



Dear Members,

This is the month of December, the month in which we all gather at the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress to meet and greet, share and exchange knowledge and experiences. The 69<sup>th</sup> IPC is being hosted by the Association of Pharmacy Teachers of India in the Chitkara University Campus, Rajpura, Panjab, situated about 30 min away from Chandigarh Airport by road. The 69<sup>th</sup> IPC will be presided by Dr. Mahesh Burande, a person with a great passion and zeal for the development of our profession and I am sure under his able guidance the Congress would be a huge success. IPC also means that IPA would hold a few activities of significant importance to the profession each year at this event; firstly, the IPA-Devinder Pal National Elocution Competition followed by the IPA AGM. This year the NEC finals will not have the familiar and flamboyant figure of Mr. Devinder Pal sitting in the front row owing to his untimely demise earlier this year. This year the NEC final will feature 8 finalists instead of the usual 6, which I believe would serve as a fitting tribute to Mr. Devinder Pal.

*I strongly feel that these amendments would make our association stronger and better governed and I am sure all members would welcome these changes by considering them appropriate.*

During the IPA AGM, two very important aspects will be discussed to bring to the notice of all members for their information and approval. IPA building project has been reinitiated and activities related to the construction of the building are in progress. The construction clearance certificate will be obtained shortly, which would flag off the construction. In the AGM, we shall also discuss very important amendments to the IPA constitution, rules and bye-laws. These amendments would, in my opinion, make IPA a stronger and better-governed organization. Briefly, the most relevant amendments that will be proposed are as follows. Firstly, a uniform student member fee structure that a student studying B. Pharm or M. Pharm or Pharm D., during his or her student term can become a member for 1 year by paying Rs. 300, which is renewable each year while the student life membership status by paying the life membership fee in equal instalments of Rs. 1500 per year is retained. An institutional life member category is introduced with the onetime payment of Rs. 10,000.

The term of the institutional life member would be 10 years and all pharmacy colleges can become institutional members and each member institute can nominate one eligible individual to represent the institution as a member to participate in IPA events and activities. All IPA past presidents are included in the electoral college with a voting right to vote in the IPA centre elections. The rule that eligible candidates residing in the headquarters city only can contest for the position of the Honorary General Secretary of IPA is relaxed to include eligible candidates residing anywhere in the country can contest for this position. This amendment is introduced to give an opportunity for aspiring and eligible IPA members residing anywhere in the country to contest to the position of the Honorary General Secretary to manage the association more efficiently. Another important amendment proposed is regarding the term of the Office Bearers of the State or Local Executive Council. It is for 2 years and if the elections of State or Local branches are not completed within 6 months of the expiry of the term, the CEC directly in case of State branches and in consultation with SEC in case of the Local branches would dissolve the SEC/LEC and appoint a Committee to conduct elections within the period of the next six months. Such dissolved SEC and LEC members and the CEC representatives nominated by them cease to be a part of the Electoral College of the IPA centre or State branch elections till a new body is elected and approved by the CEC. This amendment is to make the IPA centre and state electoral colleges more current and to prevent representatives of branches that failed to hold elections continue to vote in IPA elections by default. I strongly feel that these amendments would make our association stronger and better governed and I am sure all members would welcome these changes by considering them appropriate.

I am deeply saddened to mention here that on December 1, the Indian Pharmacy profession has lost another stalwart, Dr. Paramjit Rai Pabrai, who made his mark by his contribution to the development of the Indian Pharmacopoeia. Let us all pray God to rest his soul in peace. The year 2017 has brought much grief to our profession as we have lost several highly accomplished leaders. I sincerely hope that the year 2018 would be more productive and cheerful for our profession. I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy holidays and a wonderful New Year 2018.

*V.V. Vadlamudi Rao*

Rao V. S. V. Vadlamudi, Ph. D.,

**Our Mission**

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is the national professional body of pharmacists engaged in various facets of the profession of Pharmacy. The IPA is committed to promote the highest professional and ethical standards of pharmacy, focus the image of pharmacists as competent healthcare professionals, sensitize the community, government and other on vital professional issues and support pharmaceuticals education and sciences in all aspects.