

AND CARDIAC CME 2025



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IACATS

Newsletter



iacts Postgraduate Rendezvous for Exam Preparation



iPREP by IACATS

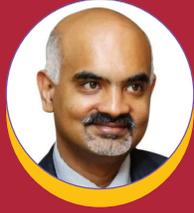


INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF CARDIOVASCULAR AND THORACIC SURGEONS

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FROM THE DESK OF YOUR SECRETARY

The journey that started with blindfolds in miry clay has seen solid ground and calm seas! The sail is now smooth powered by your good will and enthusiastic participation the proof of which we experienced at the midterm general body meeting so amply that it effervesced into the warmth which drives us all at the executive committee!

Albeit a small gathering the midterm general body meeting was filled with a myriad questions and satisfying answers and an air of appreciation and encouragement that was so very helpful! The international journal subscription was talked about and many are now participating and benefitting from this which we have paid for from the association funds. Just this last month I provided access to 70 additional members!

Three new orations were proposed and ratified by the mid term GB. They are the Dr Solomon Victor Memorial Oration to be held in the CT CME, the Dr Mathuram Santosham Memorial Oration to be held in the Thoracic CME and the Dr K M Cherian Memorial Oration to be held in the Congenital section of the IACTSCON. They would be presented for final ratification at the main GBM in Mumbai before being put into effect. Applications for the existing orations and memorial lectures are open and can be accessed on our website www.iacts.org.

The post graduate exam preparation program iPREP (IACTS Postgraduate Rendezvous for Exam Preparation) has been a hit with 89 post grads attending the last one online. Suggestions for betterment are most welcome from all.

The elections were discussed. It was agreed that the Mumbai elections would be by secret paper ballot with members physically attending the GBM participating in it. The applications for the elections and events and lifetime achievement awards have been placed on the official website – www.iacts.org.

The oncoming General Body meeting shall be so planned that



everyone will have a chance to speak and be heard by all. Please write to me at secretary@iacts.org about topics for discussion to be included. We would definitely talk about the electronic voting and increasing the participation in the executive committee. Kindly be simple, honest, brief and blunt ! Both loud voices with bombastic language and a meek voice with a simple language convey the same message and will be treated alike and be heard by me with intent to follow and put to effect. So, let us have a great GB and we look forward to it!

Our treasurer is working diligently with the new auditors streamlining the financial affairs.

The IACTSCON Mumbai is on the anvil and we do hear a lot of heavy metal!

Please talk and keep talking to us!

Warmly yours,
Dr Jacob Jamesraj

Secretary, Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear members

Greetings from your president! It has been a busy year with many events and happenings.

The CT CME at Trivandrum was a great success. The iPREP launched by our Secretary has benefitted many and is extremely popular. I hope it will reach every nook and corner of our country and be of use to all exam going students. The IACTSCON 2026 is being designed in a new and attractive way and I implore all of you to register and submit abstracts. We hope to see all of you at Mumbai!

With warm regards,

Dr Devagourou Velayoudam

President -IACTS

Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons



MESSAGE FROM JOINT SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Greetings from Mumbai Central office. A busy quarter and many an achievement dot our journey thus far. We have been busy with our new auditors sorting out the financial affairs of our association. A detailed report will reach you at the general body meeting at Mumbai. All issues will be streamlined and presented transparently for all!

Regards

Dr. Bijoy Kutty

Treasurer and Joint Secretary, IACTS

IACTSCON 2026 Mumbai

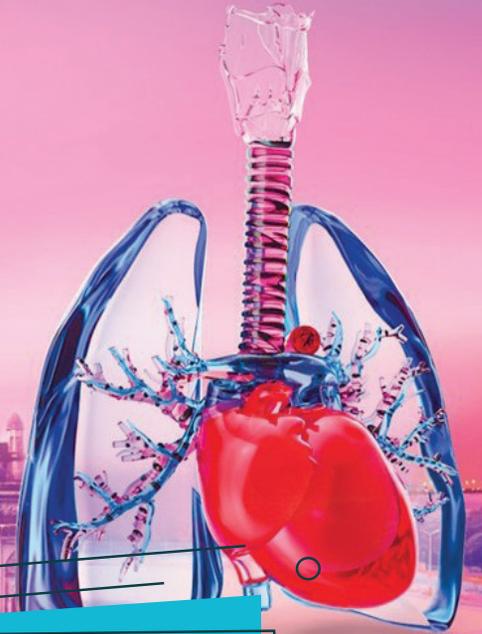


72nd Annual Conference of the
Indian Association of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgeons

