

Presidential Address



Purandare C N

Chief guest, Honorable Health Minister of Rajasthan, Aimaduddin Ahmed Khan, Guest of Honour, Principal Health Secretary Shri Parmeshwar Agarwar, Immediate Past president, Dr. Narendra Malhotra, Chairperson of 52 AICOG Dr. Adarsha Bhargav, Secretary General my friend Dr. P. K. Shah, my Vice Presidents, Dr. Shirish Patwardhan, Dr. Alka Kriplani, Dr. H. P. Patnaik, all the other dignitaries on the dais and off the dais, Past Presidents of FOGSI, Fellow FOGSIANS, ladies and gentlemen.

I stand before you today as the 52 President of FOGSI with a sense of fulfillment. I would not have seen this day without the support of all of you, my teachers, students, friends and my family.

I feel proud at this juncture as I look upon my family's legacy starting with my grandfather Dr. N. A. Purandare the founder father of FOGSI, to the two stalwarts Dr. B. N. Purandare and Dr. V. N. Purandare all three having been Presidents of FOGSI, and myself being the third generation and fourth President of FOGSI from the family.

This organization is a prime organization. It is one of

the largest specialist bodies in the world with a member force of 23000 obstetricians and gynaecologists.

During my career many people have been instrumental in guiding me within and outside FOGSI showing me the light when there was darkness.

I cannot overstress the role played by my father the Late Mr. N. N. Purandare in encouraging me, supporting me and above all in teaching me the values of honesty, integrity and hard work.

My journey in Obstetrics and Gynecology began with changing my line from engineering to medicine due to some emotional moments shared with my grandfather the Late Dr. N. A. Purandare and I cannot forget the virtues instilled in me by him. This year is a special one being the centenary year of my grandfather's start of his career as an obstetrician and gynaecologist.

My three teachers, Dr. S. S. Thakur, Dr. G. B. Belvi, (who I am pleased to see attending this function today,) and Late Prof. Fergus Meehan of Galway, Ireland have helped craft my formative years as a future obstetrician and gynaecologist. Each of them gave me a different insight into the art and skill of Ob/Gyn.

I learnt from Dr. Thakur to smile and to build bonds of friendship without compromising on principles. From Dr. Belvi who generously gave me the opportunity and encouragement to do surgical work, from Late Prof. Meehan to treat fellow colleagues as friends and for giving me tremendous confidence to stand on par with senior colleagues.

My return to India to practice after nearly five years in Ireland saw the beginning of a new journey. Many people asked me why I had taken this step of returning. Believe me I have no regrets and I have enjoyed every bit of the route which has brought me to where I am today.

Over the years, I have accumulated a wealth of teachers like Past President of FOGSI Dr. Vasant Patwardhan, Dr. K. K. Deshmukh and colleagues like Dr. Jasmine Lopez, Dr. Sanjivani Gawhale and Dr. Madhuri Patel amongst others, all of whom have been my close friends.

My students far and wide in India and abroad have given me so much support, love and affection, which I cannot repay in many a lifetime. During my election time while traveling all over, I met so many of them far and across India like Dr. Mahija Sahu from Cuttack to Dr. Shobhana Mohandas in Thrissur. Dr. Suvarna Khadilkar, Dr. Nandita Palshetkar, Dr. Rina Agarwal, Dr. Susan Soddar, Dr. Sachin Kulkarni, Dr. Datta Panandikar, Dr. Anil Bhosle, Dr. Ravi and Archana Khairnar, Dr. Rajlaxmi Walawalkar, Dr. Monica Doshi, Dr. Narayan Subramaniam, Dr. Sonal Karia, Dr. Amir Sheikh, Dr. Sanjay Kadam, Dr. Prashant Deore, Dr. Amala Khopkar Nazareth, Dr. Sanjay Rawal, Dr. Pravin Mundada, Dr. Vidya Bandukwala, Dr. Neeta Gada, Dr. Jyoti Soni- the list is endless. My sincere apologies for not mentioning so many others who have stood by me.

