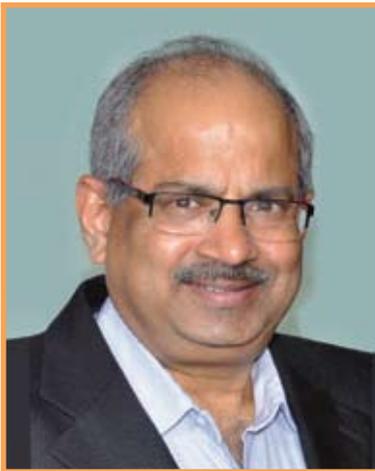


# President Speak...



Pharmacists in our country must unite to serve the community better to gain the recognition as a healthcare professional that no one would dare to ignore!

## Dear Members,

Hope the new year started with a lot of hope and positivity for all of you. The 69<sup>th</sup> IPC was organized successfully by the APTI from December 22-24, 2017 in Chitkara University Campus. The IPA completed all its planned events during the IPC quite effectively. The coveted Eminent Pharmacist Award was conferred on Dr. R. N. Gupta, an IPA veteran who constantly strove for the development of pharmacy profession and pharmacists. The prestigious Prof. M. L. Khorana Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. B. Suresh, President, PCI and Vice-Chancellor, JSS University, on the topic "Pharma Vision 2030: the pharmacist of the future". This lecture was very well attended and highly appreciated. The IPA-Devinder Pal National Elocution Competition was successfully organized and there were eight finalists, who have competed very well and made the competition very lively. The IPA AGM held after the elocution competition was well attended. Members appreciated the progress made by IPA, unanimously approved the IPA Annual Report, Balance Sheet and the proposed amendments to the IPA Constitution and Rules. Members also appreciated the progress made by IPA Building Committee and expressed their happiness to note that the construction would start soon. IPA Awards Function and Fellows Dinner was held in Hotel Lalit, Chandigarh, which was very well attended. IPA Fellowship awards, IJPS Best Paper awards, IPA Outstanding State and Local Branch Awards were presented. Prof. C. K. Kokate, past president of IPA and former Vice-Chancellor of Kakatiya University & KLE university was conferred the IPA-Ramanbhai Patel Lifetime Achievement Award to the delight of the invited guests and IPA fellows attending the function.

2018 will also be presenting the pharma profession with several challenges. The pharma industry and pharma sector are faced with challenges pertaining to API imports from China, ban on several fixed-dose combinations, proposed inspection of domestic manufacturing facilities by central as well as state licensing authorities and many more. It is not clear what would be the best for the unhindered growth of the pharmaceuticals sector. The much-awaited stand-alone ministry for pharmaceuticals has not been created while there is quite a confusion whether it would become a part of MoH&FW. In the pharmacy education arena, AICTE brought Pharm D under its control. Henceforth like the rest of the

pharmacy courses, Pharm D is also poised to be under multiple regulatory control. Whether this would be a good move for Pharm D course is unclear, while Pharm. D. graduates are unhappy due to bleak job prospects. All policymakers and regulators are in a collision course to grab control over education and no one is really worried about creating job opportunities to the graduating students from various streams of pharmacy or building quality into the pharmacy education system. Many pharmacy graduates demand for prescribing rights in a manner similar to what is practiced in some countries. Further, they urge the government of India to include Pharmacy graduates along with AYUSH doctors in the proposal to allow them to practice Medicine after completing a bridge course. Some Pharmacy professionals do not directly support this move stating that pharmacist's priorities are different and that the need of the hour is to ensure, a pharmacist in every pharmacy, obligate requirement of pharmacists in processes related to manufacture and supply chain management of medicines as well as clinical pharmacy services provided by registered pharmacists with Pharm D qualification in all hospitals. Pharmacists are at crossroads without the much-needed clarity about which road to choose.

I would like to quote from a review article published in Jan 2005 issue of the International Journal of Pharmacy Practice, "Pharmacists should move from behind the counter and start serving the public by providing care instead of pills only. There is no future in the mere act of dispensing. That activity can and will be taken over by the Internet, machines and/or hardly trained technicians. The fact that pharmacists have an academic training and act as healthcare professionals puts a burden upon them to better serve the community than they currently do". Pharmacists in our country must unite to serve the community better to gain the recognition as a healthcare professional that no one would dare to ignore!

IPA elections for electing a new team of office bearers for the term 2018-20 have begun and let us hope the best team would get elected!!

V.V.V. Vadlamudi Rao

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