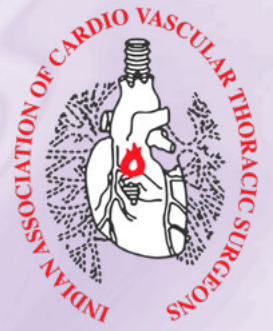


*Volume 70 January 2023*



*Upcoming Events*

**IACTSCON 2023**  
**Elections 2023**  
**IACTS SCORE 2023**

*Recent Events*

**IACTS Thoracic CME 2022**

# IACTS

**NEWSLETTER**

*[www.iacts.org](http://www.iacts.org)*

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# IACTS Executive Committee

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**Dr. Zile Singh Meharwal**  
President



**Dr. C. S. Hiremath**  
Secretary



**Dr. Lokeswara Rao Sajja**  
Senior Vice President



**Dr. Manoj Durairaj**  
Junior Vice President



**Dr. Prabhatha Rashmi**  
Joint Secretary and Treasurer



**Dr. O. P. Yadava**  
Editor-in-Chief





**Dr. Bashi V. Velayudhan**  
Senior Past President



**Dr. Krishna Subramony Iyer**  
Junior Past President



**Dr. Gaurav Goel**  
Member



**Dr. Bhupesh D. Shah**  
Member



**Dr. Shamsheer Singh Lohchab**  
Member



**Dr. Siva Muthukumar**  
Member



**Dr. Alok Mathur**  
Member



**Dr. B. R. Jagannath**  
Member



# Secretary's Message



I request every member update your member profiles immediately, if you haven't done so already.

Through this year, we will meet at a vibrant city, a temple-town and a hi-tech city in search of upgrading clinical skills in cardiovascular-thoracic surgery. Be sure to read more about this in the [Announcements](#) section of this newsletter.

As always, for any questions/feedback, please reach out to me on [secretary@iacts.org](mailto:secretary@iacts.org).

Hope to see you all in Coimbatore soon!

Dr. C. S. Hiremath  
*Secretary - IACTS*

Dear Members,

Warm greetings for 2023!

The momentum is fast increasing for our annual conference, IACTSCON 2023, to be held from 16th to 19th February, 2023.

The carefully planned scientific programme promises to dish up conversations from grassroots to innovations. I believe every surgeon must constantly evolve their technique to improve surgical outcomes by mitigating the risks. The Memorial Orations to be delivered at IACTSCON 2023 promise to be thought-provoking and rich in knowledge bites. The annual conference is an open space for exchanging ideas, diverse experiences, and expertise in our sub-specialty. It also affords a confluence of thought to enrich the Association's functioning.

During this time, we will see new faces inducted into the Executive Committee of the IACTS - a junior vice president and two executive committee members. The voting process is fairly simple and is done through our official website as demonstrated in this video.

Watch the video here: <<https://bit.ly/3kalj4x>>



# From the President's Desk



Dear Friends,

Hope you all are doing good in health and spirit and busy with clinical and academic work!

As we move to 2023, I hope and wish that we all remain healthy and continue to serve our patients and society to the best of our efforts. The last one year has certainly been a good year and we could hold physical meetings and interact with each other face to face. The recently conducted Thoracic CME in Delhi was a great success and was attended by a large number of delegates from across the country. The faculty was excellent and everyone benefited from the CME.

The Executive body is working very hard for the welfare of the members of our Association including improving the contents of our academic meetings, workshops and fellowship programs for our trainees and young surgeons. Recently, we had the opportunity to have a meeting with the Executive Director of the National Board of Examinations. The IACTS Executive Body presented the proposals for amendments in the curriculum of post graduate training of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery, including inclusion of wire skills, more hands-on experience, mandatory wet labs and national conferences. We also discussed the importance of uniform teaching and training across various teaching institutes in the country, both private and public. The Executive Director

assured that all our suggestions will be discussed at the appropriate level.

The IACTS Database is running smoothly and more institutions are joining the database. Data of 12,835 patients has already been entered in the Database. The preliminary data will be presented in the upcoming Annual Conference in Coimbatore. I will again encourage everyone to join the Database so that we can have an actual National database.

The quality of contents of our Indian Journal of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery (IJTCVS) is improving continuously. Editor-in-Chief, Dr O.P. Yadava is working very hard to ensure that the journal has good scientific content and is published on time. I want to congratulate and thank him for a great job.

