



Dear Members,

This month I am in Vancouver, BC, Canada and I visited the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of British Columbia (UBC) from where I graduated with a Ph.D in 1983. The UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences ever since has transformed making huge strides in imparting Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical sciences education in Canada and is now ranked no 2 in the country. I met and spent some quality time with my mentor and Ph.D guide, former Dean and Professor Emeritus, John H. McNeill, who gave me a guided tour of the new Pharmaceutical Sciences building that was completed a few years ago. A very important quote that I saw in the faculty reads as follows; "Think Pharmacists are just pill counters? Think again! Pharmacists are part of the Health Care team". In the faculty, there is a Pharmacists Clinic, which is Canada's first university-affiliated, licensed, pharmacist-led patient care clinic, where pharmacists provide health consultation services including immunization to patients. Started in 1946, the Faculty of Pharmacy at UBC rapidly progressed to Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in

We must emphatically use our collective wisdom, ideas, and opinions in the form of our advocacy initiatives to convince and make the government and regulators or policy makers or trade associations or pharmacy industry leaders that pharmacists must be there in each pharmacy and every pharmacy, for that matter, wherever medicines are handled.

the 1960s to emphasize a focus on research. UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences introduced Pharm. D. Post baccalaureate program (graduate Pharm. D.) in 1990 and currently offers a Practice Pharm. D. program in addition to M. Sc. and Ph. D. programs. The new facility of the UBC Pharm Sciences was inaugurated in 2012, which is a 250,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art learning and research facility in the heart of the UBC campus and has won 15 awards for its elegance and excellence.

While looking at the progress the UBC pharmaceutical sciences made in the 36 years after I graduated in 1983, I am reminded of the progress our pharmacy profession made in India. We too have introduced the Pharm. D. course in addition to the B. Pharm and M. Pharm courses as well as the two-year D. Pharm course. I am quite confident that we introduced what is essential in pharmacy education for providing the well-trained and technically competent human resources required to provide the much-needed healthcare to the public of our country. Even after that we are still struggling to convince the stakeholders that pharmacists are an important part of the healthcare team and they are essential to handle all aspects of medicines, right from discovery & development to manufacture, distribution & dispensing, patient counseling, drug information services & safety monitoring, medication therapy

management and total pharmaceutical care for our patients.

We are always concerned that someone is coming in the way of pharmacists getting their due importance and recognition as an integral part of the healthcare team. We at IPA must understand that there is no single solution for this problem and we shall move on several fronts to counter it. We must emphatically use our collective wisdom, ideas, and opinions in the form of our advocacy initiatives to convince and make the government and regulators or policy makers or trade associations or pharmacy industry leaders that pharmacists must be there in each pharmacy and every pharmacy, for that matter, wherever medicines are handled. Rules must be followed and acts should be enforced and no short cut measures to be entertained however short-term they might be. All pharmacy professionals must ensure that they play a role in policy making, policy implementation, advocacy to promote the profession, empowerment of other pharmacists and younger professionals to take up bold steps like entrepreneurship or setting up of pharmacy care services to make public aware about the benefits of the interventions by pharmacists. This should form the main focus of IPA in 2017 and beyond.

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.

The information and opinions presented in the issue reflect the views of the authors and not of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association or the Editor Board. Publication does not constitute endorsement by IPA or Pharma Times. IPA, Pharma Times and/or its publisher cannot be held responsible for errors of for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this journal. The appearance of advertising or product information in the various section in the journal does not constitute an endorsement or approval by the Journal and/or its publisher of the quality or value of the said product or of claims made for it by its manufacturer.