

Text of the address by Padma Bhushan, Dr. N.S. Laad, Chief Guest, on the Occasion of the 56th Annual Convocation of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), NAMSCON 2016 at AIIMS, Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 22nd October, 2016

Namaskar! Mr. President of National Academy of Medical Sciences, my friend Dr. Mukund Joshi and Vice President Dr. Wadhwa, Secretary Dr. Srivastava, House Chairman Dr. N M Nagarkar, the Dean Dr. Dhaneriya, Dr Alok Agarwal, Dr. Neema and Council Members of Fellows of the Medical Sciences, Council Members and Lifetime Achievement Awardee, Dr. M.S. Boparai, young Scientists and friends who have won Fellowship today and the Members who are going to be Fellow tomorrow, friends, ladies and gentlemen what excited me today particularly Dr. Alok Agarwal called me, Sir, we have function today. I belong to Shivaji Park. I don't need short notice for any such Wonderful Function where you have the scientists and academicians to be honored. I am honored. That you called me, I think in my life time, it's one of the good achievements to put on this robe, stand here and appreciate upcoming scientists of this country. What impressed me most was a large number of ladies. I think that tells us that this country has a very bright future. Any where there is motherly approach with father assistance, the product is good. If the product is good, success is assured. Today medical sciences are at cross roads. I have to mention this, because most of the awardees were from established institution with good facilities. What happens to the talent? This happening because while money matters, the talent is lost. And I can tell you money is not the end. One time in life you feel that you need to achieve something where society will recognize you. And any where the society recognizes you, you feel satisfied, you feel contended. Unfortunately medical fraternity and medicine has undergone turmoil. The institution of family physicians is lost. Small nursing homes can't come. Government, despite of best efforts, is not able to serve because the numbers are very high and to meet that do we compensate with appointing that kind of personnel, technologies, instruments, infrastructure so that the doctor can meet the challenge?

I do not know how many of you who got membership and fellowship but realize that you have the recognition from the fellow of medical sciences, but this FAMS is an organization with an act of parliament. I remember of having an extremely big argument with MCI chief one day. In few hospitals he said that we will not permit DNB. I thought that was a retrograde step. We are short of registration; we have many brilliant students who seek this. Why can't we upgrade the academy? Recognize the academy on the same platter as we recognize and fund the institutes. I think it is the need of the hour. Any where even a genuine good, private institution, like Shanker Netralay, like Trivandrum Institute, like Ganga Hospital. Why can't it be recognized? It has material, it has men, scientist, it has research. So academy should now come forward & tell the Government. I have a feeling - today we have some very receptive personalities in our Govt. Yesterday, I asked Patel Sahab that do you have ear of Prime Minster? I thought that Mr. Patel is from Ahmadabad and if he has ears of him and tells him what academy is doing, I can tell you that the Prime minister will say – is

that so? Did you give more than 40-50 Fellowships & 100 Memberships & recognize scientists, so I got a registered scientific pool? I think academy should be equivalent to any other authority. To research we need money. And I have a feeling whatever be the constrains, you need to make out a case, involve private trusts. I remember of excellent philanthropic trust like Dorabji Tata Trust, Shankar Sen's Trust which has excellent reputation including Bill Gate's Foundation. Because you have such a talent and in case you write to them, I am very certain that foundation will come forward. Because the problems related to country, right from the issues of pediatrics to geriatrics with rare disorders are not known in United States. If you do and publish, I predict in five years now there would be reverse drain.

What we talked about brain drain from here to America - don't be surprised and that's happening because many of my friends today, whose children are in medical school write to me, I want to send my child for 2 months to India for one single thing - to learn the art & science of diagnosis, to pull him away from technology and make him a human physician. And I think that is something where realization is coming. I could know in Ayush presentation today, I noticed the contribution to recognition of Ayurveda & Ayush is more in US than in our country. This surprised me! A country - that means our society has to be open and for that we need to do one thing - we need to leave your ego. We need change from I to We, and I think that will be right step forward. Today the corporate are coming in a big way & my fear is the treatment & cost will go up because they have taken away. I am not against the corporate, I think very high flown research has got to come because they have money but my contention 'Mr. President' is exploitation of young talent. That's my concern. That young scientist young doctors who are brilliant, who have no environment .many of our students turn out, become Post-graduates and what's their problem? When they come out? Have they got area, place to work? Place they can start their living? And at the end of nine years & ten years of hard work, just imagine! Should we not think? Because today we all concerned about two things; exploitation and consumer protection. Two biggest challenges! And we can it possibly control that challenge. but there is one way that you can control it .and that one way is that you become a part of creating institution, Where you follow seven core issues of health care that institution will produce seven essentials - care, compassion, communication, conscience, co-operation, collaboration to get a confidence, & training in computer so that you are with the world. And I did that experiment in 50 years .today in Mumbai, I have & I have worked where I got Mr. President's appreciation for training in India & community health i.e. Citizen co-operative hospital, based on the principle to take health care as right without exploitation & by self participation, and mind you that LIC is one such a example where people participated & today they have become the financer so while AIIMS are the Apex Institution. citizen's Institution could be Institution where young graduates can start their carrier as partners ,are not exploited but are given an opportunity .young nursing students are given nursing education and including ward boys how to be a good ward boy . I spent 50 years in putting up the institution. All of you think about it - about co-operative, co-existence, for your progress, for society's progress, for everybody's progress.

I will end by giving a Sanskrit quotation of my hospital

रूगनानाम व्याधिनाशा शिप्रम चारोग्य हितवे श्रुश्रुसा श्रुश्रुताभुयात त्वे निष्काम सेवियात

English meaning is:

To allay the suffering & relive pain of patient, let us all follow the tenets of Shushruta's teaching with the single aim to giving relief; to give him a good life with reward, not exploitation.

Thank you very much!!!

Jai Hind.