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SILVER JUBILEE OF THE FEDERATION OF OBSTETRIC AND
GYNAECOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF INDIA 1950-1975

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The First All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress was held in Madras in 1936. At this time there were in existence only three societies at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. It was decided at that time by the participating eminent Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to form similar societies in other parts of our Country and to consider the feasibility of publishing an All India Journal as an official organ of these societies.

By 1950 six All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congresses were held. At the 6th All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress held in Madras on 6th January 1950, Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of Madras, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Bengal and Punjab resolved to form themselves into "The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India".

It was further resolved that the Federation be registered at Bombay with headquarters in Bombay. We owe a great deal to the pioneering efforts of our eminent colleagues and members like the late Sir Laxman Swami Mudaliar, the late Dr. N. A. Purandare, Dr. Chamanlal Mehta,

Dr. J. Jhirad, the late Dr. H. Desa, the late Dr. R. K. K. Tampan, the late Dr. Subodh Mitra, the late Dr. J. Chakravarty, and many others.

The main objectives in formation of the Federation were to bring doctors practicing in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology together, and ventilate their views, to safeguard their interests, aim at ideal undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in India, achieve higher standards of scientific progress in our speciality by holding All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congresses, publishing an All India Journal, improve the Maternal and child health care, and raise the standard of training of nurses and paramedical personnel in our country.

There are at present 41 societies affiliated to our Federation with total membership of 2023 active members at the end of year 1975.

Our Federation used to hold All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congresses once in two years, and from 1974 onwards once a year.

The Indian Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology came out with its first issue

in June 1950 and continued as a quarterly Journal till December 1964. From January 1965, the Journal is published very regularly as bi-monthly. It has become extremely popular in our Country and abroad also. The great success and reputation of the Journal is mainly due to the untiring efforts of the Founder Editor, Dr. J. Jhirad and the present Editor Dr. K. M. Masani and Secretary and Manager, Dr. Gool Vazifdar for the last twenty five years. They are ably assisted by associate editors Dr. V. N. Purandare, and Dr. R. D. Pandit, Assistant Editor Dr. M. N. Parikh, and Assistant Secretary Dr. Shirin P. Mehtaji. Our journal had the unique distinction of publishing its Silver Jubilee number in February 1975.

Since 1966, our Federation has been awarding three "Mrs. Indumati Jhaveri" prizes at each congress to young members of our Federation whose scientific contribution is adjudged best in the different official themes of our Congress. Under the auspices of our Federation, International Seminar on Modern Contraceptives was held in Bombay from 17th to 19th July 1965.

In 1972, at the time of 16th All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress, our Federation accepted the munificent donation of Rs. 20,000/- from Tata Fison's with special efforts of Dr. S. N. Agarwala with a matching contribution from our Federation, and instituted "Federation Foundation Fund" to award "Rallis Oration (Federation Foundation) Award", from 1975 onwards. The First "Rallis Oration (Federation Foundation) was delivered by Sir Stanley Clayton, President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London, on 3rd March 1975 at Bombay.

Our Federation directly or indirectly

through the members from different Memberbodies is co-operating with the central government, and various state governments, W.H.O. etc. Representation was given to some of our members in various committees, especially Shantilal Shah Legalisation of Abortion Committee, Family Planning, Medical Termination of Pregnancy, Maternal and Child Health Programme. Some of our members are actively associated with Medical Council of India, State Medical Councils, and Nursing Councils, etc.

Our Federation is affiliated to the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics which came into existence in 1954, and is one of the founder members of the same. Our Federation has a permanent seat on the executive committee of the F.I.G.O. The late Dr. Subodh Mitra was our first representative on the executive committee, followed by Dr. B. N. Purandare, and now Dr. C. L. Jhaveri. Dr. Subodh Mitra was later on elected as the Vice-President of the F.I.G.O., followed by Dr. B. N. Purandare. Late Dr. Subodh Mitra, Dr. M. K. K. Menon, and Dr. B. N. Purandare have worked on various committees set up by the International Federation.

Our Federation had the unique distinction in having Dr. B. N. Purandare getting elected to the highest office, as the President of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics for the year 1973-76. Our Federation had the privilege to organise the First International Seminar on maternal mortality, family planning, and biology of reproduction in March 1969, at Bombay, sponsored by the F.I.G.O.

Our Federation also had the honour of organising the Second International Seminar on Maternal and Perinatal Mortality, Pregnancy Termination, and

Sterilization, in March 1975, at Bombay, sponsored by the F.I.G.O.

Our Federation was also responsible in the formation of the Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1959 and has hosted the Second Asian Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Calcutta in January 1962. 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.

Our Federation this year is celebrating its silver jubilee, which is a great landmark in its history. The tremendous progress and achievements were possible because of the able leadership, and dedicated work by various members of our

Federation, and full and wholehearted co-operation of all the Memberbodies. Our Federation through its members is actively helping central, and state governments in effective implementation of the programme of Family Planning, Medical Termination of pregnancy, maternity and child health care, in raising the standards of medical, paramedical, and nursing education in our country.

We can look forward to a brighter future, by playing an important role not only at the national level but also at the international level too, by the efforts and dedicated work, and wholehearted co-operation by members of all the various memberbodies.