

FEDERATION OF OBSTETRIC AND GYNAECOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF INDIA (1936-1975)

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It is my privilege to document the origin, growth and development of The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India in the Silver Jubilee Year 1975.

Eminent Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of India met at Madras for the First convention in 1936 presided over by Late Dr. Ida S. Scudder. An idea was conceived out of the casual deliberations to form the societies of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in various big cities of India and further to consider the feasibility of publishing an All India Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The Nuclear Societies at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras further resolved to make efforts to establish new societies and extend facilities for exchange of ideas within the members of our speciality. The Second Conference was held in Bombay in 1938 in the precincts of N. Wadia Maternity Hospital which was presided over by Late Dr. B. D. Mukherjee and inaugurated by the late Chief Minister Mr. B. G. Kher in the presence of galaxy of eminent elites of the profession. The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 followed by the partition of our country in 1947, dampened our efforts to create a dynamic organisation till 1950. Three Conferences at Calcutta, Lahore and Bombay were held in 1941, 1945 and 1947 presided over respectively by late Dr. N. A. Purandare, Dr. Chamanlal Mehta and late Dr. A. L. Mudaliar. The last Conference held its deliberations with other specialist organisations holding

their annual meetings concurrently with The Annual Conference of Indian Medical Association in Bombay on the lawns of J. J. Groups of Hospitals. The Sixth Conference was held in Madras in January 1950, presided over by Dr. J. Jhirad. This was a historic conference where Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and Punjab participated and took the final decision to form the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India and further resolved to publish the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of India with Dr. J. Jhirad and Dr. K. M. Masani as Editors. It was further decided that the Federation be registered as a non-profit making academic organisation with Head Quarters in Bombay. The first signatories to this constitution were late Sir Laxmanswami Mudaliar, Dr. N. A. Purandare, Dr. H. D'Sa, Dr. R. K. K. Tampan, Dr. Subodh Mitra, Dr. J. Chakravarti, Dr. Jhirad and Dr. Chamanlal Mehta.

The Federation of the Societies was formed with the object of having solidarity amongst the Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of India so that a common and authoritative voice can be presented in the progress of the ever expanding Sciences of Obstetrics and Gynaecology including Physiology of Reproduction, Family Planning and Mother and Child care. The Federation during its deliberations has formulated its views and expressed the same as it concerns the under graduate and post graduate education in

our country. The VIIth Congress held in 1952 at Calcutta was presided over by Dr. H. M. Lazarus. The VIIIth All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was held at the Sir C. J. Hall in Bombay in 1955 presided by late Dr. J. D. R. Dadabhoy.

The following few years were eventful in the history of our Federation when we affiliated ourselves to the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1955, with the Headquarters at Geneva.

Late Dr. J. N. Karande was our first Hon. Secretary from 1951 to 1954. Dr. B. N. Purandare was our General Secretary from 1955 to 1966 later on followed by Dr. C. L. Jhaveri from 1967 to 1974 and now Dr. R. D. Pandit is functioning as the Hon. General Secretary. The IXth All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was held at Amritsar and was presided over by Dr. Subodh Mitra.

The Treasury of Our Federation has always been fortunate to get the services of Dr. B. N. Purandare, Dr. C. G. Saraiya, Dr. V. N. Purandare and now Dr. C. B. Purandare.

The Federation was growing at a steady space and The Xth Congress was held in Hyderabad in 1959 with Dr. H. V. Tilak presiding. The years 1961 and 1962 were quite unique when the XIth Congress was held in Calcutta and was presided by late Dr. V. N. Shirodkar. The IInd Asian Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was held in 1962 also at Calcutta which was inaugurated by late Dr. B. C. Roy. Since that time the Federation is actively associated with National and International organisations and lends support to Central and State Governments to accept the challenge posed by the problems created by population explosion and channelises its activities in the field of Family Planning. In 1965 the Government

of India formed the Shah Committee for legalisation of Abortions. The Federation was represented by late Dr. V. N. Shirodkar and Dr. B. N. Purandare. Later on realising the stiff opposition and resistance for legalisation of Abortions the Government of India changed the Statute and called the Bill "Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971". The Federation was represented by Dr. S. B. Anklesaria, Dr. B. N. Purandare and Dr. C. L. Jhaveri. An International Seminar on oral contraceptives was organised by the Federation in the year 1965 with the special efforts of Dr. B. N. Purandare and recommendations were made to the Government of India to introduce pilot 'pill' projects at selected centres in India.

The XIIth Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was held in Ahmedabad presided by Dr. M. K. K. Menon in 1963. The next conference which was held in Patna in the year 1966 was presided by Dr. K. M. Masani. This conference was postponed for some days due to sad and sudden demise of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India accepted the donation of Rs. 6,000 from Mrs. Indumati C. Jhaveri to establish the three conference awards for the best presentation in our official subjects of the Conference for our young colleagues who participate in the Scientific programmes. These awards are regularly given at our conferences to the best speakers as judged by a committee of judges appointed by the managing committee of the Federation.

The XIVth Congress was held in Nagpur in 1967. Dr. B. N. Purandare presided over it and a large number of scientific papers on Family Planning were present-

ed at this conference and special awards were distributed.

