

**Dear friends,
Greetings and Pranam!**

Antonio Brown said, “The journey is never ending. There will always be growth, improvement, adversity; you just take it all in a stride and do what's right, continue to grow, continue to live in the moment.”

I was elected 2016 November, as the President Elect of ISA. The position of President of ISA is not only the highest position, but it also holds an immense responsibility. Being the caretaker and decision maker, the welfare of the members of the society and the future of safe and high quality anaesthesia has been my prime concern. Personally, I've always been a person with an insatiable thirst for knowledge.

“When we look at the map of a region, we relate and recognize with its superficial features. But, by our visits to these places, we understand the depth of the place. There comes complete knowledge.” My tenure as President of ISA has given me the opportunity to be the best version of myself. It has taken me different places and I have gained profoundly from each such visit. Concurrently, the theme for 66th ISACON is “expanding horizons beyond operating room”, blending in so well with my personality.

I'm happy to say that my term was fruitful. I was able to meet the necessities of the schemes initiated by my predecessors and also have tried to make small progressive amendments for the betterment of our society with the positive co-operation of our council members.

During my promising speech, I've mentioned a few thoughts, which I wanted to put into action. These are the CPR training, remuneration and public awareness programs like: handouts, exhibitions, short films to name a few.

In the history of Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists, after the Ether dome of Morton in Boston, a pillar was constructed at a traffic island in Nasik. The pillar was illuminated to engross the importance of safe anaesthesia with meaningful slogans like “we care when you are unaware”, “safe anaesthesia save lifes” etc.

The Visakhapatnam ISA city branch conducted an anaesthesia exhibition for public awareness. Qualified anesthesiologists educated the public about the types of anaesthesia administered during surgery. They demonstrated safe anaesthesia by constructing real operation theaters and intensive care units with the latest equipment. More than six thousand audience attended this exhibition comprising public and students. The exhibition was extensively covered by the media. I would encourage all branches to come forward and pitch in such activities to improve our branch's visibility to the public.

An instructional handout about Anaesthesia has been released in simple languages to be understood by all the common people. The contents of the handout include the types of

Anaesthesia and the importance of consulting the Anaesthesiologist before surgery. It also explains the patient's responsibility to provide complete information about the medical history, drugs being used, previous surgeries and allergies if any etc. A short film was also released with the same insight.

The ISA has created and is in the process of creating practice guidelines for anaesthesia practice in India. The earliest was the Standards of Monitoring guidelines, which was updated once. Recently, the guidelines related to private practitioners have been launched. Guidelines related to CPR have been prepared and published in November 2017 issue of IJA. Four more are in the pipeline: Peri-operative fasting and feeding, Preoperative investigations, The Anticoagulants and Regional Anaesthesia, Day Care Anaesthesia and Surgery.

“Private Practitioners Guidelines for Anaesthesiologists in India” issued by Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists, the largest representative body of Anaesthesiologists in India, is a major step in the right direction. These guidelines are recommended to improve working conditions in operation room and perioperative zones, to increase patient safety. These guidelines are necessary in view of increasing litigation against anesthesiologists, and for the development of Anesthesiology as an independent and important specialty of medicine. And also to deliver safe and quality Anesthesia to patients all type of surgeries from neonate to geriatric.

The private practitioner's forum, after long discussions, has submitted the documents to an ISA appointed expert committee. They have reviewed and their suggestions have been incorporated and approved. The drafts were released at the Luck now central zonal PG assembly inauguration ceremony, which are Minimum Mandatory standards in Operation Theater, Pre anesthesia check form, Patient consent form and Intra operative Monitoring record.

The remuneration of Anaesthesiologists is by Relative Value Guide System. The ISA is trying to bring the remuneration of our anesthesiologist colleagues to a more dignified and decent level. The ISA endorses the Relative Value Guide, an independent & transparent system to arrive at remuneration. The ISA will work towards implementation of RVG by talking to various stakeholders including Insurance, Corporate, CGHS & others.

The Indian Resuscitation Council, started by the ISA has come up with a set of IRC-CPR guidelines and about 20 societies have endorsed them. These include educational societies, GVK EMRI, a few NGOs and medical universities. IRC has come up with its own website, logo and an office. We have conducted 10 Train of Trainers workshops for acknowledged instructors to make them aware of our new IRC-CPR guidelines and we improvised instructors for IRC/ ISA guidelines of Resuscitation. The ISA has sponsored more than 126 mannequins for free, one for each city branch.