My FOGSI days have been ones of tremendous learning especially in the administrative skills. I have worked for over fourteen years as an office bearer in the organization in different capacities, starting as the Joint Secretary to the Fogsii President, and eventually as Secretary General. As a Treasurer with a legacy of a Rs. 20 lakh loss I am proud to say that, with support from all of you and from various Presidents, today we are an organization with a surplus of one crore per annum. My two dear friends and colleagues, Dr. P. K. Shah and Dr. Nozer Sheriar are dedicated workers and have been my right and left hand all these years and I am sure they

will help me this year during my Presidency to achieve what I am setting out to do.

I humbly acknowledge the support and influence of Past Presidents Dr. Vasant Patwardhan who inducted me into FOGSI, Dr. Shirish Sheth, Dr. Usha Krishna, Dr. Mehroo Hansotia, Late Dr. D. K. Tank, Dr. Sadhana Desai, Dr. Behram Anklesaria, Dr. Alokendu Chatterjee, Dr. R. P. Soonawala, President Elect Dr. Sanjay Gupte and also Dr. V. N. Purandare, Dr. R. D. Pandit, Dr. M.N. Parikh while working for the FOGSI Journal.

I would like to make a special mention of Dr. Mahendra Patel Ex. Secretary General FOGSI from whom I learned a lot regarding administration and above all, to handle the situations that arise at Managing Committee meetings.

I am proud to say that after the FOGSI office was moved due to lack of space from Purandare Griha where it was housed for over 40 years to an interim place at Cama hospital, we now have our own state of the art corporate office at Mahalaxmi and I am pleased that I have fulfilled this commitment of mine.

Facing difficult times taught me things about myself that I could not have learned any other way. I discovered that I could cope with difficulties with a strong will, and had more discipline than I suspected. I also discovered that I have many friends whose value is truly priceless.

To rise to any position requires one tread a difficult path. It is my earnest desire that in all societies, members should work in the interest of their societies, and not for themselves.

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing while others judge us by what we have already done. I believe that there is a huge difference between achieving happiness and happily achieving. I feel especially blessed that I have enjoyed all the work that has come my way.

By being the President of FOGSI, I have been given the unique opportunity to serve you and contribute to the welfare of women.

Dr. Narendra Malhotra did a great job as President of FOGSI and it was a pleasure working with him. It was a perfect blend and I am sure the harmony must have been noticeable. I hope I am able to live up to his reputation and perhaps do better.

My theme for the year is “SAVING LIVES”.

Dr Narendra Malhotra’s logo showed a girl with seven ribbons, depicting seven problems. This year we will pick a few of those ribbons and concentrate on them. Taking numerous projects, I believe, will leave everything incomplete. I want to work hard to save lives and I want all of you to take a vow to help make the required difference.

I have seen mothers die for want of blood, for want of transport to shift them to tertiary centers. I have run to the rescue to deal with PPH to harness the great arteries to control hemorrhage. During the riots in Mumbai I had to go to J. J. Hospital through curfew and firing, by unfurling a white handkerchief as a flag and do a caesarian section to save a life. We have all seen the anguish in the eyes of patient’s relatives and also the tears of joy when you tell them that the patient is safe.

We, in India, are at crossroads- with high maternal mortality, increased prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and deaths due to cervical cancer and breast cancer, which are totally avoidable. These killers need to be tackled earnestly not just for a year by my team with all of you, but for years to come. Doing so will alleviate the suffering of women in our country. An agenda, which should be a priority for us all.

MY VISION FOR 2009

To quote Vaclav Havel:

“Vision is not enough; it must be combined with venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps, we must step up the stairs.”

Many socially committed pharmaceutical companies have come forward to contribute generously to my theme “SAVING LIVES” initiatives this year, and my sincere thanks to them.

My three Vice Presidents will be sharing the responsibility of looking after the various initiatives.

**FOGSI – BHARAT SERUMS _ UNIVERSAL MEDICARE Initiative
Safe Pregnancy and Delivery.**

Maternal mortality in India is astronomically high at 307 / per 100,000 live births. 300 women die everyday

due to pregnancy and childbirth complications and more than 90% of maternal deaths are preventable. Forty percent of pregnant women have complications and 15% need obstetric interventions for complications which are potentially life threatening to mother and baby.

