

WHAT AN YEAR 2020 !!!

My Dear IAP Members,

Greetings from the office of IAP President 2020 !!

Finishing my tenure I have mixed emotions. A strong sense of contentment, fulfilment and at the same time excitement for the future of IAP as I see it.

Since this is my last communication to you all from the highest platform of our organization, firstly I thank the almighty, my parents and my seniors with whose blessings I got this post & opportunity to serve our organization as president for the year 2020

The year began with a bang with an amazing PEDICON conference organized at Indore. It was amongst the grandest events in recent times. A true and heartfelt thanks to all the organizers with special thanks to Dr V P Goswami the Organising Secretary, who went out of the way to conduct such a memorable conference. I was truly humbled by the warm reception given to me by my fellow members. It truly felt like one huge family.

I had decided the theme for this year as 'V'e – Reaching the Unreached.' It was in this conference that I shared my Action Plan and vision with you all. I also agreed with some who called me a little too overambitious at that time. But then, I believe that one should dream more and aim high to achieve more. We can only advance if we setup incredible goals for ourselves, without which we tend to stagnate and remain in our comfort zone.

In accordance with the Action Plan, I immediately called for my extremely supportive office bearers under the able and highly deserving HSG – Dr. G. V. Basavaraj– and began with a planned approach. Keeping the pandemic situation in mind, under the able guidance of Dr. Piyush Gupta, we decided to try and best utilize every member's strengths to ensure that we can get maximum outreach during this year. We looped in all the office bearers and executive board members and chalked out our plans (virtually, for the first time). I must say that while we initially faced issues and coordination problems, they were soon left in the dust.

Let us now have a glimpse of the accomplishments of Team 2020 in the pandemic year.

1. IAP NTEP (National Tuberculosis Program) was rolled out in coordination with MoHFW and it was started in a manner which ensured that we never needed to look back. The last mile was in the vicinity as well. By means of structured planning and enthusiastic execution, we completed a number of the pre-requisite workshops within the first quarter itself.
2. IAP West Bengal spearheaded the CHARIOT program and went about executing it with much enthusiasm, and then many more branches joined the efforts.
3. We conducted a VacciCon at Kolkata and discussed the ACVIP guidelines in depth in the month of March . This was the first time that we had asked experts from various industries to give us their insight by sharing their reports and research with us, so that we make more informed decisions and the guidelines to suite the diverse population

of our mother nation. I was happy to know that the wheels of my vision had started rolling quickly.

4. It was then that we were thrown over the cliff, – and COVID19 struck! There was news of the virus spreading all across the world in mere few days. Less than a 100 days into the year 2020 and the whole world was brought to its knees. Lockdowns were initiated, gatherings were prohibited, meetings were cancelled, jobs were lost, industries suffered, economies collapsed, and death had reared its ugly head simultaneously all across the world. Nothing compared to it in living memory (assuming not many of us witnessed Spanish Flu pandemic in 1918-20). Everyone was scared and no one knew what to do. It seemed that my vision – which had a flying start – had started to crumble in front of my eyes and I was feeling rather helpless in front of this invisible threat looming over our heads. It was truly a year of firsts for IAP.

It was during this time that I talked with my co-office bearers and IAP's dIAP team. We decided to use this time to fast track the dIAP project. With limited funding, but a guiding vision and dedicated scientific and technical team, we ploughed through these rough times and within a few weeks adapted the dIAP project for conducting live events from IAP office and medical colleges to working with the experts remotely. The fruits of labour were evident soon with PG Teachings by Dr Amdekar sir coming back online quickly within March itself. These were relayed to all IAP members, students of pediatrics and to the world. We saw phenomenal viewership and acceptance. The same model was expanded to provide lectures and courses in a digital manner to reach the unreached all across the country in every nook and corner to our members and everyone involved in the treatment of children. All these required massive coordination, planning and funding – the last of which suffered due to extended lockdown periods across the country. Without wasting time and resources, we made this platform available for all the members within few weeks into lockdown itself. Each and every person in CIAP office, dIAP academic and technical teams worked seamlessly to deliver my dream. While other organizations were struggling on the way to get the action plans initiated, we had started executing our action plan quite efficiently within few weeks.

From doing 1-2 events per week in pre pandemic phase (Feb – mid March), we scaled up to 15-18 live interactive events per day by August. Phenomenal by any standards!!!

On hearing these numbers, a couple of our colleagues exclaimed to me about fatigue and over doing the academics. But I saw a big change in the way education was being delivered. While it 15-18 events a day seem like a lot of activity, when I dug deeper I realised that dIAP had permeated deep into our structure and a lot of these programs were driven directly by our local/ regional/state branches. If I do simple math, in August-September we were doing only 1-2 programs per branch per month and that's not much at all. This is how I feel the education will continue forward.