As you all are aware, the election will be held online. You must have all received the mail from the Secretary's office regarding the process of voting, which is very simple and smooth. Please check and update your credentials on the website. I encourage everyone to participate in the election. I wish good luck to all the contestants who have applied for elections for the executive body and venue for 2026 Annual Conference.

I congratulate the organizing teams who have been allotted the upcoming CMEs and Technocollege. My congratulations also to those who have been awarded the Orations.

The preparations for the upcoming Annual conference in Coimbatore are in full swing. The organizing team is working very hard and doing its best to make sure that this turns out to be a great scientific and cultural feast for all the participants. A large number of International faculty is expected to participate and contribute to the scientific contents of the conference.

I wish you all a great year ahead and hope to see you all in Coimbatore!

Dr. Zile S. Meharwal  
53rd President  
Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons



# Editor's Musings



Dear Friends,

A new dawn, a new beginning.....and I bring you warm greetings from the editorial office for the Gregorian New Year 2023. Hope it brings you health and bliss, and all that you long for.

I also bring you a pledge from the entire Editorial team that we shall work tirelessly to take our IJTC onwards on its northern trajectory. Having said the mundane, let me acknowledge in the same breath that though we may have successfully got Pubmed included, by our diligently complying and subscribing to their methodological rigour, we are still woefully short on scholarship, and the quality of science that we are dishing out, is at best “Mediocre” – with a capital ‘M’.

Please start documenting, collecting and collating your own data, in which most of you abound. More enterprising may like to set up meta-analyses and systematic reviews, besides taking a dig at evaluating and interpreting the national database, which is now taking shape. So, get that inertia off and start moving, that is my plea to all of you.

Another issue that I seek your verdict – Are you happy with the cover design? Suggestions for change are solicited. Even critical comments for the layout, font, article types, newsprint/paper, etc. are most welcome.

Friends, these, and many more, are the issues where I seek indulgence and leadership from all of you. Lead the way forward for I seem to have exhausted my vault of innovative ideas.

Looking forward anxiously, and excitedly, to hearing from you.

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



# A Roundup of Recent Events

## IACTS Thoracic CME 2022



The Thoracic CME of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons (IACTS) was held at the National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), New Delhi, on 17th and 18th December 2022.

The Organising Chairman for the meeting was Dr. Ravindra Kumar Dewan, Director NITRD, Organising Secretary Dr. Pallavi Purwar, Assistant Professor CTVS, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, and Joint Organising Secretary Dr. Saaransh Bansal, Specialist Grade II NITRD. A local Scientific Organising Committee comprising thoracic surgeons from all the major Institutions of Delhi-NCR were involved in planning the event.

Several faculty members in the departments of chest, microbiology, pathology and radiology contributed towards making this event a huge success. Subject experts from all over the country as well as overseas shared the latest insights both from published literature and personal experiences. The 12-hour long scientific deliberations covered areas such as chest wall (trauma, congenital abnormalities and surgical techniques for reconstruction), mediastinum (Thymus, posterior mediastinal masses and surgical techniques), lung infections (TB, COVID, hydatid, post tuberculosis sequelae and their surgical

procedures including both older techniques and latest surgical advances), non infectious lung diseases ( COPD, bullous lung diseases), video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) (basics to complex procedures), empyema (early, late as well as complex empyema and various surgical procedures to address these issues), lung cancer (staging, case selection, stage-wise surgical management as well as recent advances and newer management strategies and controversies), congenital lung diseases, tracheal resections and reconstruction, chylothorax, intercostal drains, postoperative care and complications following lung surgery.

The scientific deliberations were interactive and well-appreciated by senior faculty members, early career faculty as well as cardiothoracic surgeons from all across the country. The programme had nearly 160 participants present physically and several joining the deliberations virtually. A unique quiz was conducted on Day 1 with participants from Kerala, Karnataka as well as Delhi NCR. The clinical-based questions with representative imaging provided a unique opportunity for experts as well as students to discuss possible approaches to management of cases that are dealt with routinely by thoracic surgeons across the country. The discussions provided a unique opportunity for participants, hosts, judges as well as delegates to learn together.







The Chief Guest for the 2-day scientific programme was Mr. Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Guest of Honour was Dr Minu Bajpai, Executive Director, National Board of Examinations.

An important session of the CME is the prestigious RC Jain Oration held every year. Dr R C Jain, an eminent thoracic surgeon, was the founder director of NITRD. By his painstaking efforts, in 1991, the Institute was declared autonomous under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. Dr. Jain was largely instrumental in building the basic foundational vision of the Institute as a center of tertiary care in respiratory diseases. The RC Jain Oration is a recognition and celebration of his contributions to cardiothoracic surgery.

