

41st AIIMS Annual Convocation
12th September, 2013
Director's Speech



शरीरमाद्यं खलु धर्मसाधनम्

All India Institute of Medical Sciences
New Delhi



अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान
अंसारी नगर, नई दिल्ली-110029



All India Institute of Medical Sciences
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029

प्रो. आर.सी. डेका, निदेशक
PROF. R.C. DEKA DIRECTOR



Honourable Madam, Dr Margaret Chan, Director General, World Health Organization (WHO), respected AIIMS President, and Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Members of Parliament, Excellencies from the Foreign Missions, esteemed Members of the Institute, distinguished Guests, my esteemed Colleagues- the Sub-Dean, the Registrar and the faculty, dear students, respected parents, members of the Press, ladies and gentlemen :

On the joyous occasion of the 41st Annual Convocation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, I extend a very warm welcome to you all.

AIIMS has completed its journey of over 57 years since its establishment by the government through a Parliamentary Act in 1956. I would like to say with pride that it has made significant contribution in the field of medical education, research and quality patient care and has not only provided its leadership in health professional education and biomedical research but also has established itself as the best service provider.

AIIMS has a manpower of over 10,000 including over 750 faculty members, supported by a large number of resident doctors, nurses, paramedics, scientists, non-medical officers and staff.

Till date, the institute has produced 5198 specialists (MD / MS / MDS / MHA - 176/2013), 1344 super-specialists (DM/M.Ch-85/2013), 2646 MBBS doctors (50/2013), 996 Ph.Ds. (52/2013) and 764 Postgraduates (M.Sc & M.Biotech.: 46/2013) in allied health and basic sciences. It has also trained 2565 nurses and paramedical professionals including 109 B.Sc-Hons level persons.

These figures of course include 509 degrees awarded today in different disciplines and branches of medicine and allied health sciences.

Today is a day of joy and celebration. On this occasion, I congratulate all the recipients

of their well-deserved degrees, medals and certificate of academic excellence. I would also like to urge them to always uphold the dignity and glory of their institute and the motherland.

AIIMS has been active in sharing its knowledge and expertise through CMEs, symposia, workshops and conferences, organized by them within AIIMS, and also by attending them in India and abroad. The scientific contributions made by my faculty and scientists during the year are laudable.

Under short term training scheme, the institute provided postgraduate training to a large number of foreign nationals including 38 WHO fellows. 33 foreign graduates have also undergone elective training at AIIMS during the year. 726 doctors and other health-care professionals from different Indian states underwent training during the year.

A self enrichment programme for fresh MMBS students was given to build in them confidence and communicative understanding and collaboration with senior students as well as learning about various work stations at AIIMS. A specially designed orientation programme in research and patient care, including communication and soft skill acquisition was also offered to the new Resident doctors and assistant professors for their benefit. Orientation programme was also given to other workers in the institute on a regular basis in order to improving their performances in patient care areas.

I would reiterate that the institute is committed to high quality and standards in research and medical education. Our faculty and scientists are engaged in frontline research in areas like human genomics, immunogenetics with organ transplant programme, molecular medicine, structural biology and protein structure, aiming at new drug development. They are also practising newer diagnostics and intervention procedures through imaging sciences in cardiovascular and neurosciences. Ultrasound guided procedures in fetal medicine, neonatology and cancer are also being routinely practised. Technology-driven innovations for patient care using biocompatible implant devices, like cardiac stents, cochlear implants, knee & hip joints through collaborative bio-design are intensely experimented and clinically practiced using ethically approved methods.

Many platform based technologies for diagnosis of diseases including cancer and undertaking research in basic biomedical disciplines, pathology, laboratory medicine, virology, medical oncology and pediatrics are deployed in the institute for furthering the cause of better health care in India.

Pioneering patient care works in areas like cardiothoracic surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedics, corneoplasty and retinal therapy, diabetes, robotic and other minimally invasive surgery have been done by my faculty. The doctors at the trauma-care centre have conducted clinical research and developed a safe practice protocol and guideline for acute and emergency care medicine and successfully provided leadership in this emerging branch of medicine. Newer skill acquisition methods through medical simulation systems for medical

education including practical skill development in experimental laboratories in animal experimentation and surgical situations are being made available for the benefit of students and resident doctors. They are learning routine and critical care medicine at various stations such as Anesthesia and Trauma care area through these medical simulations.

We have also a strong rural health training programme at Ballabgarh community hospital for training both under - and post graduates in rural and public health practices. They have also learned epidemiology of health and diseases in 28 villages under control of this community centre.

During the last academic year the faculty, the scientists and students of the institute have published over 1800 research papers in national and international journals, written books and monographs and also contributed a large number of chapters in books.

Over 500 young scientists at different positions like research fellows, research associates and Ph.D. students have been engaged in significant research projects under the guidance/supervision of our faculty.