IACTSCON 2026 Mumbai

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 1, 2026

JIO CONVENTION CENTER, MUMBAI



Greetings from the “maximum” city! The organising committee is leaving no stone unturned to ensure a fun filled academic fiesta. The early bird registrations have started and an easy QR code based google form has been released to make the registration process simple. I request you all to log in to the conference website at <https://iactscn2026mumbai.com/>

Abstracts may also be kindly submitted. Hope to get an opportunity to host all of you. WELCOME

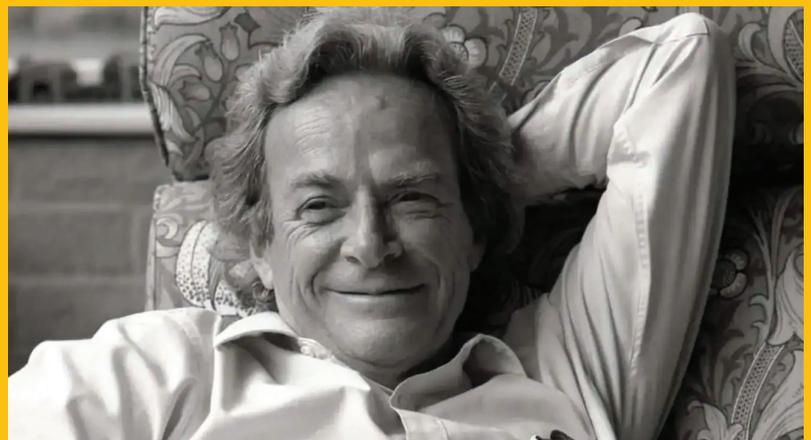
Dr Bijoy Kutty, Dr Anvay Mulay and the entire team Mumbai

“

If you want to master something, teach it! The more you teach, the better you learn. Teaching is a powerful tool to learning.

Richard Feynman

”



Elections 2026

The elections for the posts of Junior Vice President, two members of the Executive committee and the Venue for IACTSCON (the 75th Annual conference of the IACTS) 2029 is to be held at the IACTSCON Mumbai on Friday the 27th of February, 2026 at the General Body Meeting. Nominations are invited for the posts mentioned above and the IACTSCON 2029 venue. The nominations will close on the 31st of December 2025 at 11-59 pm. Full members of the IACTS are eligible to contest. Kindly read the SOP for the conferences before applying. Please visit <https://www.iacts.org/content/elections> for more information and for applying for the elections.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

The applications and nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Awards 2026 are also solicited. Kindly visit <https://www.iacts.org/content/lifetime-achievement-awards> for more information and instructions.

Orations and Memorial Lectures

The applications for the Orations and Memorial Lectures to take place in the IACTSCON 2026 are now open. Those interested may kindly apply. The eligibility and what each oration entails is given below. Please familiarise yourself with these before applying. You may apply through the form provided. You will get a confirmation call from me after you apply. Kindly call me on 9841578815 or send me a whatsapp message if you do not hear from me within 48 hours of applying. The deadline for applications is 23:59 hours on the 15th of December 2025.s and Memorial lectures. Please visit <https://www.iacts.org/content/oration> for more information and to apply.

C.S. Sadasivan Memorial Oration

The C S Sadasivan memorial oration was established in memory of Dr Sadasivan a pioneering cardiac surgeon who established the unit in Madras Medical College and started the postgraduate training programme. The Oration is to be in the field of Cardiovascular surgery. The orator should be a full member of the Indian association of Cardiovascular Thoracic surgeons for 20 full years as of January 2026.

P.K. Sen Memorial Lecture

The P K Sen memorial lecture was established in memory of Dr P K Sen a pioneering cardiac surgeon who performed the

first heart transplant of our country. He was a researcher and innovator par excellence. The Oration is to be in the field of Cardiovascular surgery. The orator should be a full member of the Indian association of Cardiovascular Thoracic surgeons for 20 full years as of January 2026.

Meherji P. Mehta Memorial Lecture

The Meherji Mehta memorial lecture was established in memory of Dr Meherji Mehta. The Oration is to be in the field of Thoracic surgery. The orator should be a full member of the Indian association of Cardiovascular Thoracic surgeons for 10 full years as of January 2026.

Godrej S. Karai Memorial Oration

The Godrej Karai memorial lecture was established in memory of Dr Godrej Karai. The Oration is to be in the field of Vascular or Thoracic surgery. The orator should be a full member of the Indian association of Cardiovascular Thoracic surgeons for 10 full years as of January 2026.

K.N Dastur Memorial Lecture

The K N Dastur memorial lecture was established in memory of Dr K N Dastur. The Oration is to be in the field of Cardiovascular surgery. The orator should be a full member of the Indian association of Cardiovascular Thoracic surgeons for 10 full years as of January 2026.

