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The Annals : Form Requiem to Reveille

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The Annals : From Requiem to Reveille

The Triumph of Fellowship

The triennium 2009-2012 was a unique period in the history of the National Academy of Medical Sciences when no Issue of its flagship journal, the Annals, was published. It would not be appropriate on my part to reflect on the reasons thereof, nor would it do any credit to those who were responsible for the publication. Indeed, the then Chief Editor submitted a detailed proposal to *outsource* the Annals. Nevertheless, like one's own child, howsoever retarded / handicapped he/she may be, to a parent it is a living reminder of the bond of love and commitment that resulted in its birth. Can this child be *outsourced* to anyone by the parents!

The Fellows and members, nearly a total number of 1,000, who joined the Academy during triennium 2009-2012 had not even heard about the Annals, let alone being able to see it and feel it in its full glory, bright and brilliant.

With the installation of Dr. C.S. Bhaskaran as President at the Annual Conference in October, 2012 in Chennai, there was an expression of shared concern for the revival of the Annals. It was decided to publish two Issues for the year 2013 : *January - June* and *July - December*. My grateful appreciation to

the President, Dr. Bhaskaran, Members of the NAMS Council as well as of the Academic Council for providing excellent support and encouragement for enabling us to achieve modest success in fulfilling the commitment for the year 2013. The July-December issue of the Annals was published as a special number on Sleep Medicine, covering the scope and nature of the problem of sleep medicine and of the contemporary health issues relevant to it. The present volume fulfills the promise.

A word about the contents of this volume which is a compendium of NAMS Golden Jubilee Lectures. The Academy was most fortunate in having received the blessings of late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India who formally inaugurated the Academy on the 19th December, 1961 at a function held at the Sapru House, New Delhi. The first Convocation of the Academy held on 08.12.1963 was presided over by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then President of India who graciously delivered the Convocation Address.

In 2010, it was decided that one of the major activities for the Golden Jubilee celebrations (2011-2013) was to have a set of Golden Jubilee Lectures delivered by the Emeritus Professors of the National

Academy of Medical Sciences. While the full commemorative volume would hopefully be published at a later date, four of the lectures are being published in this volume as *curtain raiser* : '**An approach to interstitial lung disease in India**' by Dr. J.N. Pande, is a remarkable example of a clinical approach to the diagnosis of a most complex disorder, adequately supported by clinicoradiological correlates and laboratory evidence of pulmonary dysfunction; '**Clinical Research : Past, Present and Future**' by **Prof. O.D. Gulati*** is not only conceptual but also futuristic providing a glimpse of the future era of *Personalized Medicine*; **Dr. R.D. Lele's** article '**Molecular Biology provides a new interface between Ayurved & Modern Medicine**' reflects his life-long dedication to biomedical research as relevant to national needs. '**Technology and the Future Brain**' delivered by Dr. K.N. Sharma is a reflection of the intuitive foresight of a brilliant mind who has pioneered research in neurosciences during the last five decades.

Let me take the opportunity to pay my humble tribute to Prof. O.D. Gulati who died on February 23, 2012. Born in 1927, Dr. Gulati graduated from Madras University. He did his MD from Agra University and MS from University of Colorado, USA. Dr. Gulati had a long innings at Medical College, Baroda where starting as Assistant Professor, he later occupied the Chair in Pharmacology and retired as Dean of the College. He published over 135 research papers in reputed national and international

journals. Recognized as a leading Pharmacologist, Dr. Gulati served as President, Indian Pharmacological Society in 1984 and Editor, Indian Journal of Physiologists and Pharmacologists for many years. Dr. Gulati was elected as Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences in 1974 and served as Council Member from 1983 to 1986. He was awarded SS Bhatnagar Prize 1971; Shri Ram Gold Medal, NAMS 1973; Shri Amrut Modi Research Foundation Award 1978-80; BC Roy Award 1981; Uvnas Prize, India Pharmacological Society. As the concluding part of his article in the present volume, his acknowledgement reads like a testament reflecting an Intuitive foresight.

Pondering over these two articles of Dr. O.D. Gulati and Dr. R.D. Lele, it was my belief that *Personalized Medicine* of the future need not be personalized only in terms of genomics and epigenomics but it must be viewed in the context of social and cultural milieu of the humankind.

Thus, my own contribution is to bridge the hiatus. Whether we have succeeded, will be judged by the readers and we will respect their judgment.

In 1994, in my Keynote Address, entitled *Futurology in Biomedicine : From crystallography to Crystal gazing* delivered at the APICON-94 on January 19, 1994 at Guwahati (1), I had stated '*Irrespective of whatever cognitive quantum leaps may be made in the future, the physician of the twenty-first century shall continue to orchestrate with the melody of molecules, remain*

avidly attached to the music of mathematics, and shall get increasingly involved with the cosmology of computers. While doing so, his inherent capacity to develop an inner vision and in-depth perception, must go beyond the hitherto known frontiers of biosciences. Indeed, this is where the sublime art of medicine surpasses the narrow confines of the bio-frontiers of the science of medicine. This is also when a physician attains the divine gift of healing. Yet, how many strive for both? And how few achieve either!'

With life's autumn years gleaming in the candlelight, my belief is further strengthened and reinforced as expressed in "**Medicine in the 21st century**" published in February, 2014 in the APICON 2014 (2):

'As a student of Medicine for the last six decades I have witnessed outstanding achievements of biomedical and scientific research that have transformed the practice of medicine. With the dawn of era of personalized medicine, it is my ardent wish and hope that Oslerian physician will not be transcribed into an Orwellian technician devoid of healing touch and human compassion.'

Acknowledgement :

It is a pleasure to express my continuing admiration for Dr. Kuldeep Singh for his dedication, and my appreciation for Mrs Meena Kapoor, Publication Officer, for her cooperation, in the publication of this volume of ANNALS.



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