5. IAP has worked very hard with other member associations like FOGSI, GAPIO, IPA, SAPA, APPA, etc and developed strong inter-association relations
6. IAP also joined hands with a number of NGOs like WHO, UNICEF, GoI, MoHFW, etc thus strengthening the ties between organizations.
7. Social activities like CHARIOT continued throughout the year while addressing to COVID situations as well. CIAP also helped the various branches by supplying the necessary funds wherever appropriate. Other social activities like Kangaroo mother care, ALS-BLS Mass Awareness Programs, School health programs and AWESOME AYA (Adolescents and Young Adults) were also well received by one and all.
8. Community activities like parental webinar also were initiated and was spearheaded by our dynamic duo of Office Bearers – Dr. Chandrashekhar Dabhadkar and Dr. Samir Dalwai – which was soon joined by Dr. Upendra Kinjawadekar for sometime and later Dr. Swati Ghate till now.
9. Members were never neglected and were always on the mind for getting a teleconsultation solution using existing technologies and were provided free of charge to all the members. We also initiated a life insurance scheme for all our members at a fraction of the actual cost. I am glad to share that more than 1000 members subscribed and benefitted from insurance.
10. A couple of members were attacked in the media as well as otherwise and IAP took a strong stand against such wrongdoings.
11. Post Graduates are the future of IAP and we must always take care of our future. For doing so, dIAP provided a common platform wherein students as well as teachers from different parts of the country could connect and deliberate with each other. A special heartfelt thanks goes to Dr. Y. K. Amdekar sir et al., Dr. Baldev Prajapati and Dr. S. Balasubramaniam.
12. P2P webinars and febinars for postgraduates and fellows in intensive care were also held and appreciated. A huge thanks to Dr. G. V. Basavaraj, Dr. Arun Bansal and Dr. Dhiren Gupta et al
13. Many of the branches – district as well as state – and sub-specialty chapters were given the dIAP platform free of charge to conduct their activities like CMEs, conferences, etc and were kept active and alive even during the COVID19 pandemic – which managed to shut down many businesses as well. dIAP also provided websites to all the branches along with chapters like AHA completely free of cost.
14. A number of teaching modules – which were a part of the IAP's Action Plan – were also spread to every branch – irrespective of size and location – of the country and was very well appreciated throughout the country due to the digital nature of dissemination. This would not have been possible in the previous physical model due to logistical difficulties involved.
15. The dIAP website was overhauled and given a new avatar with lots more functionalities added. We also created an application on the android platform for this purpose and it has already seen more than 1000 downloads.
16. The presidential candidates were also provided a platform, courtesy dIAP, to announce their candidature – a first time ever digital participation in the history of IAP.

17. I would also like to congratulate each and every one of you on being a part of the largest pediatric academy and leading platform for academics on the pediatric front with over 1700 lectures in pediatrics across various topics and over 2 million views in totality since the lockdown initiation. This shows our adaptability, strength in numbers and hunger for quality knowledge!
18. While many organizations shied away from elections during this pandemic time, IAP remained active and ensured that the highest number of voters voted this year in the history of IAP, thus following the constitution faithfully. This was possible only under the able leadership and guidance of Dr. Gnanamurthy et al. For the first time in the history of IAP, the result of the election was displayed for all to see on the dIAP platform.
19. A book titled IAP's handbook on vaccines – your questions, IAP answers is being published. We also updated the ACVIP guidelines with a committee led by Dr. S. G. Kasi et al.
20. SOP committee, under the able leadership of Dr. Jagdish Chinappa and others, is working on a couple of guidelines which will benefit IAP and its members and is expected to come out with guidelines in the near future
21. You must have already seen the new and revised website of IAP which looks very elegant and appealing. I would like to thank Dr. Samir Shah et al for all their hard work and efforts
22. Guidelines for immunization during COVID19, physical distancing and schools reopening and bulletins on COVID19 were also released. Numerous other guidelines were also published this year.
23. The presidential page this year addressed to various important issues like Quality Improvement, Research, Nutrition, Catch Pediatric Cancer, Mental Health, and so on. I am certain that this will be an interesting read and research material
24. Come August, and we were still dealing with the effects of this deadly virus. With no vaccine in sight, we continued our digital platform with as much enthusiasm as we did on day one. However the need for physical meetings was being felt more and many of us were missing the physical conferences. We thought of having virtual conferences in a 3D avatar – something that was never before seen in IAP! CIAP team coined the idea of doing weeklong academic Zonal conferences wherein the Vice-presidents of the respective zone were in charge along with the EB members from the Zone. Each zone decided to have these pedi-weeks on the 3D digital platform with the best speakers from their zone followed by some cultural activities. I must say that the planning was highly meticulous and appreciated by one and all. It was a refreshing change from the plethora of academics that was being shared everywhere across the world. A couple of zones had also started the day with some exercise/yoga activities! Seeing the venue come alive in a 3D platform gave a new meaning to the virtual world. This was especially appreciated by the doctors who were living in remote places across the country!
25. dIAP team also worked very hard to ensure that credit points could be awarded on the dIAP platform – thus fulfilling a statutory need for our members

