and innovation next year, hopefully under better circumstances.





FACULTY

Dr. Robert H. Anderson M.D, Ph.D, Dr. Arkalgud Sampath Kumar M.Ch, Dr. Balram Airan M.Ch, Dr. Sushila Sripad M.Ch, Dr. Suresh G. Rao M.Ch, Dr. Anil Tendolkar M.Ch, Dr. Parvathi U. Iyer MD, Dr. Deepak Tempe MD, Dr. M.A Geelani M.Ch, Dr. P.S Seetharama Bhat M.Ch, Dr. Shiv Kumar Choudhary M.Ch, Dr. Ravindra K. Dewan M.Ch, Dr. Pradeep Narayan FRCS, Dr. S.V Srikrishna M.Ch, Dr. Neelam B. Desai M.Ch, Dr. Ali Zamir Khan FRCS, Dr. Vinayak Shukla M.Ch, Dr. Parimala Prasanna Simha DM, Dr. Sathyaki Nambala M.Ch, Dr. T.S Shivakumara Swamy M.Ch, Dr. D. Karthikeyan MD

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr. Prasanna Simha Mohan Rao M.Ch(Chairman), Dr. Shekhar Rao M.Ch (Treasurer), Dr. C.S Hiremath (Secretary) and members of the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield.



Oral case presentation

Oral case presentation following patient examination were conducted for residents to take part as part of the exam-based curriculum. Three cases of congenital heart disease, once case each of valvular heart disease, redo cardiac and thoracic disease were conducted. Each case was examined by two exam-going residents and presented before national faculty for assessment.

The students were adjudged for their clinical examination, descriptive clinical history of examination, fluency of presentation, extent of subject matter familiarity and cross-examination by faculty. The best presenter would be awarded a pair of surgical loupes.

Winner of Case Presentation:



Dr. Vinay Malhotra
(National Heart Institute, New Delhi)



IACTS Resident's quiz

3rd - 4th April 2021

The IACTS Residents' Quiz-an event of perpetual learning, friendly competition and innovative pedagogy is a landmark event, curated under the ambit of the Residents' Forum of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons.

The 2021 exposition was conducted along the sidelines of the 5th IACTS SCORE, on the evening of April 4th 2021 (Sunday). This was first ever Digital Quiz conducted in the history of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons and saw over 135 members take part.

The Quiz was kept open to members across the country, to ensure an open-exchange of knowledge and ideas. The feedback for the program was positive in this first-attempt, instilling confidence that surgical quizzing could be conducted for all, irrespective of the geographical distances or suboptimal day-to-day environmental factors.

The winners of the quiz were awarded cash prizes . The Quiz Masters were Dr. Prasanna Simha Mohan Rao and Dr. C. S Hiremath.

The Winners of this Quiz were :

1st Prize



Dr. Utkarsh Sanjay Sanghavi
(SSSIHMS, Bengaluru)

2nd Prize



Dr. Sreenivasa G.C
(Apollo Hospitals, Chennai)

3rd Prize



Dr. Tanushree Kar
(AIIMS, New Delhi)

IACTS SCORE -2021 Videos

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgDAQdYW1ISQvy6N9mmhCaL_ATLoxTCKi



IACTS Technocollege 2021 Report

24th - 25th of July

IACTS Technocollege 2021 was organized by the department of CVTS, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on the 24th and 25th of July. The event was organized in online format on Zoom Platform.

The 2-day Conference, which primarily focused on the senior residents and young cardiac, vascular, and Thoracic surgeons, consisted of 10 sessions. The session included Minimally invasive cardiac surgery, Aortic Root intervention, Transplantation in India, Approach to Type A aortic dissection, Thoracic frontiers, 3 pediatric cardiac surgery sessions, and, for the first time, 2 exclusive sessions which focussed on COVID-19 and the effects of a pandemic on cardiac surgery. The speakers for the session were prominent faculty from both India and overseas. Each session had an appointed discussant who are experts in the field. There were also additional expert panelists for each session.

The organising secretary Dr. Sabarinath Menon and Organising Treasurer Dr. Vivek Pillai welcomed all the delegates and gave an overview of the conference.. The sessions started on time at 9:00 a.m. All the sessions were well attended and had a vibrant discussion with panellists, discussants and faculty from India and abroad.