IACTS CMEs

Dear members

The applications for the IACTS Technocollege 2026 (to be held in May), CT CME 2026 (to be held in August) and Thoracic CME 2026 (to be held in November) are also solicited. These may be applied for by email to secretary@iacts.org before 23:59 hours December 15 2025.

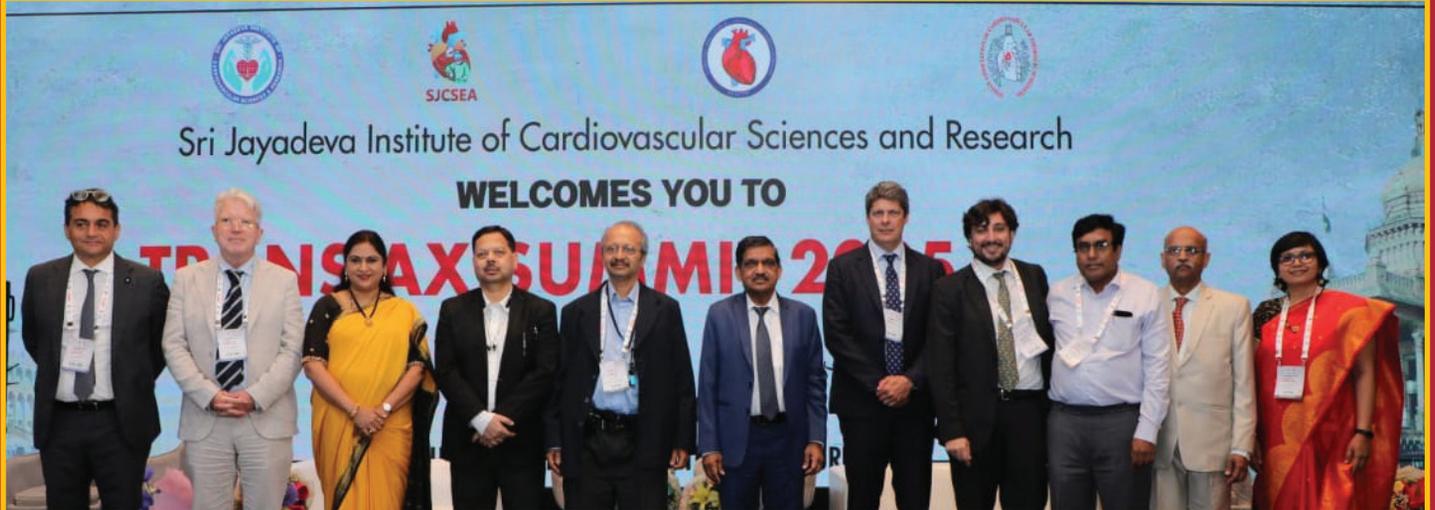
The Applicant for Organising Secretary for the concerned CME must mail the secretary, IACTS and takes all responsibility for the proceedings and the conference. Kindly read the conference SOP before applying.

Kindly visit the lower part of the web page <https://www.iacts.org/content/elections> for more information.

The Sixteenth Cardiac Morphology Course

The sixteenth hands on Cardiac Morphology course took place on the 19th and 20th of July 2025 at the Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. More than 200 participants avidly dissected and learnt of the varied nuances of cardiac morphology. Students of cardiology, paediatric intervention anatomy, pathology and cardiac anaesthesia participated in addition to cardiac surgical trainees. There were participants from Africa and Bangladesh too. The course director Dr Jacob Jamesraj guided the students through the stages of dissection which was of great benefit and was well appreciated. An array of lectures from surgeons from around the country elucidated all. The next course is planned for the 20th and 21st of June 2026.





TRANS AX SUMMIT 2025

The TRANS AX SUMMIT 2025, organized at the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru, on August 1 & 2, was the world's first dedicated conference on the transaxillary approach in cardiac surgery. It attracted over 350 in-person delegates and 100+ online viewers from India and abroad, focusing on awareness and adoption of this sternal-sparing approach.

Highlights included Dr. Rajesh Kishan Rao's presentation on 500 successful transaxillary cardiac surgeries at the institute and in-depth, vibrant discussions led by international faculty.

The event was organized under the visionary leadership of Prof. K. S. Ravindranath, Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute. The scientific program was led by Chairman Prof. Prasanna Simha Mohan Rao, and Co-Chairmen Prof. Girish Basappa,

Prof. Sunil P.K. and Dr Rakesh.

