



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

It is indeed an honor and great privilege to get an opportunity to serve the Indian Association for Bronchology (IAB) as a president. I have been involved with the activities of IAB right since its formation, and remember with fondness the zeal and passion with which Dr A C Shah and his core team of only fourteen members laid the foundation of IAB in 1995. Since then IAB has grown into an active association involved in popularizing the art of flexible bronchoscopy. The annual conferences of the IAB have always been a vibrant meeting place for all physicians interested in the field of bronchology.

The flexible bronchoscope which started as a diagnostic tool in 1966 has now progressed into a therapeutic instrument with wide spectrum of usage, be it tumor ablation or stenting or brachytherapy, and has led us to the field of 'interventional bronchology'. The challenges are immense. Newer technologies like optical coherence tomography, fibered confocal fluorescence microscopy, bronchial thermoplasty, are bound to change, in near future, the way we diagnose and treat various pulmonary diseases.

Amidst this development of science, we must not forget that the use of basic diagnostic flexible bronchoscopy is still far from adequate in our country. The pulmonary medicine departments of all medical colleges must have a flexible bronchoscope. Institutional auditing must ensure that the bronchoscope if procured does not lie sealed in the cupboard and is put to proper use for the benefit of the patients. Only then will the younger pulmonologist be able to master the art and skill of flexible bronchoscopy. Ideally, every district hospital in the government sector should have a flexible bronchoscope.

Indian Association for Bronchology has grown. But it needs to grow further. May I request all members of IAB to invite more eligible chest physicians to join our association and take it to new heights.

With best wishes

Dr Ranjan K Das