This initiative will highlight the aspects of safe pregnancy and delivery to strengthen the knowledge of obstetricians by conducting over 60 CME’S all over India in our societies. This will highlight the need for nutrition in pregnancy; the need for medications and delivery management especially the use of misoprostol.

FOGSI – GSK INITIATIVE

Early detection and prevention of cancer cervix and breast

Cervical cancer is a significant global public health problem. It is the leading cause of death from cancers among the women of India, accounting for an estimated 132,000 new cases and 74,000 deaths every year.

As you know cervical cancer has a long preinvasive phase of 10 to 12 years. During this phase, various screening techniques like visual inspection, cytology and colposcopy can detect precancerous lesions in cervix and its treatment can control the proliferation of the disease. These facilities are not available in rural areas and hence simpler measures of detection are necessary.

The relationship of HPV infection and cancer cervix is well established and the vaccine can prevent nearly 70 to 80 % of them.

We will be conducting 100 CME’s, all over India in our societies to reduce the cancer burden of the nation.

Awareness campaigns for early detection of breast cancer will also be taken forward along with cancer cervix initiative.

With GSK’s support we will also institute two fellowships of three months each to train post M.D. students in gynaecological oncology. Prizes will be awarded for the Best Paper in Oncology at the Yuva FOGSI and the FOGSI Journal.

FOGSI – UNICEF – NACO- AVNI Initiative Prevention of HIV/Aids Transmission in Pregnancy

The spread of HIV in India has been diverse with much of India having a low rate of infection and the epidemic being most extreme in the southern half of the country and in the far northeast.

The highest HIV prevalence rates are found in Maharashtra in the West, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in the South and Manipur and Nagaland in the Northeast.

Women account for 39% of new infections, a trend with surplus implications, as more HIV positive mothers will unknowingly pass the virus on to their children. The most effective public health strategy to avert new infections in children is prevention of mother to child transmission through antiretroviral prophylaxis and safe infant feeding. These interventions can drastically reduce the risk of infection to newborn and infants by 50 to 75%.

However, 70 to 80% of deliveries occur in the private sector. Hence, FOGSI– UNICEF-NACO-AVNI collaboratively proposes to address this gap in the private sector to reach the national program targets.

FOGSI will have a public private partnership to initially do the deliveries in 60 private FOGSI member's hospitals in the prevalent areas and expand this module eventually to all over India. We will also conduct workshops in societies all over India.

FOGSI –EMCURE Initiative Anemia Eradication

Anemia is a major chronic problem in India. It not only affects the pregnant woman but women of all age groups.

A healthy girl will be a healthy mother and keeping this in mind FOGSI has taken up the challenge.

FOGSI with support from Emcure Pharmaceuticals launched the 12 x 12 program in 2007. This was scaled up last year to 24 x 7 x 365 in 2008.

Nothing can be achieved in a huge country like ours in one year and therefore we have plans to take this

forward with Emcure's support as a continuous anemia eradication program all over India.

FOGSI –EMCURE Reaching Out... Village Adoption Program

In continuation to our Bharat Jagruti Yatra last year we are going a step forward this year. The FOGSI Emcure Village Adoption programme has not limited the focus to a regional level but has been painted on the largest canvas possible, the whole of India.

Our socially aware FOGSI members will go to the patients' doorstep. The vision is to take this message to every FOGSI society. There are 202 societies in all and we need to awaken each member towards their contribution to women's health and well-being. The very theme of the year – 2009 "SAVING LIVES", speaks for itself to reduce the Maternal Mortality, Prevention of Parent to child HIV Transmission, Anemia eradication and early detection of cancer cervix and breast.

In this program every society will adopt a nearby village with a population of 1 lakh and FOGSIANS will arrange a health check up camp in the adopted village once every month for antenatal check-ups, routine gynaecological check up, screening for cervical cancer and breast cancer clinically & by mammography and other general awareness program regarding anemia and safe abortion. Patients needing hospital care will be referred to the tertiary center and treated at minimum cost.

Once in a year a mammography machine will be taken to the site for breast cancer detection.