We celebrated World 'Restart a Heart' Day on 23rd October with lot of Enthusiasm among the members. ISA has conducted a COLS demonstration and hands on training throughout India in all the city branches. We publicized the event by inviting and inaugurating the event by prominent political representatives, government officials and media personnel. The demonstration was given to lay public and school children. ISA targeted at achieving one lakh volunteers but the massive response from multiple branches made it a huge success leaving the target number behind. It is the social responsibility of our society to create more and more awareness about COLS for cardiac arrests.

The Chairman of (ILCOR) International Liaison Committee of Resuscitation, Dr. Vinay Nadkarni has been very humble to take time and meet us during his trip to Hyderabad. IRC's chairman Dr. SSC Chakra Rao, GC members and I was present and we discussed various issues and concluded the meet by applying for membership of the prestigious committee. A representative from IRC has attended the meeting at Chicago and submitted the application to ILCOR. We have been given several suggestions in order to proceed for the approval. Some changes in the IRC constitution need ISA general body acceptance, but we're looking forward to the best.

Family benevolent fund is a welfare scheme for the ISA members. At present we have 2085 members. 180 new members have joined us in the last year. I suggest all the new members to join this scheme, enabling us to reach the count to 5000. On reaching the 5000 count, we will be able to help a family of a deceased member, by forwarding an amount of 15 lakh rupees.

Over the past decades, anesthesiologists have continually expanded their focus from the operating rooms to post anesthesia care units, intensive care units, and pain medicine. Results show that the concept of the anesthesiologist as the perioperative physician is strongly being supported by the American Board of Anesthesiology and others leaders of the specialty. A paradigm shift in training and ideology will position future physician anesthesiologists to take ownership for patients outside of the O.R. and act as Consultants throughout the Preoperative, Intra Operative and Postoperative continuum. The future of Anaesthesiologists should be coined as Perioperative Physician after duly trained by changing education curriculum in the University. The ISA should represent MCI for the same.

The national governing council of ISA has been having its meetings, two during the beginning and at the ending at the ISACON venue, and two in between, held four months apart. The minutes discussed in the first meeting are passed in the second meeting with a remarkable gap and implementation of decisions has become time consuming. Therefore, this year I have initiated three video meetings for the governing council and the scientific committee of ISACON, to take quick decisions and implement them in less time intervals.

As far as e-education is concerned, ISA is not lagging behind and we continue to introduce innovative ideas and how to improve things. Another innovation is the broadcasting of webinars. I have taken an initiative to conduct webinars in my term of presidency. The first webinar on

Obstetric Anaesthesia was broadcasted on 17th November 2018 from Hyderabad. ISA would like to conduct webinars on a monthly basis from December. It will be broadcasted from different locations with diverse subjects of concern. I hope this concept will help enrich knowledge in an approachable and easy way and many more successful webinars will be conducted in the future.

ISA has planned and taken a new initiative this year with the help of nationally recognized team of Professors to function as mentors. The program focuses on developing mentoring skills, to prepare the mentees for the best, in a range of clinical situations requiring leadership skills and better performance in Anaesthesiology. This program also helps with communication, partnership and teamwork.

ISA mentor academy was initiated at ISACON 2017 in Kolkata. Three mentoring workshops were conducted in different places like Mumbai and Chennai to train the trainer of the mentor. The mentees can choose their mentor whose details will be published through posters in all teaching institutes and anesthesia departments. An app has been solely developed, dedicated to this program and is ready to use. The ten mentees have joined ISA mentor academy this year. I hope in the future more and more postgraduates will join in this ISA mentor academy.

I congratulate ISACON 2018 organising team for the excellent arrangements of 66th annual conference of ISA. I'm sure the conference is going to be a grand success.

The journey doesn't end here but what begins must come to an end. As the legendary late Raj Kapoor once said that "show must go on" I believe that our good work must continue, our aim to reach new heights and our endeavor to reach new horizon must continue.

I must emphasize that "Together, we can win". I believe and I know that all of you are talented and dedicated, all of you are driven and I know that together we can.

I have tried to come up to your expectations and I will continue to serve this Association for the welfare of anaesthesiologists, for exemplary and for safe Anaesthesia.

Thank you.

Long Live ISA!

Jai Hind!

DR KUCHELABABU.V
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