The RC Jain Oration 2022 was presented by awardee Dr Bhabatosh Biswas. Dr. Biswas was felicitated by the Chief Guest in the presence of IACTS President Dr Z S Meharwal, Secretary Dr C S Hiremath, senior IACTS members, and eminent thoracic surgeons like Dr Rajan Santosham, and host Dr Ravindra Kumar Dewan, Director NITRD.

At the end of the CME, feedback from the attendees was sought. Several congratulated the IACTS as a body for offering opportunity to young dynamic thoracic as well as cardiothoracic surgeons to both participate and learn at this prestigious event. Secretary Dr. Hiremath congratulated Team NITRD for a well-conducted CME.



# Announcements

## *Elections 2023*

The stage is all set for the election to the Offices of the Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons (IACS).

Fellows and Life Members of the Association will cast their vote online to elect  
A Junior Vice President,  
Two Executive Committee Members, and  
The Venue for the 72nd Annual Meeting, IACTSCON 2026

Voting will be open on Friday, February 17, 2023 from 9 AM to 7 PM IST through the official website.

Candidates' messages are presented separately in Election Bulletin 2023 for Fellows and Life Members to make an informed choice.

The following are the nominations received for the post of the Junior Vice President, listed in the order of receipt of candidature.

Prof. Dr. Raghupati  
Dr. Harinder Singh Bedi  
Dr. B.R. Ravindra Setty  
Dr. A.G. Jayakrishnan  
Dr. Rajan Sethuratnam  
Dr. Devagourou Velayudam

The following are the nominations received for the post of Executive Committee Member, listed in the order of receipt of candidature.

Dr. Prasanna Simha Mohan Rao  
Dr. Shailes Kunnanattil  
Dr. Debasis Das  
Dr. Zubair Rashid  
Dr. Subhendu Sekhar Mahapatra  
Dr. Abhijeet M. Dashetwar

The following bids have been received by proposed organising teams for hosting the 72nd Annual Meeting of the Association, **IACTSCON 2026**. You must choose one venue.

<b>Proposed Organising Secretary</b>	<b>Location</b>
Dr. Debasis Das	Kolkata
Dr. C.S. Hiremath	Bengaluru
Dr. Bijoy Kutty	Mumbai
Dr. Praveen Varma P.K	Kochi



## Memorial Orations for 2023

The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons has been conducting five memorial orations at our annual conference, IACTSCON.

Applications by self-nomination were invited from members of the Association who have made distinguished contributions in areas of academia, research, or patient care in cardiothoracic surgery. After reviews and discussions, the Executive Committee of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons (IACTS) conferred the Memorial Orations on the following applicants.

Name of Oration	Subspecialty	Awardee	Topic
C.S Sadasivan Memorial Oration	Cardiovascular Surgery	Dr. Prasanna Simha Mohan Rao	Lifting the Veil Off Valve Repairs and Auto-pericardial Reconstruction
P.K Sen Memorial Oration	Cardiovascular Surgery	Dr. Julius Punnen	Managing end-stage heart and lung diseases
Meherji P. Mehta Memorial Oration	Thoracic Surgery	Dr. Rajashekara Reddy H.V	The risk appetite of surgeons
Godrej S. Karai Memorial Oration	Thoracic/ Vascular Surgery	Dr. Rajiv Santosham	Enhanced Recovery of Thoracic Surgery (ERATS)
K.N Dastur Memorial Oration	Cardiovascular Surgery	Dr. Jacob Jamesraj	Homograft Banking – Yesterday, Today, and Morrow!

## Lifetime Achievement Awards for 2023

The Lifetime Achievement Award is accorded to a senior surgeon of the CTVS community whose contributions to the discipline of cardiothoracic surgery and dedication to patient care is unparalleled. This decoration is to recognise the vision and the impact resulting from the work carried out by the senior faculty deemed deserving of this honour at the highest levels of conduct and excellence.

The Executive Committee of the Association deliberated over the several nominations received from the general body and arrived at its decision. The following are the distinguished cardiovascular-thoracic surgeons who are conferred the IACTS Lifetime Achievement Award this year.

- Dr. Balram Airan
- Dr. K.R Balakrishnan
- Dr. Dasari Prasad Rao
- Dr. Colin John

The Awardees will be felicitated at the Annual Meeting IACTSCON 2023 at Coimbatore during the inaugural event on February 16, 2023.