The work of the Federation has been accepted by the State and Central Governments and due representation is given to our organisation. It had been the privilege of late Dr. V. N. Shirodkar, Dr. B. N. Purandare, Dr. M. K. K. Menon, Dr. P. K. Devi, Dr. C. L. Jhaveri and many others to serve on various committees like Family Planning Implementation Committee, Maternal and Child Health Care Programme, Medical Education, State Medical Councils and Nursing Councils constituted by the State and the Central Government Bodies.

In 1969 the International Federation sponsored an International Seminar on Maternal Mortality, Family Planning and Biology of Reproduction with the financial assistance of World Health Organisation. This Seminar organised by our Federation was held in March 1969 in Bombay when a good number of illustrious scientists from different parts of the world presented their scientific papers. The proceedings of this conference have been published in a volume under the joint Editorship of Dr. B. N. Purandare and Dr. C. L. Jhaveri with the financial assistance from M/s. Unichem, Sandoz, and other Pharmaceutical Companies.

XVth All India Congress was held in Margao in 1969 presided over by Dr. S. B. Anklesaria. The XVIth All India Congress presided by Dr. Prabodh Das was held in Delhi in 1972 when M/s. Tata-fissions through the special efforts of Dr. S. Agarwala donated a sum of Rs. 20,000 to create a "Rallies Oration". We collected an equal amount and called this fund as "Federation Foundation Fund" to which every member contributes a sum of Rupees Ten. This "Rallies Oration"

will be delivered for the first time by Sir Stanley Clayton, President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on 3rd March 1975. Further the 55 scientific papers on Infertility presented at this congress are published in a book form with the financial assistance of M/s. Alarsin Laboratories, Bombay. The complimentary copies of both the volumes have been sent to all the members. The XVIIth Congress was held at Agra presided by Dr. S. N. Upadhyay. Instead of biannually, the first Annual Conference (XVIIIth) was held in December 1974 presided by Dr. C. L. Jhaveri at Manipal. With the munificent donation of Rs. 6,000 from Dr. S. N. Upadhyay a Rotating Presidential Gold Medal was created and was ceremoniously presented by the retiring president. At the XVIIIth All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology it was resolved that the Family Planning Programme including Mother and Child care in all States be entrusted to the Heads of the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at all Hospitals attached to Medical Colleges, and to District Hospitals for effective implementation and execution.

The Official Journal of the Federation was published quarterly till December 1964. The Journal has been accepted by various International Journals for exchange of facilities and is regularly screened by the publishers of the Year Book of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in U.S.A. The Journal enjoys the privilege of an academic Journal resulting into a constant stagnation load of papers awaiting publication. Since January 1965 the Journal is published bimonthly. Credit and high appreciation for the successful running of the Journal goes to untiring and ceaseless efforts of Dr. J. Jhirad since its inception, Dr. K. M. Masani, Dr. Gool

Vazifdar and other colleagues during these 24 years. The high quality of work by these esteemed colleagues has brought luster and dynamism to the Journal and we publish to-day 2500 copies of each issue. In 1968 Dr. J. Jhirad was accepted as founder Editor and Dr. K. M. Masani as Hon. Editor.

Our Federation is the Founder Member of the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and has a permanent seat on the Executive Board of F.I.G.O. Seventy-six National organisations are affiliated to this International organisation and we rank 3rd with about 2000 members and 41 affiliate societies. Late Dr. Subodh Mitra was our first representative on the governing body followed by Dr. B. N. Purandare and now by Dr. C. L. Jhaveri. We had the unique distinction when Dr. B. N. Purandare was unanimously elected as president elect of F.I.G.O. at the VIth World Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, held in New York, U.S.A. in April 1970, and later on was installed as the president of F.I.G.O. at the VIIth World Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology held at Moscow, U.S.S.R. in August 1974.

Our representative delegates have contributed a large number of papers and films at all the International Conferences held in various parts of the world. We have been represented on various committees of the International Federation by our members like late Dr. Subodh Mitra, Dr. M. K. K. Menon, Dr. B. N. Purandare, Dr. Bhasker Rao, Dr. C. L. Jhaveri and others.

We are an active Member of the Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, since its inception. Late Dr. V. N. Shirodkar was elected as the president

followed by Dr. M. K. K. Menon and Dr. B. N. Purandare as Vice-Presidents.

The Federation plans to publish a directory containing "who is who" of our members which could be easily achieved with the co-operation of our Member Bodies.

We are privileged to hold the IInd International Seminar on Maternal and Perinatal Mortality, Pregnancy Termination and Sterilisation in the first week of March 1975. This Seminar is sponsored by the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Further, India will hold the first meeting of the Executive Board of F.I.G.O. in Bombay on 2nd March 1975 in this part of the world. We will celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on 3rd March 1975 in Bombay.

We solicit your co-operation to promote the study of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and diseases of the new born, organise refresher courses, seminars, symposia and further request you to donate generously to enhance Federation activities and prestige.

The Federation is on its way to achieve these goals and all the successes and importance it has enjoyed Nationally and Internationally speaks for the high efficiency, co-operative working abilities, intelligence and knowledge of the 41 Member Bodies affiliated to the Federation. We can safely say that ours is the largest organisation of specialists in India with 2000 members and can claim to bring the specialists in many parts of country together as a united body for united efforts for the benefit of our country and the medical profession.