



Dear Members,

I would like to focus this month on the priorities of our association, which is the oldest and strongest of all the pharmacy professional associations in our country. The priorities of our association, in the beginning, were to ensure that pharmacy education and pharmaceutical industry have developed in our country to make the country self-sufficient in terms of essential medicines and well trained human resources to produce those. Many IPA presidents, senior members and IPA stalwarts have worked hard on these priorities and due to their efforts, the scenario has completely changed. Ever since India achieved its independence in 1947, the nation and its pharmacy profession have made huge strides in the area of pharmaceuticals. The nation has achieved self-sufficiency in the production of pharmaceuticals and currently exports medicines and pharmaceuticals to more than 200 countries in the world and is referred to as the pharmacy of the world. Our country has also scaled great heights in the field of Pharmacy education and now it is an undisputed fact that India is the provider of well-trained pharmaceutical professionals to meet global healthcare needs.

IPA's top priority and most of its initiatives must focus towards realizing its current major goal to position pharmacists as one of the key healthcare providers in our country.

However, even after these achievements in the fields of education and industry, the status of the practicing pharmacist and the Pharmacy profession in India is yet to reach the level, at which pharmacists are given the roles and the respect that they deserve. Therefore, IPA's top priority and most of its initiatives must focus towards realizing its current major goal to position pharmacists as one of the key healthcare providers in our country. IPA remains committed to ensure that the pharmacist is recognized as a vital link in attaining better healthcare for all in our country and the pharmacists' role is clearly defined and earmarked in the National Health Policy. Towards that end, IPA's activities and initiatives focus towards projecting the pharmacist as a health care professional in all governmental initiatives in public health programs including communicable and non-communicable diseases with specific emphasis on pharmacist's role in the rational use of medicines to contain antimicrobial resistance and to fight against drug counterfeiting. IPA works in association with the Pharmacy Council of India to make sure that pharmacy practice regulations-2015 are implemented properly by all the concerned authorities like

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the drug regulators both at the center and the states and the state pharmacy councils. IPA continues to urge the Government to create a separate Ministry of Pharmaceuticals at the earliest for the development of the pharmaceutical industry and the profession and for improving access to healthcare. IPA also recommends to the government of India for the creation of a separate Directorate of Pharmacy Services and Training under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This Directorate is to be headed by a pharmacy professional with a minimum qualification of M. Pharmacy or Pharm. D.

IPA advocates for the creation of a separate Ministry of Pharmaceuticals that can handle pharmaceuticals, biopharmaceuticals, medical devices & diagnostics, herbals & nutraceuticals, production & supply chain, sales, pricing, licensing and regulation, export promotion, dispensing, utilization of pharmaceuticals, pharmacovigilance, patient counselling and drug information, pharmaceutical care, pharmacy education, its regulation & accreditation, NIPERs, and development and deployment of qualified human resources to improve national healthcare. IPA's vision is firmly aligned with the Vision 2025 for the pharmacy profession, a document that was released in the hands of the Honorary Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri J. P. Nadda during the 67th IPC in December 2015 in Mysuru. IPA strives to make sure that the Indian pharmacist would position himself as an accessible, patient-centric professional providing effective medicines management, primary patient care and actively participating in medicines research to establish his role beyond as a healthcare provider par excellence.

V. S. 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.

The information and opinions presented in the issue reflect the views of the authors and not of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association or the Editor Board. Publication does not constitute endorsement by IPA or Pharma Times. IPA, Pharma Times and/or its publisher cannot be held responsible for errors of for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this journal. The appearance of advertising or product information in the various section in the journal does not constitute an endorsement or approval by the Journal and/or its publisher of the quality or value of the said product or of claims made for it by its manufacturer.