The second day of the conference started with a condolence meet for Dr. Sundar Ramanathan, senior member of the fraternity from GKNM Hospital, Coimbatore. Dr. Hiremath C.S, Secretary of IACTS, organized the condolence meet. Dr. Chandrasekhar and Dr. Muralidharan, colleagues of Dr. Sundar for more than 2 decades, presented their eulogy for Dr. Sundar. This was followed by condolence message from IACTS members. The family members of Dr. Sundar kindly consented to the request to take part in the function held by the Association to pay obeisance to the life and spirit of Dr. Sundar and celebrate his life as a kind physician, generous human, cherished colleague and an impactful teacher.





The Academic session on Day 2 started at 9:00 a.m. Like Day 1, all the sessions were well attended, and a very vibrant discussion session followed all sessions. At the end of all sessions, the organizing secretary Dr. Sabarinath Menon, presented the Vote of thanks, followed by the National Anthem.



Delegates from over 150 cities, including Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Batu Caves, Bloemfontein, Cardiff, Colombo, Dubai, Dhaka, Ho Chi Minh, Jaffna, London, Riyadh, Khobar, Sharjah, Yangon took part. The Organizing Committee would like to mention its gratitude to the IACTS Executive committee to provide them with the opportunity to organize the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgDAQdYW1ISTMX7IyKivTp6JkyfFz4rOM>



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. G. B. Parulkar MS, FACS
Mumbai

Dr. Gurukumar Bhalchandra Parulkar M.S, 12th President of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons, passed away on May 4, 2021. Dr. Parulkar's legacy endures today through the numerous trainees and fellows who are today Chiefs, Professors and Directors of Cardiothoracic Surgery across the country and the world. His legacy can be traced down to over a hundred cardiothoracic surgeons in practise today. Likewise, his impact on the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons remains hard to quantify-during his years of service to the league as Executive Committee Member, Member of the Editorial Board, Secretary and then President.

His influence on the shaping and sustenance of our Association was so profound that his contributions and association with the IACTS lasted over 55 years. The importance of surgical leadership and scholarship was equally prominent in his life-that several of his mentees and theirs followed in Dr. GBP's footsteps to lead the Association in subsequent years.

Dr. Parulkar, fondly known as GBP to his students and colleagues, was respected as a teacher-par-excellence, caregiver and mentor. He rendered himself as a pillar of compassion and healing to those who needed it the most, whether known or unknown. He pioneered several surgical techniques much ahead of contemporary work around the world with deep hypothermic circulatory arrest for the correction of complex congenital and aortic diseases. The Association was extremely dear to him and he continued to transform the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons through his leadership and focused on transforming the Association into an international, educational and research-oriented organisation that it is today. His mentorship will continue to have a lasting effect on the bearing of our Association for years to come.

Having lost one of the greatest stalwarts in our cherished profession, the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons observed a seven-day mourning period, following a condolence and remembrance meet with Dr. Parulkar's family members and students.



Still from the condolence meeting held on May 6, 2021 with Dr. Parulkar's family members including daughter Dr. Amala Rege and son-in-law Dr. Vivek Rege (1st row, 2nd from left) and son Dr. B.G Parulkar (3rd row, 2nd from left). (Inset: Dr. Hiremath, Dr. and Mrs. Rege, Dr. Tendolkar, Dr. Chaukar, Dr. Patwardhan, Dr. Iyer, Dr. Joshi, Dr. Parulkar and Dr. Pardanani).



DR. N. NAGARAJAN M.Ch

Dr. Nagarajan was retired HOD of CTVS Dept MMC and RGGGH, Chennai. He retired from the Tamil Nadu government service in November 2017. A great teacher with more than 20 years of teaching experience and tireless worker was friendly and honest as a person. He will always be remembered as a good and helpful companion always. We both organized the IACTS Thoracic CME in Nov. 2017 (when he got retired) as Chairman and Secretary. He is survived with his wife, married son and daughter with grandchildren. We lost our legend in Tamil Nadu cardiothoracic surgeons' fraternity. He was a great teacher and good surgeon who was the father of our department that he nurtured and trained more than 20 batches of CTVS postgraduates in MMC. He succumbed to the viral disease on the night of 21 st of May, 2021. May his soul Rest in Peace.