Chief Guest, Shri Mohammad Mohsin (Principal Secretary, Department of Medical Education, Karnataka) and Guest of Honour Smt. Dr. Sujatha Rathod (Director, Directorate of Medical Education, Karnataka) lauded the summit and the institute's commitment to innovation and academic excellence.

Speaking at the conclusion of the event, Dr. Shilpa Suresh, Organizing Secretary, said that the summit has not only shared knowledge but has set a new momentum for global collaboration and wider adoption of minimally invasive, sternal-sparing cardiac surgery techniques, positioning the institute as a pioneer in academic excellence and surgical innovation.

CT CME 2025

The IACTS Cardiac CME 2025 was held on 9 & 10 August 2025, at the GV Raja Convention Centre, hosted by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Trivandrum, Kerala. The event attracted around 220 delegates, including 70+ residents, along with leading cardiac surgeons and biomedical professionals from across India and abroad.

The conference theme was "Future Forward – Advancing Excellence and Innovations," inaugurated by Dr. Sanjay Behari, Director, SCTIMST. The scientific program was well designed by Dr Vivek Pillai and team and covered advancements in adult and pediatric cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, minimal access and robotic surgery, and biomedical innovation. Eminent national and international faculty delivered presentations that sparked meaningful discussion and engagement.

A major highlight was the hands-on Anastomotic Workshop for residents, praised for its practical value and excellent organization. Special events included a quiz competition, which challenged residents' clinical knowledge, and an e-poster competition showcasing innovative research and case studies. The mid term GB was conducted by the Secretary, Dr Jacob Jamesraj and presided over by the president Dr Devagourou.

The event was appreciated for its academic rigor, resident engagement, and networking opportunities. The organizing team from SCTIMST ensured smooth proceedings, complemented by a scenic venue and warm hospitality. The conference significantly contributed to knowledge exchange and strengthened collaboration in the cardiothoracic surgical community.



SHFT 2025



The 9th Annual Conference of the Society for Heart Failure & Transplantation (SfHFT) was held from 15th to 17th August 2025 at ITC Sonar, Kolkata. The meeting brought together leading cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, intensivists, and transplant physicians from across the country to discuss the latest advances in heart failure management, mechanical circulatory support, and heart and lung transplantation. The scientific sessions were of the highest calibre, featuring live case discussions, interactive symposia, and multidisciplinary panel debates that fostered learning and collaboration.

During the conference, Dr. Manoj Durairaj was elected as Secretary of the Society for a two-year term by the General Body members. The meticulously organised event was led by Dr. Kunal Sarkar, Organising Secretary, and Dr. Debasis Das, Executive Committee Member of SfHFT, whose commendable efforts ensured a highly successful academic and scientific programme. The conference once again highlighted SfHFT's pivotal role in bridging research with cost-effective clinical practice and advancing heart failure and transplant care in India.

19th National & 10th International Transoesophageal Echocardiography (TEE) Workshop & CME

The TEE workshop was conducted by the Narayana Health. A wetlab was conducted by Dr Suresh, Dr Jacob Jamesraj and Dr Enders. The course was attended by anaesthetists and surgeons.



iacts Postgraduate Rendezvous
for Exam Preparation



iPREP
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iPREP
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Aug 30 5 pm

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iPREP
by
IACTS

Sep 27@ 5 pm

The IACTS initiative for exam-oriented preparation for postgraduate students, the iPREP (iacts Postgraduate Rendezvous for Exam Preparation) was launched on an online webinar platform on the 26th of July 2025! The Kottayam team under the leadership of Dr Jayakumar and Dr Vinitha conducted the inaugural webinar. Dr Praveen Varma was the examiner and it was a very successful launch. The second one was conducted by the Jayadeva team with Dr Prasanna Simha and Dr Rakesh and featured mitral repair. The third one featured cyanotic congenital disease and was conducted by the team from Christian Medical College, Vellore under the leadership of Dr Korah T Kuruvila and featured in addition Dr Vinay Shukla's examiner skills. Drs Gokul, Pratik and Karan Sekar presented well. We had 89 participants and we hope future ones will have many more!

Matter of Pride

Dr Satyajit Bose

CONTENT FROM THE MISSION HOSPITAL



DR. SATYAJIT BOSE MCh, FACS,
(Chairman), Senior Consultant Cardiac
Surgeon, The Mission Hospital, Durgapur

Andal, a small town in West Bengal, might not ring a bell now—but soon, it will. That's because it's set to house one of India's most cutting-edge cancer and Allied Super specialty centers, designed to rival the best in the world.