26. We ended the year with Protocon wherein we addressed various consensus guidelines on different subspecialty topics across pediatrics
27. We also conducted a national pediweek – Sunday to Sunday, pediatrics ke funde.. – which addressed the latest practice management issues faced by our members
28. I am very glad to say that our President Elect Dr. Piyush Gupta, is using our proven digital education capabilities to accelerate his dream of making IAP's Indian College of Pediatrics (ICP) a reality in 2021. I am confident that under his leadership, IAP-ICP shall become the most comprehensive and effective resource for Pediatrics learning, for practicing pediatricians, other HCPs and students of Pediatrics. With online, offline and hybrid lectures, certificate courses, workshops and more , all across the country, conducted by all our subspecialty chapters and all our regional, state and local chapters.
29. This was a year where physical meetings were not allowed, we had more than 5 virtual EB meetings and several committee meetings! And one physical one as well in Goa. This shows everyone's commitment, fighting spirit and I salute the same !
30. With support from our National President 2021 Dr. Piyush Gupta, we have also initiated a pilot program to empower all our pediatricians with digital clinics and new service capabilities to create national solutions to some problems that have remained unsolved for decades. We are calling this bundle of services as Smart Clinic 2.0. This includes IPAN - an initiative that was started by our past president, Dr. Anupam Sachdeva and services that will enable our pediatricians to deliver nutritional assessments and advice; deliver behavioural and neuro development assessments and programs; detect cancer early; and help early detection of primary immunodeficiency. We are conducting this pilot program in Thane District in partnership with NSDL eGovernance Limited and the National Cancer Tissue BioBank, IIT Madras. A successful pilot program will enable us to expand it nationally and create a large scale solution covering for the 100 million children treated by IAP members. This creates a template to be adopted by the Public Sector for all Indian Children and also for other developing countries. ,

All of the above were done on the dIAP platform at a very nominal to no cost. Over and above this, dIAP became a revenue generating model for IAP instead of spending one. Also, achieving so many things within such a short time would not have been possible without the continued efforts put in by the entire team 2020. I am truly blessed to have had an opportunity to work with such a dream team. – a team which did not even need a physical meeting to understand their responsibilities, a team which poured their heart and soul for the academy, a team which showed us all that nothing is difficult if we are together!

dIAP has not only provided us with a plethora of academics which is also indexed and available for any member to refer to in the future but also helped us identify many young and dynamic faculties which were unknown – in a way we can say that dIAP provided a platform for many gems of IAP to be discovered.

By doing so, we have ensured that all the mission statements of IAP were addressed properly. Also, while many of you must have felt that this was a zero year, I feel that it was more than a 100% year!!

I would like to thank each and everyone of you who has given us constructive ideas and have guided us on what you would like to see on the platform. It is nothing but your love and support which has helped me in giving this much to our mother organization. This year has truly left me humbled, not just because of the pandemic, but also because of the love, togetherness, unity and selflessness shown to me by all of you. I hope this continues and I assure you all that I will continue to offer my services to the academy's cause when required and whenever asked for.

I congratulate the office bearers esp my five pillars ,the five Zonal VPs Dr Nigam Prakash Narain, Dr Shekhar Dabhadkar, Dr Anand Vasudev, Dr Anand Keshvan, and Dr G Sudhakar and the members of the Executive Board for conducting academic activities successfully and their valuable contribution for the cause of IAP and children in particular. I wish to place on record my heartfelt thanks to Dr. G. V. Basavaraj – our dynamic,HSG IAP 2020-21 – who is a strong supporter and without whom all this work would have remained a dream. Dr. Samir Dalwai , Dr Harish Pemde and Dr. Purna Kurkure were amazing and were great help by giving valuable inputs. A special thanks also for the academic leadership and project leadership work by Dr Mahesh Mohite, Dr Dheeraj Shah, Dr. Vinod Ratagiri and Dr. Gaurav Kharya.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome National president 2021 Dr Piyush Gupta and declare my full unconditional support in his plans and endeavours for our mother organisation IAP.. I must remind you all that it was during his tenure that Indian pediatrics soared in popularity. This gives me even more hope for our mother organization and I'm sure that IAP will also reach new highs during his tenure. He has charted an impressive IAP Action Plan for 2021 which I am certain will benefit all of us and the children of our country.

I also would like to welcome the newly elected Executive Board Members 2021, especially my dear friend and first national HSG of our organization – Dr. Remesh Kumar R. who has been recently elected as the President 2022. I look forward to their continuous contribution and support for the IAP Action Plan 2020-21.

I would like to make a special mention about our IAP office staff as well as the dIAP team and my personal assistant Mr Gulshan for their unflinching support and contribution without which accomplishing any of this would not have been possible.

So let us welcome the new year with much anticipation and rejuvenated spirit! Happy new year to all!

Jai Hind! Jai IAP!

Dr. Bakul Jayant Parekh

National President 2020