Courtesy : Dr. Siva Muthukumar M.Ch, Incumbent Executive Committee Member, Senior Consultant-Apollo Hospitals, Chennai



DR. REVI KAMALASEKAR RAJVIRA M.Ch

Prof Revi Kamalasekar Rajvira served as Head of Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Madurai Medical College, Stanley Medical College and Madras Medical College. He was a senior member of our association. Dr. Rajvira served in the Tamil Nadu Government and held the post of Professor of CT surgery in Madras Medical College. He was an excellent surgeon and looked after his patients very well. Professor Revi was a jovial and easily approachable person. He is survived by his wife and two sons. He left for his heavenly abode on 25 th of May, 2021 after a battle with the ongoing viral pandemic.

Courtesy : Dr. Siva Muthukumar M.Ch, Incumbent Executive Committee Member, Senior Consultant-Apollo Hospitals, Chennai



DR. S.M.R.G KRISHNAMOORTHY M.Ch

Professor S.M.R.G Krishnamoorthy was one of the most respected senior professors in Tamil Nadu. He retired as Professor of CT Surgery at Madras Medical College, Chennai. He was a very knowledgeable person and encouraged the youngsters to take up challenging cases. He was generous with praise when a surgery went off well. An able administrator and commanded respect. He is survived by his son, who is a neurosurgeon in Madurai.

Courtesy : Dr. Siva Muthukumar M.Ch, Incumbent Executive Committee Member, Senior Consultant-Apollo Hospitals, Chennai

**DR. CHITRALEKHA M.S., M.Ch**

An eminent and bold lady cardiothoracic surgeon of our fraternity left for heavenly abode on 26.04.2021 at the age of 58 yrs. She succumbed to Covid - liver failure. She was a voracious reader of books and did her MBBS at Coimbatore Medical College (batch of 1980-81), M.S. (General Surgery) at Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai and M.Ch. (CTS) at Madras Medical College, Chennai. She spent her special training at CMC Vellore and New Delhi. She served in TN govt. medical service for a short time and then moved to private sector. She worked as an Associate professor at SRMIMS and Venkateswara IMSR near Chennai. She had a short abroad stint last year in Saudi Arabia. She has had many accolades, publications and presentations in various organisations and conferences. She is survived by her affectionate husband Mr. Giri, an income tax officer and two daughters (elder a dentist and younger a law student).

Courtesy : Dr. A. Sivaraman M.Ch, Professor of CTS and Deputy Superintendent, Institute of CTS, Madras Medical College, Chennai

**DR GANGADHAR MALLAPPA KUDRI M.S., M.Ch**

Dr. Kudri retired as Medical Superintendent of Princess Krishnajammanni TB and CD Hospital, a heritage hospital of Mysuru established in 1921. He was born in a village near Gadag of Karnataka in 1954 and completed his MBBS from Bellary Medical college, MS from KMC Hubli and M.Ch in CTVS from Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bangalore.

After passing out of Jayadeva in 1991 and working in several general hospitals he moved to PK TB and CD Hospital, Mysuru in 1994. He worked there in various positions uninterruptedly for 27 years leading a one-man army in Department of Thoracic Surgery. He was the only thoracic surgeon for 8-9 districts in and around Mysuru until recently. His untiring efforts, atience, perseverance has brought the hospital to what it is today, a well-equipped, state of the art, modern facility in the service of economically challenged sections of the society. At a time when most CTVS Surgeons chose cardiac surgery after passing M.Ch he had taken up thoracic surgery and had excelled in that field. He was a passionate and versatile thoracic surgeon. He would tell his students that thoracic surgery was more satisfying and thrilling than cardiac surgery. He motivated many of the MS/ DNB students posted to his hospital to take up thoracic surgery. He was a simple, calm, and cool, polite, unperturbed humble surgeon. He was a man of less words but very appreciative of others work. man of less words. Though he retired in 2014, on superannuation the Government of Karnataka utilized his expertise by seek his continued services as the chief of Thoracic surgery till the very end. All private hospitals in Mysuru had availed his expertise. Recently he had recovered from Covid infection but succumbed to the disease he was suffering for the past 2 years at the age of 67 on 2 nd of May, 2021.

Courtesy : Prof. P.S. Seetharama Bhat, M.S., M.Ch. D.N.B, Prof. of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, Head of Unit 8, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru



DR. SUNDAR RAMANATHAN M.Ch, FRCS (CTh)

Dr. Sundar Ramanathan, fondly called Sundar, was born in Coimbatore on the 27th December 1963. The vibrant and spirited life which was always full of enthusiasm came to an end around noon on the 21st July 2021 shocking the entire cardiac surgical community. He was a brave heart and fought the Emperor of all maladies to the last bit.