Why Andal? To answer that, look no further than Dr. Satyajit Bose, the visionary behind this ambitious project. Along with his board member colleagues at The Mission Hospital, Dr. Bose believes that healthcare shouldn't just exist in cities; it should reach the farthest corners of India, where quality care is often a distant dream. Couple that with the fact that a fully functional airport co-owned by the Changi Airport Authority of Singapore is situated within 800 meters of The Mission Hospital, connecting Durgapur to virtually every major city in India.

Dr. Bose's journey started in Kolkata, where he earned his post-graduate degree and specialized in cardiac surgery. His rise was rapid. He worked at renowned hospitals like Breach Candy and Apollo Hospital, where he became chief cardiac surgeon. But despite his success, something gnawed at him. He was treating the rich, while millions in rural India were left without access to life-saving care.

This realization spurred Dr. Bose to launch free heart camps across Eastern India, offering vital medical help to those who couldn't afford it. But cardiac care was just the tip of the iceberg. As he saw first-hand the lack

THE CARDIAC SURGEON WHO'S REWRITING INDIA'S HEALTHCARE BLUEPRINT

of specialized healthcare in non-metropolitan regions in Eastern India, he decided to take a bold step: leave his high-profile position at Apollo and build a super-specialty hospital for the underserved in Durgapur. In 2008, The Mission Hospital opened its doors, offering world-class cardiac care to the masses. Today, the 600-bed facility serves patients across multiple states and even countries, ranking as one of India's top cardiac hospitals.

But Dr. Bose's ambitions didn't stop at hearts. Recognizing the shortage of advanced eye care in Eastern India, he launched Dvita Eye Hospital, now a leading center for complex eye surgeries in the region. Dvita has already treated over 500,000 patients and performed more than 50,000 surgeries.

Now, Dr. Bose is pushing his mission even further. His latest project is a state-of-the-art cancer and Allied Super specialty unit in the Bengal Aerotropolis area in Andal. Modelled on international standards, the 1,000-bed facility promises to offer world-class care to a population that has long been underserved. Dr. Bose has travelled the globe to learn from the best, ensuring this hospital will feature cutting-edge technology and treatments.

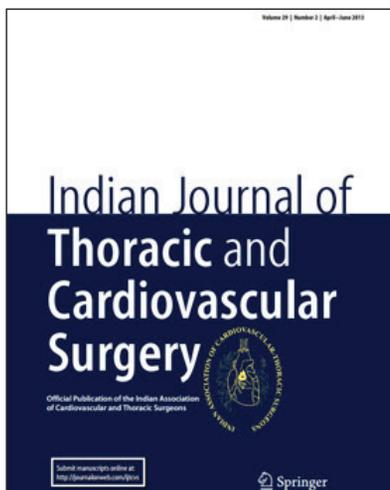
Driven by a relentless desire to make healthcare accessible for all, Dr. Bose is more than just a heart surgeon—he's a healthcare pioneer. His work isn't just about treating patients, it's about transforming lives across India's tier 2 cities and rural landscape.



Honour and Pride!



Our past president Dr Yugal Misra was honoured at the ASCVTS 2025 held at Singapore.

