

THE FEDERATION OF OBSTETRIC AND GYNAECOLOGICAL SOCIETIES OF INDIA 1950-1977

by

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It gives me great pleasure and privilege to write about the formation, growth and progress of the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India, during the last twenty seven years.

The First All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress was held in Madras in 1936. At this time there were in existence only three obstetric and gynaecological 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 of obstetrics and gynaecology 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 Bombay, Madras, Bengal, Ahmedabad 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 the formation of the Federation were to bring doctors practicing in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology together, express their views freely, to safeguard their interests, aim at formulating and planning ideal undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in India, especially in the branch of obstetrics and gynaecology, also help in the proper orientation and teaching of midwives and auxilliary nurses and family welfare social workers, achieve higher standards of scientific progress in our speciality by holding All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congresses, publishing an All India Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, help improving the maternal and child health care, and raise the general standard of training and practice of doctors, nurses and paramedical personnel in our Country keeping pace and abreast with recent and upto-date knowledge in the field of obstetrics, gynaecology and family planning.

There are at present 53 societies affiliated to our Federation with total membership of about 2950 active members.

Late Dr. J. N. Karande was our first Hon. General Secretary from 1951 to 1954, followed by Dr. B. N. Purandare from 1955 to 1966, Dr. C. L. Jhaveri from 1967 to 1974, and now Dr. R. D. Pandit is the Hon. General Secretary from 1975

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onwards. Our Federation had services of Dr. B. N. Purandare, Dr. C. G. Saraiya, Dr. V. N. Purandare as treasurer. Dr. C. B. Purandare is the present treasurer.

The following is the list of venue, year, and the President, who presided over the respective congress.

The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of India came out with its first issue in September 1950, and continued as a quarterly Journal till December 1964. From January 1965, the Journal is published very regularly as bi-monthly. It has given opportunities to our members

No. of Congress	Year of Congress	Venue of Congress	President
1st	1936	Madras	Late Dr. Ida S. Scudder
2nd	1938	Bombay	Late Dr. B. D. Mukherjee
3rd	1941	Calcutta	Late Dr. N. A. Purandare
4th	1945	Lahore	Dr. Chamanlal Mehta
5th	1947	Bombay	Late Dr. A. L. Mudaliar
6th	1950	Madras	Dr. J. Jhirad
7th	1952	Calcutta	Dr. H. M. Lazarus
8th	1955	Bombay	Late Dr. J. D. R. Dadabhoy
9th	1957	Amritsar	Late Dr. Subodh Mitra
10th	1959	Hyderabad	Late Dr. R. K. K. Tampan/ (Late Dr. H. V. Tilak)
11th	1961	Calcutta	Late Dr. V. N. Shirodkar
12th	1963	Ahmedabad	Dr. M. K. K. Menon
13th	1966	Patna	Dr. K. M. Masani
14th	1967	Nagpur	Dr. B. N. Purandare
15th	1969	Margoa (Goa)	Dr. S. B. Anklesaria
16th	1972	New Delhi	Dr. P. C. Das
17th	1974	Agra	Dr. S. N. Upadhyaya
18th	(Feb.) 1974	Manipal	Dr. C. L. Jhaveri
	(Dec.)		
19th	1975	Jamshedpur	Dr. C. G. Saraiya
20th	1977	Gauhati	Dr. Amy D. Engineer.
	(Jan.)		

All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congresses used to be held once in two years. Due to the outbreak of second world war in 1939, the pace was slightly slackened, again to be revitalised from 1950 onwards. Due to the tremendous success and popularity of the All India Obstetric and Gynaecological congresses, and the increasing number of papers for presentation, it was decided to hold the All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congresses once a year from 1974 onwards.

for publishing their interesting articles. 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, followed by the present Editor Dr. K. M. Masani, and Secretary and Manager Dr. Gool Vazifdar for the last twenty seven 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. During the Silver Jubilee year of the Journal, Dr. J. Jhirad (Founder Editor), Dr. K. M. Masani (Editor), Dr. (Miss) G. N. Vazifdar (Secretary & Manager) were awarded with the medals for their continuous, excellent, and dedicated services to the Journal at the time of the 19th All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress, at Jamshedpur.

