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Season's Greetings!

Honorable chief guest, Prof. (Dr.) Jaspal Singh Sandhu, the dynamic Vice Chancellor of Sri Guru Nanak Dev University, a brilliant academician and a lovable administrator, an eminent sports oriented personality who has established the first Department of SPORTS MEDICINE in any Indian University, it is our proud privilege to have you as the chief guest at the annual conference of NAMSCON 2017 being held in the holy city of Amritsar, Principal Prof Geeta Sharma, of the Guru Ram Das institute of medical sciences and research, Dr H S Sandhu, a veteran fellow of our academy, other dignitaries on the dais and off the dais, fellow members of the NAMS council, invited guests, students of this prestigious medical school, ladies and gentlemen

Dr. Sharma, the academy is grateful to you and your hard working and painstaking team in organizing this meeting so well.

My friends and colleagues from the National Academy, invited guests and delegates. It is my proud privilege to be addressing all of you at the inauguration of NAMS 2017. On behalf of the academy as its President, I must compliment Dr. Sandhu, Dr. Geeta Sharma and their great team for organizing an excellent conference which I am sure all of us are enjoying thoroughly. Even better, the meeting is being held in the holy city of Amritsar, where the holiest of Gurudwaras of Sikhism which all of us know as Golden Temple, is situated. I am grateful to the organizers for making it possible for all of us to visit the Gurudwara which has been my personal desire for a long time.

The Academy was inaugurated in 1961 by none other than our beloved Prime Minister Shri. Jawaharlal Nehru. The first convocation was held in the year 1963. The convocation address was delivered by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. The primary objective for establishing this very important academy has been "The cultivation of Scientific Knowledge and its application to human welfare". The need of the hour from medical point of view in our country is MEDICAL EDUCATION and its adequate and wide spread usage in all sectors of Indian Society. Over the years the Academy, has progressed leaps and bounds.

I must acknowledge the contributions of many scientists and several other past Presidents, fellows and members who have worked selflessly and their tireless efforts have taken the Academy to such great heights. One name which will continue to be in the minds of all those associated with the academy is that of Prof. J.S. Bajaj. His contribution to the academy the least to say has brought the academy to be what it is today. His wisdom and his association with several important authorities has assisted the academy to rise in the medical field. The academy boasts of several emirate professors, Vice chancellors of many universities, scientists, fellows from different fields of medicine and members. A few more of them will be a part of the academy when they receive their scrolls and honours today.

Continuing medical education programmes which is the major thrust area of NAMS needs to be given greater momentum. We need to consolidate our position and respect from the health ministry even further and spread our educational activities throughout the country even more. The functioning of our auditorium in New Delhi one on the finest audio visual hall with all other facilities has gathered slowly but steadily increasing importance. We have already had a few meetings under the guidance of Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa, Dr. Deep Srivastava, Dr. Rakesh Chadda. I do hope that many other fellows and medical organizations will surely take advantage of this excellent facility. The fact that NAMS has planned to organize CME's with regional perspective in North Eastern states, in itself confirms the sincere efforts that the academy is keen on continuing. The academy also has several plans through the National Knowledge Network (NKN) to educate many centers with this

connectivity. At this stage I request our fellows and members to contribute their knowledge and efforts in fulfilling the goals of NAMS.

The theme chosen for the National CME this year is “Environment and Health”. The other symposium on “Fetal origin of adult diseases” will surely add to the knowledge of all participants who will go back with rich information. The suggestions of the speakers will mean a lot to all the participants.

Another effort on the part of NAMS is our quarterly journal which contains excellent scientific material. It is published in Jodhpur and we must credit Dr. Kuldeep Singh for all his hard work and efforts in taking up this job. Dr K.K. Sharma, I am also happy in mentioning your contributions in publishing the Annals.

At this juncture my heartfelt congratulations are to Dr. Snehalata Deshmukh whom all of us know as Lata for achieving the ultimate honor of the academy “The Life Time Achievement Award”. I have known her personally from the time that I have been a medical student in the early 60’s over the years until today. I have seen her tremendous efforts in handling many projects only through her hard and dedicated work. The fact that she has been the Former Vice Chancellor, of Mumbai University speaks volumes for her capabilities. I have no hesitation in saying that she has been a great help and guide during my tenure as the President. Lata we are all proud for all that you have done and are doing to look after the interests of the Academy so selflessly. On behalf of all the fellows and members my sincere congratulations to you lady.

It has been a very satisfying and pleasant experience to be associated with the academy. I cannot but appreciate the extra ordinary efforts that our Honorary Secretary, Deep Srivastava has put in during these times. He has balanced himself extremely well between his professional activities as an interventional Radiologist and the Honorary Secretary of NAMS. Much as you have been doing and will continue to do a superlative job, more than you, my grateful thanks are to your wife who has patiently tolerated your absence from home. Deep I am grateful to you for being a very strong bond between the fellows, members and the administrative staff of NAMS.

Before I conclude, my sincere “Thank You” to all the members of the council during my tenure. Prema, thank you for helping me during difficult times. Dr. Sanjay Wadhwa, it is good to have you as our Vice President, who has made all efforts in working of the academy and being a support for the academy. Dr. K.K. Sharma, welcome to the team of academy and we look forward to your guidance. I see Dr. Haribhai Patel, a doyen of a surgeon but above all, an ardent fan and supporter of the academy. He has been as much a doyen of the academy as much a surgeon. It is a pleasure to see him travel from Baroda to Delhi for our council meeting. Sir, we look forward to your advise at all times.

Last but not the least it would be unfair on my part NOT to mention and compliment the staff in the Delhi office of NAMS. My friends, it is always said that an organization really depends on the sincere work and contribution of its staff members. Once again many thanks. Do treat this academy as your family and continue to be a part of it.

Ladies and Gentleman do enjoy this well planned and organized conference. Thank you once again, Dr. Geeta Sharma and Dr. H.S. Sandhu.

Thank You.