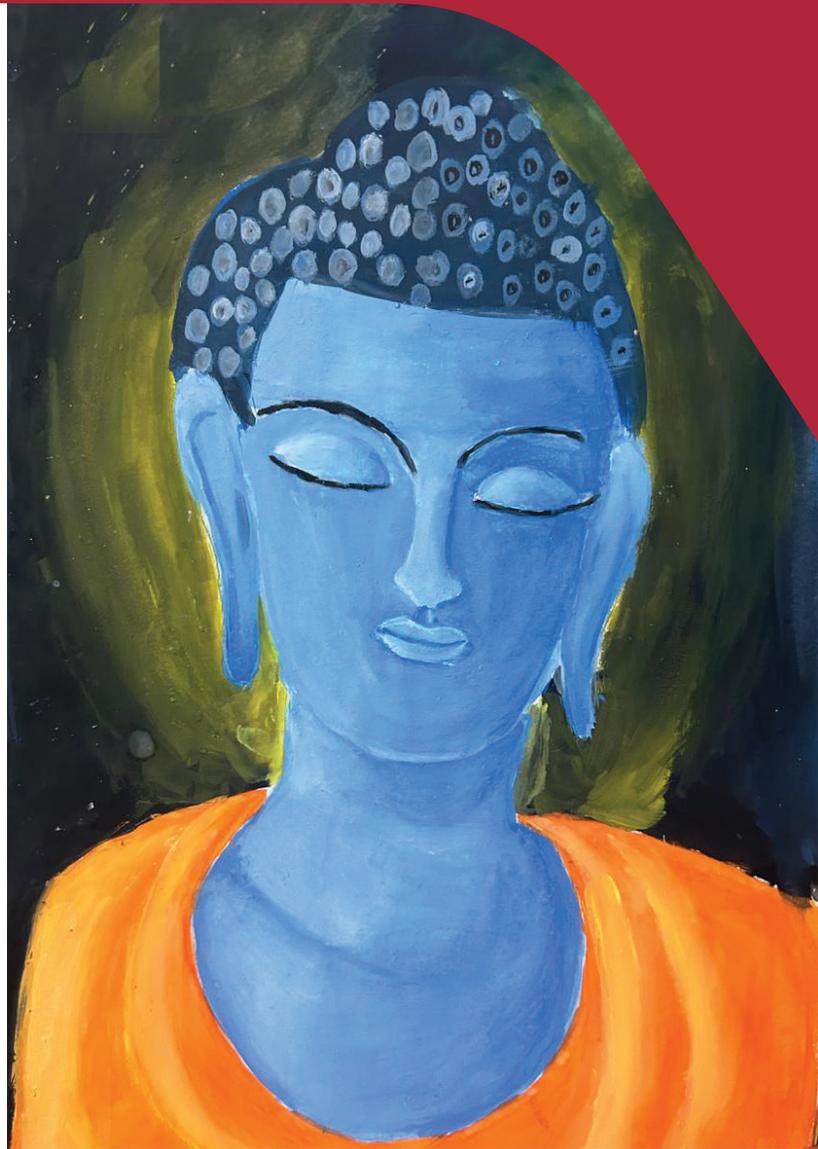


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The ASCVTS Singapore featured Dr Murali Vettath and his teaching skills too. An avid innovator, his obturator is very useful and of worldwide fame!



We live and work in an environment of stress and abnormal expectations in a land of chaos! Amidst all this sooty substrate for ill health, frank disease and death we need to find peace, calm and something to soothe our souls. The spate of recent cardiac deaths points us in the direction of responsible self-care! We care for the heart of every member and we encourage all to balance the different arms of our lives. Hobbies, relaxation and sport definitely contribute to good health. Healthy surgeons care for their patients more efficiently. Dr Mahesh Chaudury's painting provokes calm and peace and we bring it to you to evoke the same.



IACTS Resident Wing

The past year has been a significant one for the IACTS Resident Wing, marking a fruitful beginning to our collective efforts. With the support of our Secretary, Dr. Jacob Jamesraj, who has been proactive in initiating programs for residents' academic and professional growth, the Wing has expanded its activities in meaningful ways.

At IACTSCON 2024, a clear focus was placed on resident-oriented sessions, including workshops and interactive discussions. These sessions went beyond exam preparation, emphasizing clinical reasoning and real-world decision-making.

The Coronary Conference in Kochi and IACTS Midterm CME in Trivandrum were particularly valuable, providing insights into the nuances of private practice and exposure to evolving techniques in minimally invasive surgery, valve repairs. Such experiences are vital in bridging the gap between structured training and independent practice.

The annual SCORE Program continued to make a strong impact, with senior faculty conducting live viva sessions with students coming across the country. These interactions have helped graduates experience the rigor of examinations while sharpening critical thinking and patient management skills.

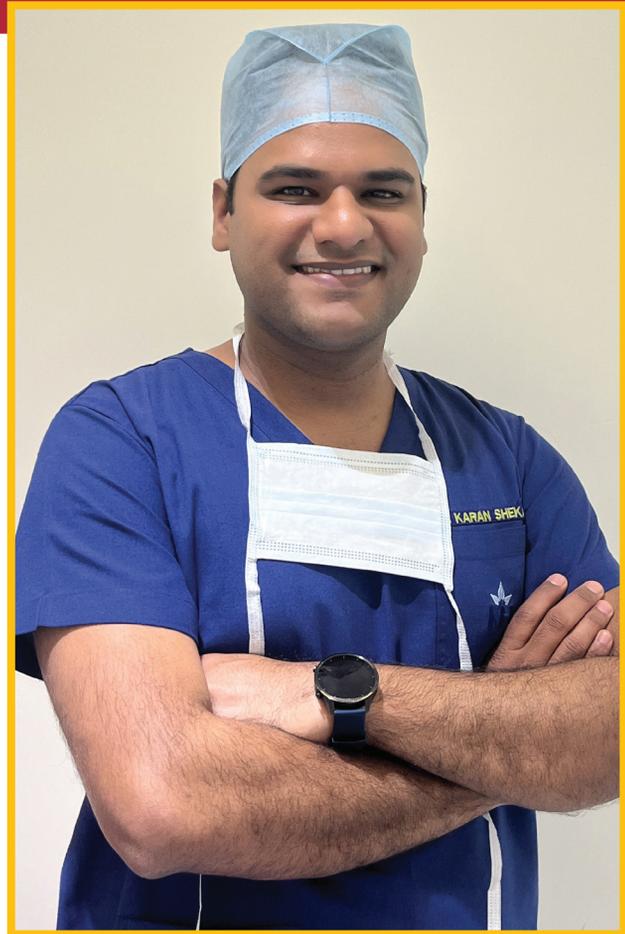
During our induction into cardiothoracic training, cardiac anatomy often feels like uncharted territory. A guiding light in this regard has been the Cardiac Morphology Course conducted annually at Madras Medical Mission, Chennai, by our Secretary, Dr. Jacob Jamesraj. The live cadaveric demonstrations of anatomy and associated pathology make complex concepts clear and relatable to daily practice. For many residents, this course has laid the very foundation of understanding cardiac anatomy.