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, made possible by generous donation of six thousand rupees from Mrs. Indumati C. Jhaveri to our Federation.

M/s. Johnson and Johnson Ltd. (Ethicon Division) gave a generous donation of five thousand rupees during year 1976 for awarding two FOGSI—Ethicon Travelling Fellowships which were awarded to younger obstetricians and gynaecologists by selection on merit by our Federation, who visited some leading institutions in our country to see the recent progress in our speciality. They have again offered the same during year 1977. So far such four FOGSI—Ethicon Travelling Fellows have taken the advantage.

In the year 1972, at the time of 16th All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress our Federation accepted the munificent donation of twenty thousand rupees from Tata Fissions with special efforts of Dr. S. N. Agarwala with a matching contribution from our Federation, and instituted "Federation Foundation Fund" to award "Rallies oration (Federation Foundation) Award" from 1975 onwards.

The first of this oration was delivered by Sir Stanley Clayton, President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London, on 3rd March 1975 at Bombay at the time of the second International Seminar on Maternal and Perinatal Mortality, Pregnancy Termination and Sterilization, and the second one by Prof. Berislav M. Beric, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Medical Faculty of the University, Yugoslavia, at the time of the XXth All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress held at Gauhati in January 1977.

Our Federation received a generous donation of six thousand rupees in 1974 from the then President of our Federation Dr. S. N. Upadhyaya, for instituting the rotating "President's Gold Medal".

Our Federation directly or indirectly through the members from different Memberbodies is cooperating 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, Nursing Councils, I.C.M.R. etc.

Our Federation also formed since 1975-76 the various subcommittees such as Perinatal Mortality, Maternal Mortality, Medical Education, Medical Termination of Pregnancy, Family Planning and oncology and Trophoblastic tumours, in order to collect valuable information and data from our Country. Under the auspices of our Federation, International Seminar on Modern contraceptives was held in Bombay in July 1965.

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. Seventy-eight National Societies are affiliated to this international organisation, comprising of about 29,000 total membership of F.I.G.O. 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, Dr. C. L. Jhaveri, and now from 1-1-1977 Dr. R. D. Pandit. 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, Dr. B. N. Purandare, Dr. Bhaskar Rao, and Dr. C. L. Jhaveri, 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 F.I.G.O. from 1973-1976.

Our Federation had the privilege of organising the first International Seminar on maternal mortality, family planning and biology of reproduction in March 1969, at Bombay, and also the second International Seminar on Maternal and Perinatal Mortality, Pregnancy Termination and Sterilization in March 1975, in Bombay. At the time of the second International Seminar in March 1975 in Bombay, our Federation had the unique honour of hosting the Annual Executive Committee meeting of F.I.G.O., for the first time in this part of our hemisphere, and celebrated the twentieth anniversary of F.I.G.O. On this occasion also to celebrate the twenty fifth anniversary of our Federation, all the past Presidents and the then President of our Federation,

and to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of F.I.G.O., all the past Presidents and the then president of F.I.G.O. were awarded exquisitely decorated mementos.

Our Federation also published the proceedings of the First International Seminar, and the proceedings of the second one will be published shortly. We also published another volume containing papers on sterility presented at the 16th All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology held in March 1972 at New Delhi.

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

Our Federation has completed 27 years of its existence. The phenomenal growth, tremendous progress, and the achievements speak volumes of the able guidance, and leadership provided by the founding members, as well as dedicated work and untiring efforts of all the office bearers from time to time, and the wholehearted support and co-operation given by all the members of the different memberbodies. Our Federation is also playing a positive role by advising through our members, central and state governments, municipal corporations, etc., whenever needed in effective implementation of the maternity and child-health care, family welfare programme, and in raising the standards of medical, paramedical, and nursing education in our Country.

Looking back our Federation has

achieved fruitful and excellent results not only at National level but also at the International level, but we should not be content with these only. Our Federation members should involve themselves in actively participating in the challenging

task of population explosion in our country, and to bring down the maternal and perinatal death rate to an irreducible minimum especially in the rural areas, where eighty per cent of the population resides.

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