



SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

Indian Academy of Cytologists
NEWS LETTER

Anjali Joshi

APRIL 95

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

I feel privileged for having been nominated as the President of the IAC for the year 1995, particularly this being the silver jubilee year of the Academy, my warm appreciation's and deep gratitude to all for bestowing upon me this honor. My

association with the Academy is since its inception. The memory of its meeting held in 1971 at the I.C.M.R headquarters is still vivid in my mind with only a few handful of delegates being present. The concern at that time was how to popularize cytology in the country and develop trained personnel in this speciality. The practice of cytology at this time was limited to a few places only and was confined to cervical cancer screening and exfoliative cytology of some other body sites. Very few pathologists felt primarily interested in the specialty and shunned the laborious time consuming screening of smears for malignant cells with little intellectual skill and excitement involved. The wide potential of the specialty attracting multiple disciplines of clinical Medicine was still unexplored. To-day FNAC along with emergence of high precision Radio-imaging techniques and flexible fiberoptic endoscopes has made it possible to collect material for cytological examination from all possible sites in the body. Thus the practice of cytology now is

no longer limited to screening for malignant cells only but to diagnose both benign and malignant lesions paralleling histopathology diagnosis. Brain teasing exercise of assessing cell patterns for morphological diagnosis is exciting for intellectual minds with lot of scope for discussion and new observations. No wonder more and more pathologists are taking a fancy to this and take pride in identifying themselves with this specialty. Easy non-traumatic techniques of sample collection and early availability of results make it even more popularly acceptable to the consumers (patients and clinicians) with increasing demand for introducing cytodagnostic services in many hospitals and Institutions in the country. But how well we know that an efficient tool in inefficient hands can be disastrous. The questions which one faces to-day are : Do we have enough trained cytopathologists for this purpose? Considering how little cytology training is included in the M.D. Pathology training program (except for at few places), who should be fit for the practice of cytopathology? Should there be post- M.D. specialization courses at the University level to qualify for the practice of this specialty? All of us in the Academy need to give a thought to this for the specialty to flourish in the right direction and to avoid malpractice. Of course with this our prime responsibility of more laborious cancer screening programs should not overlooked of which cervix and breast are the chief targets.

Jai Hind

(Subhash K. Gupta)

HIGHLIGHTS OF XXIV ANNUAL CONFERENCE A/C

AWARDS -

XXIVth Conference was successfully held at Cancer Institute Madras and was organised by Dr. Revathi Ananth. Over 200 delegates attended it and 72 papers were presented.

For the first time IAC had 2 workshops. One on 'FNAC of lung which was conducted by Dr. Sukumaran of Cancer Institute Madras and Second on 'Colposcopy and Microcalposcopy' by Dr. Revathi Ananth' about 30-40 candidates participated in each workshop.

The Cipla Academy oration was delivered by Dr. Chandralekha Shroff, Prof. of Pathology, LTM Medical College Sion Bombay on "Cyto Diagnosis of Breast lesions." Recent trends and problems were highlighted.

The Shireen Mehtaji oration was delivered by Dr. V. Shantha, Director Cancer Institute on "Strategies for cancer control in women."

Diagnostic slide seminar was presented to Dr. N.K. Chaturvedi from New Delhi, Symposium on Quality Control in cytology was moderated by Dr. S.K. Gupta & other participants were Dr. Sreedevi Amma, Dr. Kusum Verma & Dr. Rajwanshi.

1) Nalinibai Thakar Award

There were 9 papers for this competition and the award went to Dr. T. G. Bindu of Medical College Kottayam for her presentation "Squash Smears in Central Nervous System lesions". A Cyto-histologic Correlation study of 40 cases.

2) Jwaladevi Award

- These were 7 papers for competition and it was won by Mr. T. Murugavel of Cancer Institute Madras for his presentation "Rapid Staining Method for assessment of adequacy of cytologic material in FNAB Specimens.

3) Bhaskar Reddy Award

- for Cytotechnician standing 1st in National Examination for cytotechnician conducted by IAC in 1994, went to Mrs. Deeparani of Trivendrum.

4) Sushil Malhalva Award

- for standing first National Examination for Cytotechnologist conducted by IAC in 1994 was given to Josely George of Trichura.

5) Satya Monga Award

- was not given to anyone this year.

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR IAC AWARDS

1. Nalinibai Thakkar Prize : For the best paper presented at the Conference in Cytopathology by a medical doctor less than 35 years of age and is a member of IAC. Please bring proof for age verification at the time of the conference.
2. Jwaladevi Award : For the best paper presented at the Conference by a Cytotechnician or a Cytotechnologist on any aspect of cytological technique.
3. Dr. Bhaskar Reddy Award :
Cytotechnician standing first in the national examination conducted by the IAC.
4. Sushil Malhotra Award :
Cytotechnologist standing first in the national examination conducted by the IAC.
5. Dr. Satya Monga Award : For paper published in the field of immunocytochemistry.

Regulations :

- A. Publication should be after 1991.
- B. Publication must be in an indexed Journal.
- C. Candidate must be one of the authors or co-authors of the Article.
- D. He/She should submit in writing permission from other co-authors for entering the paper for the award.

Reprints of such paper should be sent to Secretary, IAC. Last date for receipt of such papers is 31 August 1995.

Kindly note that last minute entries will not be allowed so send your entries well in advance to the secretary with required details.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IAC FELLOWSHIP

Last date 31 st August 1995.

Fellowship of IAC.

A fellowship of one month duration carrying a value of Rs. 1000/- is being offered to Medical Doctors by IAC, Those who are interested may apply to Dr. Maitreyee Munshi, Secretary of IAC on Address given below.

35, Swapna Apartments,
off cement road, Shivaji nagar,
Nagpur - 440010

Kindly send self addressed envelope. Last date for receipt of application form is 31 August, 1995.

Satya Manga Award, for paper published in the field of immunocytochemistry, last date 31st August 1995.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EDITOR FOR ACTA CYTOLOGICA.

During the year 1994 more than 15 articles were received by me for review. The report was to be sent back within a month preferably by Fax. This was complied with in each case. Generally speaking the quality of articles was good.

I intend attending the Conference in Spain and giving a Brochure about IAC's Silver Jubilee Conference in November 1995. I hope we get some International Participants. If anyone desired to go, I can help with Registration form and information.

The UICC Conference in New Delhi was an unqualified success. Dr. Leopold Koss had come. He came to India with a preconceived notion that Cytology can never be applicable in India but was pleasantly surprised to note that Cytology had in fact made great strides in India. Dr. U.K. Luthra was also one of the invited speakers. Unfortunately very few IAC Members could participate. In the entire Congress, the emphasis was on early Detection and the value of Cytodiagnosis.

It has been a busy year and I now look forwards to 1995 which will be our Silver Jubilee year.

USHA B. SARAIYA.

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