Dr. Sundar had his school education in his mother tongue Tamil till the 10th standard. His love for Tamil was unmatched and was an eloquent speaker. I used to be in awe at his oratory skills and stage presence during his school and college days. After finishing his medical school in Coimbatore he joined the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at G.Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital (GKNMH) as a medical officer. His initial days of working with Dr S Muralidharan inspired him to choose Cardiothoracic Surgery as his career. He did his M.Ch from Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute, Trivandrum and joined GKNMH back for a short stint before proceeding to the United Kingdom (UK) for higher training. He was one of the few early surgeons to complete the FRCS, Cardiothoracic Specialty boards. The young bright Sundar returned to India and rejoined GKNMH as a consultant in 2001.

As a surgeon, Sundar was very meticulous, methodical and systematic. He was an extremely keen learner and a great teacher. He always had a passion for Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and was the first to perform an Arterial Switch Operation at our centre. He was a good team player and played his role to perfection. He was very compassionate to his patients and fellow team members. His great sense of humour needs a special mention. He was a stickler for protocols and documentation.

My association with Sundar dates back from school days, more than four decades. We did a one-year residency in Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry where we got really close. Since 2002 we have been together as colleagues. Sundar was one of the pillars of the department and was part of all the activities at GKNMH. In recognition of his outstanding contribution, the Institution bestowed on him the highest award, the Distinguished Service Award in 2017. He also served the Indian Association for Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons (IACTS) as its executive member from 2018-2021.

Dr Ramanathan, his father was a professor at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and his mother Mrs. Sivagami, a homemaker. His sister is a professor as well. When he was doing his MS in General Surgery, he met Ms. Ponni, and they got married. Ponni is a Gynecologist. They are blessed with two lovely daughters. Dharshana the elder one is a doctor, now married and settled in the UK. Madhurya, the younger one did her graduation in commerce and Masters in international business from Auckland, New Zealand. She got married recently to a bright young doctor doing his residency in the United States of America (USA).



Sundar and I had a unique association at three-generation levels. Dr Ramanathan and my father were colleagues at the TNAU; my elder son and Darshana were born a few days apart, grew up together and went to the same school. He always referred to me as his brother, even in his last conversation with me.

For little more than a year Sundar fought a valiant battle against a bad disease. He never gave up and when he realized that he was losing the battle, he was realistic and accepted it gracefully with a smile. In Tamil there is a saying that we should have a heart that can take on any adversity and he stood testimony to it. One thing that I would like to specially mention is the positive attitude and grit he exhibited till the last minute. The clarity with which he approached the whole thing that unfolded an year ago and how he went on with his work was just a lesson he taught all of us. His demise is a great loss to me personally, to our institution and our fraternity.

I end with this quote from the Gita –

**na jaayate' mriyate' vaa kadaachin naayam bhuthva bhavithaa na bhooyah:
/ ajo nithyah saasvato'yam puraano na hanyate' hanyamaane' sareere'**

The Spirit is neither born nor does it die at any time. It does not come into being or cease to exist. It is unborn, eternal, permanent, and primeval. The Spirit is not destroyed when the body is destroyed. (2.20) – Srimad Bhagavath Gita.

He lives forever in our hearts – prayers.

*Courtesy : Dr. P. Chandrasekar DNB, Former Executive Committee Member (2017-2020),
Chairman and Senior Consultant-Cardiothoracic Surgery, GKNMH, Coimbatore.*



Upcoming Events

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 all scientific programs for the academic year 2021-2022 as Virtual (Online) events.

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

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 organizers.

1. **IACTS Cardiac CME and Midterm GBM**

Madras Medical Mission, Chennai

18th - 19th September, 2021

Organising Secretary: Dr. Anbarasu Mohanraj M.Ch

<https://www.iacts.org/content/iacts-ctcme-midterm-gbm-2021>

2. **IACTS Thoracic CME**

20th November 2021

Manipal Hospital, Dwarka, New Delhi

Organising Secretary: Dr. Satinder K. Jain M.C

<https://www.iacts.org/content/iacts-thoracic-cme-2021>



Further details of the events will be communicated on the IACTS website and by email to all members.

IACTS MASTERCLASS Series

The IACTS Masterclasses have resumed from June 19, 2021 as a Virtual Webinar Series at 1830 hrs IST every Saturday.

The schedule and program details will be communicated to all members and notified on the IACTS Website at www.iacts.org/content/masterclass



Brought to you by

Dr. C.S Hiremath M.Ch

Secretary

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