## ***Honorary Overseas Fellows for 2023***

Honorary Overseas Fellow is accorded to a senior surgeon of the CTVS community whose contributions to the discipline of cardiothoracic surgery and dedication to patient care is unparalleled. They are ordinarily elected by the Executive Committee and conferred a Certificate of Fellowship.

The following are the distinguished cardiovascular-thoracic surgeons who are conferred the Honorary Overseas Fellow.

Dr. Christopher W. Baird  
Dr. Jaishankar Raman  
Prof. Dr. Kisaburo Sakamoto  
Dr. Sivakumar Sivalingam

These surgeons will be felicitated and inducted at the Annual Meeting IACTSCON 2023 at Coimbatore during the inaugural event on February 16, 2023.

## ***CMEs in 2023***

IACTS CMEs are the lifeblood of surgeons and residents to stay abreast of current practices and developments in cardiovascular-thoracic surgery. Apart from the annual conference and the IACTS SCORE, every year, the Association conducts three regional CMEs in support of knowledge dissemination in academics and research related to CTVS.

The enduring series, usually held every May/June (IACTS Technocollege CME), September (IACTS Cardiac CME), and November (IACTS Thoracic CME), facilitates enhancing clinical skills and hands-on learning through workshops, panel discussions, and lectures. It is also an opportunity for the organising team to showcase its leadership and organisational capabilities.

The Executive Committee of the IACTS invited applications for the year 2023 from heads of departments/ institutions to conduct an IACTS CME at their centre. The applications received were reviewed by the Executive Committee and a final decision was made.

The following are the CME venue awardees.

IACTS Technocollege CME 2023 - Ahmedabad

IACTS Cardiac CME & Midterm GBS - Velammal Medical College & Speciality Hospital, Madurai

IACTS Thoracic CME - Government General and Chest Hospital Erragadda, Hyderabad

*More information on these CMEs will be available in the upcoming newsletters.*



## *Upcoming Events*

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### **IACTSCON 2023**

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

February 16–19, 2023

Le Meridien, Coimbatore

[www.iactscon2023.com](http://www.iactscon2023.com)

Organising Chairperson: Dr. Muralidharan

Organising Secretary: Dr. S Thiagarajamurthy

### **IACTS SCORE 2023**

March 4-5, 2023

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

Organising Secretary: Dr. C. S. Hiremath

Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/3GAKMwN>



## Obituaries

The Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons mourns the passing away of the following members of our fraternity. They will be remembered and missed for their service to humankind through the practice of cardiothoracic surgery. We pray for the bereaved to find the strength to cope with their loss.

### Dr. Ashok Shetty

Dr Ashok Bhojaraj Shetty, Cardio-thoracic & Vascular Surgeon in Mangalore, Karnataka lost the battle with colonic malignancy and passed away on 10th August, 2022 at the age of 66. A native of Kaup in Udupi district of Karnataka, Dr Ashok Shetty graduated in Medicine from Karnatak Medical College, Hubli and secured his M.S. in General Surgery from the same institution. He did his M.Ch in CTVS from Kasturba Medical College, Manipal studying under Professor P. Shatapathy. Thereafter, he travelled to England where he trained for 4 years. On his return, he joined Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore and served there from 1994 till his demise in 2022, as Consultant and rising to the post of Professor. He was a versatile surgeon skilled in Cardiac, General Thoracic as well as Vascular surgery. A soft spoken man, he was a keen photographer and billiards player. He leaves behind his wife Dr Meenaxi, a Physician, 2 children and a granddaughter, a legion of grateful and disconsolate patients and a void that will be difficult to fill.



*Courtesy: Dr Madhav Kamath MS, MCh, Prof . Cardiothoracic surgery, KMC Hospital, Ambedkar Circle, Mangalore*

