



Dear Members,

In the last week of July, I attended the annual conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the PSA17, in Sydney, Australia. The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) held their biennial conference along with the PSA17. I attended the conference in the capacity of a Vice President and regional representative of the CPA for the term 2015-17. By now you have all heard the news that I took charge as the president of the CPA for the term 2017-19 in the closing ceremony of the PSA17. Many IPA presidents in the past have represented IPA in the CPA and contributed significantly. The first ever president of CPA from IPA was Late Dr. J. N. Banerjee for the term 1982-1987 and he was also the president of the CPA conference in Nairobi in 1987. Mr. Devinder Pal served as a regional representative and Vice President of CPA for a number of years during the 90s. Prof. B. Suresh has been a regional representative for the past 8-10 years and is one of the founding trustees of the CPA when the association was registered as a charity and its first constitution was adopted in Sept 2015. I also take immense pleasure to announce here that Prof. B. Suresh is the recipient of the Fellowship of CPA and is one among the first six fellowships of CPA announced in the just concluded biennial conference of CPA in Sydney Australia. I feel very honored to get elected as the President of the CPA and hope to carry the legacy of our past presidents forward.

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The PSA17 with a theme on Leading pharmacy innovation was very well organized and attended by 1200 delegates, most of them registered pharmacists. The inaugural Plenary on the July 28, had the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Federal Minister for Health addressing the delegates. He in his address, referring to an earlier announcement by the organizers in case of any emergency, said that he knows what to do in case of an emergency; 'consult or talk to your pharmacist!' clearly sending a message to all the pharmacist delegates that the Government of Australia considers the pharmacist as a very important part of the healthcare team. The minister announced that the Government is working on a long-term health plan that aims at making the world's best health care system within a decade. This healthcare system would be achieved through ensuring that every person can access the medicines and health professionals they need in an affordable manner; by supporting hospitals and making pharmacists as fundamental to the working of hospitals; by promoting medical research where in pharmacy remains central to the medical research and by defining the specific roles of pharmacy. The minister emphasized on the medicines optimization and pharmacy outreach programme as well as a future vision in which pharmacist plays a role as medicines and health care provider performing real time monitoring of prescriptions containing dangerous drugs. He further indicated that annually

around 600 Australians lose their life due to improper medication, which is not acceptable.

The outgoing CPA president Raymond Anderson in his address stated that the model that is operational in certain Commonwealth countries is that medical professionals diagnose and hand over the patient to the pharmacist to manage prescription and treatment and that is going to be the future. The international Key-note address, which also happens to be the eleventh B. V. Patel Lecture of the CPA was delivered by Dr. Tim Hanlon, Chief Pharmacist and Clinical Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimization, Guy's Hospital, London on the topic, Embracing innovative solutions for global pharmaceutical care needs. In another key note address, Ms. Catherine King, MP and Shadow Minister for health and medicine stressed the importance of primary health networks and roles of Pharmacists in the primary care and Health care homes. There were several sessions on topics of global importance like antimicrobial resistance, asthma management, electronic medication management and pharmacists, building effective collaborations in resource-poor settings and so on. CPA organized a special session on pharmacists in refugee health and disaster management. This was a very good session in which eminent speakers discussed how pharmacists need to be culturally sensitive while dealing with refugee health issues and the importance of empathy while communicating through interpreters. The importance of pharmacy services during natural calamities and disasters were also discussed with reference to forest fires, and flash floods. Overall it gave a great feeling to note that pharmacists have a major role to play in public health and countries like Australia are leading the way by setting examples for how the health care system should be with pharmacists playing a pivotal role. When will we see such a situation in our country, which is regarded as the pharmacy of the world?

V.V.V. Vadlamudi Rao

Rao V. S. V. Vadlamudi, Ph. D.,

Our Mission

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is the national professional body of pharmacists engaged in various facets of the profession of Pharmacy. The IPA is committed to promote the highest professional and ethical standards of pharmacy, focus the image of pharmacists as competent healthcare professionals, sensitize the community, government and other on vital professional issues and support pharmaceuticals education and sciences in all aspects.

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