FOGSI – SUN PHARMA Postgraduate teaching program Knowledge to share for women we care

Teaching has been my obsession. Hundreds of students have trained under me till date and I hope that I have done a good job. I believe that sharing knowledge can only lead to better caring of patients.

Hence, FOGSI, in association with SUN PHARMA, proposes to have a postgraduate teaching program all over India. We are planning to have two lecture

series in a year, of 12 lectures each, at approximately 50 venues at medical colleges all over India. This teaching program will expose the postgraduate students to different teachers and examiners in order to learn from their expertise on various subjects in obstetrics and gynaecology.

HYSTEROSCOPY TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR SMALLER SOCIETIES

**Will be conducted in 40 centers
Save the girl child**

This initiative will be given further thrust this year, and Dr. Narendra Malhotra will take this forward with the help of Lupin.

We now have a brand ambassador for this, and Raveena Tandon has graciously accepted the offer.

In order to reiterate our commitment to this issue, a very talented girl will perform at our cultural program tomorrow.

JOURNAL

The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India is amongst the most widely circulated and read specialty journals in the world. The Editor- Dr Adi Dastur, and his team have incorporated in the journal many new features, including a new cover.

The Journal is marching towards indexation and significant progress has been made. The Journal is a self-sufficient and revenue-generating organ and I am sure it will continue to grow giving you all the Indian data on research.

ICOG

The ICOG as the academic wing of FOGSI has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 1984.

Currently it has approximately 836 Fellows and members on its roster. It conducts symposia, CME's, guest lectures and visiting Professorships on a regular basis all over India. It also participates in the Yuva FOGSI conferences giving the young generation an introduction to continue academic activities.

The Govt. of India has given the important task of accreditation of private nursing homes to the ICOG, which it has successfully completed.

Many other activities like preparation of recommendations for good clinical practice, eclampsia registry have been started. This year it will certainly progress further and establish itself as a strong arm of FOGSI.

FOGSI – ICOG – GOI Initiative

EmOC

In order to reduce maternal mortality in rural India, FOGSI has started an Emergency Obstetric Care certification course for MBBS Govt. doctors working in FRU's. By the end of 2009, we will finish the target given to us for setting up training centers & we hope that these centers will be able to train more than 2000 MBBS Obstetricians working in rural FRU's for EmOC.

Committees of FOGSI

Various committees of FOGSI, 26 in number are doing excellent work under the stewardship of the three Vice Presidents and their respective chairpersons, and I am sure they will continue their good work this year too.

There are a few other important meetings planned this year

Uro-Gynaecology conference in Mumbai in March.

Endocrinology CME in Delhi in April.

World Congress on Recent Advances in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Mumbai from 11th to 13th September.

A recreational trip to Mauritius and Dubai in December for you all.

I hope all of you will attend in large numbers.

My sincere thanks to Jaipur Ob/Gyn Society for undertaking this mammoth task of organizing the conference so efficiently and I am positive each one of us present here will enjoy it thoroughly.

Terrorists causing loss of lives in India in recent times have angered us and bled our hearts but certainly haven't been able to dampen our spirits. There have been dropouts in foreign faculty due to security concerns. Those of you who have made the effort to come in spite of the odds; I want to thank you for your solidarity. I hope all of you here will support

the organizers in the security measures taken by them for this Congress, which are for our own safety.

I have known Ms. Bhandarkar of FOGSI office since my college days when the FOGSI office was in Purandare Griha. Her help to me over the years has been enormous and I would not have been able to manage 14 years as office bearer without her total support and love. My sincere thanks to her and to all other staff and I am sure they will continue to support me and the organization during the year to take it to greater heights.

Family support is paramount in one's progress and I thank my father-in-law Col. D. V. Rajwade for always being there for me.

At the end of my speech I must thank some very special people for their unflinching support, understanding, love, patience and above all sacrifice, by accepting my absences on weekends, my weekends having been given to FOGSI for over 15 years, and for allowing me to be what I wanted. My wife Gita, son Dr. Nikhil and daughter Viveka.

As is a tale, so is life : not how long it is, but how good it is, that is what matters.

I wish you all well.

Thank You.

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