### Dr. Krishna Manohar

As an undergraduate, Krishna Manohar was curious about the empty Sree Chitra Tirunal Medical Centre which he passed every day on his way to the Trivandrum Medical College and the sudden stirrings in the silent building. When he learnt that the Medical Centre was being recast as a super speciality Centre his curiosity turned into dreams of the day he would enter its portals and emerge as a super specialist in cardiac surgery. Sugar plums danced in his head to the amusement of friends! The dream however came true and Manohar completed the residency requirements, passed the examinations and obtained the coveted M.Ch degree in 1988 from Sree Chitra Institute. He faced no obstacles in the highly competitive entrance examination, demanding years of residency or the tough examination for M.Ch. He carried his knowledge and teaching skills lightly and was ever ready to assist fellow students in addressing their academic and even personal difficulties. He was among the few students who took interest in the ongoing project on developing the Chitra heart valve and became the first assistant in the historic implantation of the Chitra valve in a human patient in December, 1990. It was typical of him to earn the grateful friendship of the first patient, Murali of Thrissur and turn his yearly “follow-up” into a celebrant reunion of the patient and the team who carried out the operation even 32 years later. Patients, nurses, doctors, students and non-teaching staff respected and loved him for not only his superb surgical competence but also for his simplicity and cheerful readiness to help.



As his interest in paediatric cardiac surgery became passionate he proceeded to Chennai where he spent the initial two years in the Madras Medical Mission with his friend and reputed surgeon Dr Kurien followed by several years in Dr KM Cherian's Heart Institute under the guidance of Dr Cherian himself.

Though we were scattered hither and thither after our Chitra years, the hand of destiny brought us together again in 2014. The newly set up Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital (SSSH) in New Raipur was a pioneering initiative taken by the Trust beyond South India under the leadership of Mr C Sreenivas. He asked me to visit the hospital and discuss the possibilities for fresh approaches in patient care and research. As the capital of a new state, New Raipur had attracted many new institutions including AIIMS and Apollo Hospital, which were much larger than SSS hospitals. Sreenivas was concerned about the viability of the infant institute in terms of the availability of faculty and even patients. We discussed these issues inconclusively that evening. Then I remembered a



powerful exhortation of Bhagawan Sathya Sai Baba many years earlier to a small group including Dr RM Varma of NIMHANS, Mr Ramakrishna of L&T and myself to build hospitals for children with congenital anomalies of the heart. He knew these anomalies were correctable by surgery which would restore a normal life span for the unfortunate children. It was their birth right and doctors were obliged to help them. Money is not the problem, what is in short supply is compassion, Baba admonished.

I shared these remarks with Sreenivas and we hit upon a new idea – SSSH at New Raipur as a hospital exclusively for children with heart disease. It would be unique in India and a boon for needy children. We were delighted but wondered whether the hospital could get a competent surgeon who would limit himself to cardiac surgery in children. We didn't have to wait long as the name of Krishna Manohar who was in Chennai flashed through our minds. He would be our man of destiny at SSSH in New Raipur and would provide leadership in making it a hospital for children with heart disease. Fortunately, Manohar accepted the offer and quickly put together a compact team of himself, a cardiologist, anaesthetist, and a Nurse Supervisor for the operating rooms. Open heart surgery on a regular basis for the correction of complex cardiac anomalies in children including infants began within weeks. The excellent results and no billing for services were hailed by a grateful public. This model drew the attention of neighbouring states, which invited SSSH to replicate similar institutions in Palwal (Haryana) and Kharghar (Maharashtra). In a decade ending in November 2022, the three SSS hospitals carried out over 22000 open heart and intervention procedures, the great majority for complex heart anomalies, with excellent results.

Manohar's leadership in setting up a highly successful programme in New Raipur for the correction of congenital heart anomalies and its replication in Palwal and Kharghar evoked admiration and disbelief! His interest in heart surgery in children sprouted in Chitra, grew in Dr Cherian's hospital and shot up into a majestic tree with rapid ramifications in New Raipur. His leadership potential suddenly found full expression in the SSS family, which became his single-minded mission. The monthly statistics of the major procedures done in SSS hospitals with excellent results, more hospitals in the pipeline, and the speed of progress are astonishing.

The spread of cardiac hospitals for children is an idea whose time has come. The spread continues and seems unstoppable as people become aware that children with congenital anomalies of the heart can be restored to good health and normal lifespan by surgery. Krishna Manohar was a pioneer in this restorative mission with thorough professional knowledge matched by masterly skill. Above all, he was an embodiment of goodness who, in Bhatrighari's words, enshrine goodness in heart, word and deeds; please the three worlds by doing good to others; extol even a particle of good qualities in others and find consummate happiness in their heart of hearts.

It is a sad privilege to pay homage to my student, colleague, and dear friend, Krishna Manohar.

*Courtesy: Padma Vibushan Dr. M S Valiathan, National Research Professor (Govt of India) Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal.*



Brought to you by

**Dr. C.S Hiremath *MCh***

Secretary

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