The launch of iPREP (IACTS Postgraduate Rendezvous for Exam Preparation) has been another milestone. Led by Dr. Jamesraj, these last minute sessions focus on case-based discussions and key clinical scenarios, offering structured guidance from senior faculty weeks prior to the actual examination. The initiative has been met with enthusiastic participation from residents and faculty alike.

Looking ahead, the upcoming IACTSCON 2026 promises even more dedicated resident sessions, aimed at sharpening skills and enhancing the acumen of trainees. The Resident Wing is proud to contribute to this academic momentum, fostering enthusiasm and growth among future cardiothoracic surgeons.

Dr. Karan Shekar.

Resident's Wing IACTS.



Obituaries



Prof. Ashiq Hussain Naqshbandi

Prof. Ashiq Hussain Naqshbandi was the first Cardiothoracic Surgeon from Jammu and Kashmir. He was trained at the Christian Medical College, Vellore under Prof. Stanley John and was a class mate of Dr. Bashi. He was the Principal of GMC, Srinagar. He was an illustrious surgeon and popular teacher. We lost him on the 13th of September 2025.

Dr Gradlin Roy



Dr Gradlin Roy was a young enterprising cardiac surgeon from Chennai.

He graduated from the PSG college Coimbatore following which he obtained his masters in general surgery from Sri Ramakrishna hospital. He did his MCh from the PGIMER Chandigarh.

He worked at the prestigious Railway Hospital, Perambur and then at MIOT, Frontier Lifeline, and was heading the unit at Saveetha Medical college. An enthusiastic academician and a deeply empathetic approachable and humble surgeon Dr. Roy touched countless lives, both in the operating theatre and beyond. Colleagues remember him as a man of integrity and humility, always striving for excellence.

He is survived by his wife and son. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May God strengthen them as they go through this time of grief and irreparable loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr Gopalakrishnan A. Pillai



Dr Gopalakrishnan A. Pillai was Cardiothoracic Surgeon from Cochin, Kerala. He obtained his MD from University of Lyubov, Ukraine. Subsequently, he moved to Moscow, USSR. He did his Ph D in Cardiovascular Surgery under the guidance of Prof. Sabalkhin from the National Research Centre of Surgery, Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow, USSR. Returning to India, he worked in Sree Uthradum Thirunal Hospitals, Trivandrum, Laksmi Hospital, Cochin and Amrita Institute of Medical sciences, Cochin. Briefly, he worked in Kandy, Srilanka. Subsequently, he started Hridaya Care Heart Institute in Aluva and successfully running EECPC center, which was inaugurated by former ISRO chairman Madhavan Pillai. He is also the recipient of the prestigious HIND RATTAN (Jewel of India) award from His Excellency K.R. Narayanan, President of India. He was a well-mannered and kind hearted person. Dr. Gopal Pillai is survived by his wife Svetlana Pillai and two sons.

Prof S.K.Khanna

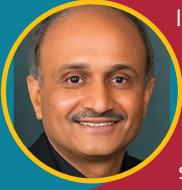


Prof S. K. Khanna was the Director of G.B .Pant (1995-1997) and was instrumental in it becoming a centre of excellence. The centre rose from humble beginnings of less than 100 cases in the early eighties to more than 1500 cases annually now as is well documented in Prof. Khanna's Dairy.

His was an endearing legacy. He was always referred to as Khanna Saab, behind his back, a respect that was impressive. He was always the first in and last out, even whilst being H.O.D and used to maintained a personal dairy detailing the events of the day, setbacks & complications included faithfully. He courageously and honestly shared failures and success alike with all.

