

EDITORIAL

INCEPTION TO SILVER JUBILEE—25 YEARS JOURNEY OF ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF INDIA

Today as we celebrate the silver Jubilee of our association, looking back through the memory lane of Association of Medical Biochemists of India (AMBI's) existence over the past twenty five years, the founding members can take real pride in what it is today. It has been long and challenging paths to witness a dream unfold to encourage medical graduate aspirants to specialize in the field of Medical Biochemistry.

After undergraduation with the medical MBBS degree there was not enough encouragement or appeal in the 60's and 70s to take up this specialization as it was thought to be a dry area and money flow would not have been good! There were hardly a handful of medical graduates in this field. As the years went by, a large number of medical professionals realized that clinical biochemistry was an enchanting area to be in. For many it turned out to be a passion! Stalwarts in this area, to name a few Dr S Gopalakrishnan (MRCP) – Director of Biochemistry at the famous Madras Medical College along with his students Dr V Govindaraju, Dr C Sita Devi, Dr NC Panda, Dr B Sadasivudu, Dr AS Saini, and Dr CR Maity, harboured the idea of a unique identification of this meritorious field of medicine and hence an association of medical graduates in this specialty was born. After long deliberations the idea was brought forward in February 1991 at Bengaluru with senior members of the fraternity, representing all zones of India.

The successful deliberations advocated the forming of an association which was named in April 1991 as "Association of Medical Biochemists of India." Dr Gopalakrishna was the first president and Dr Govindaraju, the brain child and field worker for the association was nominated honorary secretary, a post he held for nearly 17 years and still houses the head office of the association at Bengaluru.

Rules and by-laws were framed and approved along the lines of the policy and vision of the association. The aims and objectives of the association are:

- i. To promote and advance Medical Biochemistry and allied sciences, and to promote the improvement of public health, diagnostic services, medical education and research.
- ii. To maintain the honour, dignity and uphold the interest of medically qualified biochemists and to promote co-operation amongst the members thereof.
- iii. To educate the public in the matter of health and to promote public relationship.
- iv. To devise a uniform policy and programme on the matters of common interest, such as medical education, medical administration and statutory Medical Council.
- v. To associate for mutual recognition with International and National Organizations.

At the start the membership was hardly in double figures but over the past 25 years the number has risen to more than 2300 and now it is a proud and viable association with large numbers of young medical graduates pursuing careers in laboratory medicine, research and teaching.

This large community of medical biochemists have year by year proved the potential and challenges of using clinical medicine to upgrade laboratory medicine. In 2012 and 2013, AMBI was granted affiliate member status in IFCC and APFCB, enabling the association to offer to its members a platform to international exposure. In this short term it has been recognized and has nominated corresponding members in various Task Forces and representation in the young scientists group. They have also been awarded travel fellowships to various international conferences. This has been possible by constant and untiring efforts of Dr Shanthi Naidu and other members of executive body.

The journal of the association, "Indian journal of Medical Biochemistry (IJMB)" was started in 1997 with Dr CR Maity as its Editor-in-Chief and printed biannually from Kolkata. It was then taken over by Dr Basudev Bhattacharya who rendered his services as chief editor till 2015 and got the journal indexed in Indmed. In November 2015 he took over as Editor-in-chief and continuing till date. At present the journal is indexed in Index Copernicus, COSMOS, JGATE, SIS, IIJIF, ASI, SJIF, EBSCO, and ESJI which are international platforms and also recognized by MCI. There is constant inflow of manuscripts from all over India and abroad. The journal is now totally online with its own website and online submission platform.

The aim that a lot of medical graduates should develop a desire to be a specialist in laboratory medicine has driven the association to smaller cities and towns leading to creation of various state and zonal chapters. Regular CMEs and symposia and other academic activities are organized by them. There is an annual National conference of 3-4 days with hands on workshops to which all AMBI members look forward to. These consist of orations, grant of fellowships, invited guest lectures, Symposia, etc. To encourage young talent free paper presentation, award for best young scientists and interaction by means of quizzing (UG & PG) are held.

In these 25 years AMBI has travelled far and wide promoting clinical biochemistry as a field on par with not only other laboratory branches but an essential necessity for clinical medicine duly recognized by MCI.

I wish our association many more glorious years to come.

Long live AMBI.....

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