508 research projects, including 55 projects funded by international organizations such as WHO, NIH, UNICEF and other Indian agencies are in progress during the year. The faculty and scientists have brought extramural funds of Rs. 69 crore. I would like to congratulate my colleagues for this achievement. 211 research projects were successfully completed this year, bringing new knowledge and useful research data at the institute. Rs. 5 crore institutional funds were also distributed to young faculty for undertaking 58 new research projects, involving newer areas like cardiology, neurosciences, stem cell studies, drug designing, protein research, genetics and immunology. This was a commendable initiative taken by the research section at AIIMS. Under my chairmanship, the Research advisory council took a number of steps to enhance our research capabilities and to stimulate young scholars and faculty to learn research techniques using platform based technology. 58 young faculty were given training in cutting edge research areas of molecular medicine.

During the institute's foundation day celebration on the 25th September, faculty members will be awarded for their outstanding research publications during the preceding year with cash prizes and certificate of excellence. The process of selection for these awards has been completed.

A health exhibition will also be shown on this occasion showcasing institute's contribution to Health sciences for public view. This is a reflection of the kind of research activities undertaken during the past 4 years.

The "AIIMS Foundation Day Lecture" which was instituted last year will also be given by an eminent scientist. This is a very inspiring experience for the young doctors and students.

Presently, the AIIMS hospitals have a total bed strength of 2445, including day care beds in dentistry. During the preceding year, the institute attended to 2710956 patients in OPD including those in the Casualty, admitted 1,85572 patients and performed 1,47599 surgical procedures. The institute has maintained an ideal parameter in patient-care services with an average bed occupancy of over 84%, and average hospital stay of about 6 days. The AIIMS hospitals reported a net death rate of below 3%, with a combined crude infection rate of 7.8 % in the hospital.

The convergence block will house all modern platform based state-of-the-art technology for our faculty, scholars and students to undertake research. It will indeed become the knowledge hub which will allow us to store and manage our large clinical material and research data for enhancing our capability in research. This block should be completed within 3 months.

We are aware of our people's expectation from the institute. We have indeed succeeded in providing affordable specialised medical care in the country. No wonder, the people, in general, and our patients, in particular, have reposed great trust in us.

I, on behalf of my colleagues, would like to assure all those coming to us that we shall never shirk our responsibility. I take this opportunity to thank all my faculty, resident doctors, nurses and other colleagues for their contribution and commitment to serve the people. Permit me to say that we have lived up to the mandate given to us by the country's Parliament. Our work and commitment have been eminently endorsed by the public as well as the national leaders. It is, therefore, not surprising that AIIMS has assumed a brand value, which has been recognized by the Government of India as well as the State governments and institutes across the country. The central government has recently opened MBBS course in six AIIMS-like institutes in different States. We are mentoring these institutes in different ways including selecting their MBBS students through a centralized entrance examination and counseling procedure. In this context, I would like to thank my colleagues in the examination sections and faculty for their efforts.

In collaboration with national knowledge network using communication technology and establishing virtual learning environments in the institute, we are making efforts to nurture these institutions with support from other institutes.

The AIIMS is recognized as a national symbol of excellence for medical education, research and patient care. We are also at the same time, intensely watched and monitored by the Government, the media and the people at large. So we have to constantly strive for continuous improvement and development in all aspects of health care. Our focus on newer areas like translational medicine through collaborative efforts within India and foreign universities is being maintained and sustained.

It is true that our quality care to people has attracted a large patient load which has forced us to compromise on some of our priorities, affecting the academic and research activities of the Institute. This is indeed a big challenge for all of us. We have to protect its academic character and to maintain its stated objective. I hope once the 6 AIIMS like institutes and other government medical colleges, which were augmented in their facilities through central government funding come up well, we would be able to serve as a referral health care institute of excellence in its real sense and also foster higher academics and research and nurture the other institutes more effectively.

We are fully aware that we have to keep pace with the advances in science and technology, particularly in the field of biomedical sciences and to produce affordable solutions of our public health problems using technology. With the support from the government, and under the visionary leadership of our President Shri Ghulam Nabi Azadji, the institute has started its expansion programme for improving its capacity in the present campus. We have started work in the Jhajjar Campus, in Haryana, and to begin with, we have started an Out reach OPD service for patients while making plans for developing a world class centre of excellence in areas like infectious diseases, molecular medicine, nutrition, vaccine development and regenerative sciences. A national cancer research centre is also under advanced planning stage at this site in Jhajjar.

India is on the move as a growing knowledge-based and technology driven society. The whole world is looking at us. We have to carefully plan for our future generation. It is indeed a huge responsibility to maintain the quality and the pace of growth, which is essential in the health-care sector, including augmentation of public health capabilities to meet the growing public health needs, including producing a large skilled workforce for health care sector in India. We are in huge shortage of skilled health care workers at the technical and paramedical levels. I am sure we will be able to meet these challenges through collaborative efforts among institutions including national skill development council and other such institutions.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, resident doctors, scientists, nurses and students and on my own behalf, I express a deep sense of gratitude to you madam, Chan, for your august presence on this joyous occasion. We are indeed very happy to share our joy and celebrations with you, today ! I am also extremely grateful to AIIMS President and Minister, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad for his continuous support and guidance for over all growth of the institute during last 5 years.

At the end, I wish you all health and happiness!
And I thank you all for your kind indulgence.

JAI HIND

New Delhi
12th September, 2013

Professor Ramesh C. Deka
Director/CEO,
AIIMS, New Delhi



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