

Presidential address

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- Honorable Chief Guest Prof. Kakarla Subbarao,
- Immediate Past President Dr. Bhardwaj,
- President-Elect Dr. Rajesh Kapur,
- Dr. K. Prabhakar Reddy, Organizing Secretary,
- Other dignitaries on the dais and off the dais,
- Respected Past Presidents,
- Office Bearers of IRIA, IJRI, and ICRI
- Member colleagues of our Association,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a singular honor for me to take over as President of the Indian Radiological and Imaging Association at this 65th Annual Conference being held in Hyderabad. Hyderabad is a city steeped in history. Known as the city of pearls, it is also a modern and technologically developed city and a hub of the finest in medical diagnosis and treatment available in India. It is my good fortune that I take over this post in front of a galaxy of some of the finest experts in the field of radiology and in this beautiful modern hall that reflects the great strides that India has taken toward becoming a developed nation.

The field of radiology has undergone a sea change in the last two decades and it is indeed a challenge to steer this association along the right path. Today, the cream among medical students chooses to become radiologists, and it will be my endeavor to meet—and indeed exceed—their demands and aspirations. One of my major tasks will be to make postgraduate students come closer to IRIA and, to this end, I would like to create courses, academic sessions, symposia, and conferences that are tailored to their needs.

We are all aware of the disparities that exist in teaching and training in different parts of the country and even within different institutions in the same geographical region. Even though availability of funds is not a big constraint in the India of today, the lack of skilled and properly trained manpower will definitely hamper the growth of healthcare. What good is technological advancement and great expertise if the masses of this country do not have access to it? I am sure that with the help of the experts in the field and my peers, IRIA can work with the central and state governments to improve the standards of teaching and training and help in creating a large workforce of skilled radiologists and technologists, so that quality healthcare is provided to every citizen of this country. We may take the help of teleradiology and virtual classrooms for this endeavor. With the ready availability of cutting edge information technology tools, and with Indian satellites hovering over the earth, we can make this dream a reality.

Many previous Presidents of IRIA, including Dr. Bhardwaj, Dr. Kishor Taori, Dr. Prabhakar Reddy, and others, have been very passionately concerned about the declining sex ratio of girls vs. boys in India. They have made huge efforts to devise methods to do away with the crime of female infanticide, including sensitizing members of our association. I feel that we need to work closely with civil society and government authorities to devise ways and means to change the attitude of society towards this heinous crime. We are quite aware of the difficulties we face. Radiologists comprise only about 25%–30% of users of ultrasound machines in this country, but they get 100% of the blame for sex-selective abortions. We have to approach this problem with a positive frame of mind and not in a confrontational manner. We will continue taking advice from every member so that the unnecessary harassment and troubles being faced by us can be lessened. However, the onus for reporting the culprits in our own geographical regions does rest with us. In case, we do not report them to the authorities then I feel that it is the radiology fraternity that will continue to bear the brunt of all actions taken by the governments.

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Another cause dear to my heart has been the setting up of state houses of the IRIA in all state capitals. Toward this end, we are to formally announce a scheme where the IRIA at the center will give financial help to state chapters for constructing their own buildings. These state houses will become oases where our members can meet, interact, and learn from each other and can also become centers for teaching and training. Of course, the bulk of the effort would have to be made by the local state chapters, with the central office providing support as and when required. This is a difficult task, but if done well, future generations of radiologists will thank us for the efforts that we put in today.

There are many more projects of IRIA that are ongoing and I will continue to support them. I take this opportunity to thank the faculty of experts who have come from all corners

of India and the world and I hope that you will enjoy your stay with us. To the members who are present here, I thank you for coming in such large numbers, and hope that you will go back with enhanced knowledge and skills to better serve your patients. To members of trade and industry, we are really indebted to you for the faith and confidence that you have reposed in the IRIA and assure you that all your financial support will be put to highly productive use. To my teachers and my seniors present here, I seek your blessings so that I can live up to your expectations and fulfill the mandate given to me. Above all, I seek the blessings of God so that our association and its members may prosper and flourish.

Long Live IRIA!

Announcement

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A free application to browse and search the journal's content is now available for iPhone/iPad. The application provides "Table of Contents" of the latest issues, which are stored on the device for future offline browsing. Internet connection is required to access the back issues and search facility. The application is Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad and Requires iOS 3.1 or later. The application can be downloaded from <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/medknow-journals/id458064375?ls=1&mt=8>. For suggestions and comments do write back to us.