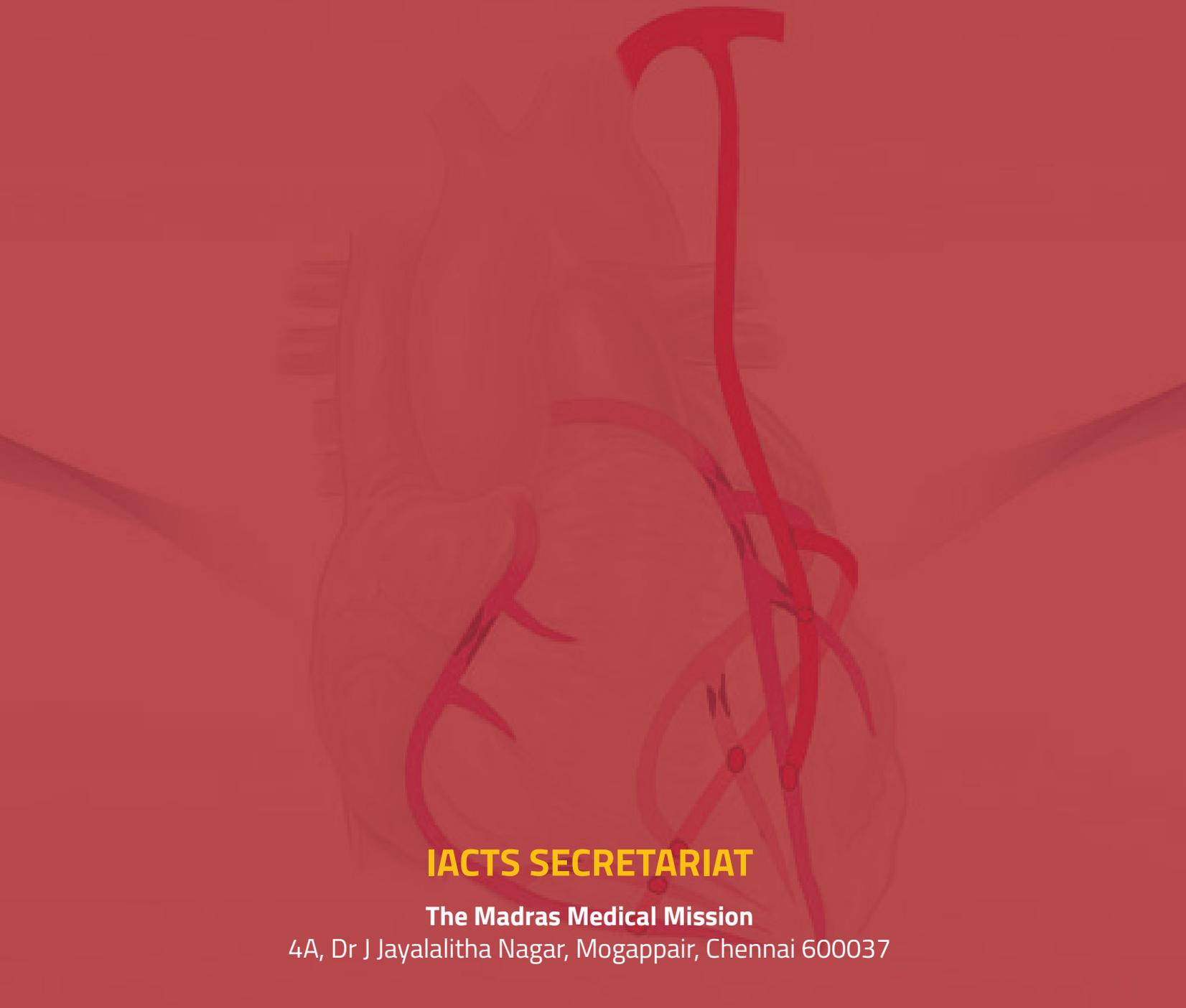
He was an open book to read and emulate. His passion to share knowledge, his gentleness, kind demeanour and compassion describe him best.

Prof Tushar Shah



It is with deep reverence and heartfelt admiration that we remember Dr. Tushar J. Shah, a legendary figure in the field of cardiac surgery whose life and work have left an indelible mark on the entire medical community.

As a pioneer and mentor, Dr. Shah was the guiding light for nearly all cardiac surgeons in the region, tirelessly dedicated to teaching, inspiring, and elevating the standards of cardiac care. Dr. Shah's extraordinary contributions to the field encompasses not only ground-breaking surgical techniques but also an unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of surgeons. His passing is a profound loss to all of us—a brilliant surgeon, mentor, motivator and a compassionate human being. Rest in peace, Dr. Tushar J. Shah. Your work, your spirit and your devotion will continue to inspire us all.



IACTS SECRETARIAT

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