

## **Speech at the National Academy annual conference**

**Honourable Chief Guest, DR R P SINGH, Secretary General , Quality Council Of INDIA, Respected Dr M K Rajagopalan, Our guest of Honor, Founder and Chancellor, Shri Balaji Vidyapeeth ( Deemed to be University ), Other dignitaries on the dais**

**My friends and colleagues from the national academy, invited guests, delegates and of course, the ever enthusiastic student ,**

**It is my proud privilege to be addressing this learned audience on the occasion of 58th NAMSCON & annual convocation 2018 in Puducherry. I feel nostalgic since this would be my last address during my three years' tenure as the President of NAMS. It has been a great pleasure and honour to have been associated with this prestigious organisation. I do hope that I have lived to the expectations during the years of my presidentship. I thank the academy and all those concerned with this organisation for being with me in my endeavour as the president.**

**At this juncture, I am very happy to thank the organisers of this conference. I must specially mention the Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Centre and above all Dr. Mohan Kameswaran, the organising chairman and Dr. P Karthikeyan, the organising secretary. On behalf of all of us at Puducherry attending this meeting. I thank you for your excellent hospitality and compliment you for making all of us so very comfortable. Thank you again!**

**The academy is proud of our several achievements and I have been lucky to be an integral part of these achievements as the president. Just to mention a few, the launching of a new website. I am proud to say that the website was designed in-house and will assist many in the medical profession in the form of articles, learning resource materials etc. Full fledged activities in our state-of-the-art, Kamala Raheja auditorium is a feather in our cap. I appeal to our members to spread a word about the excellent facilities in our auditorium. Though we have already had academic activities in this auditorium my sincere thanks to all those involved in organising medical activities. But this is not enough. We need to have more academic events on a regular basis and must keep this auditorium medically busy. Above all, I am happy and relieved to inform all of you that we will continue to be an AUTONOMOUS BODY. I would be failing in my**

**duty if I do not thank Dr Deep Srivastava, our dynamic secretary, for his untiring efforts in achieving this goal. Thank you, Deep!**

**The theme of this conference is "The rise of non communicable diseases in present day India". This to me is an appropriate theme especially with the current status of medical health in the country. The academy has strived all along to bring together leading scientist involved with bio-medical science, education and research. We have continued to make all efforts to achieve this goal at all stages in our efforts to continue to aim at our goal of Teaching in Medicine. I am sure that our efforts will be of great help in improving the status of medical health in India. I would love to see the medical help and education spreading to the remotest parts of our country. Secondly, I believe that the academy must make every effort to stop and improve the declining standards of medical education as it stands today in India.**

**The academy has almost become my second home. I must thank a few for standing by me during my difficult times and helped me make several necessary and important decisions.**

**Knowing and travelling with Dr Lata Deshmukh has always been an educational & a great experience. A friend for many decades, she has been guiding me not only at the academy but also in other walks of life. Her academic experience and her wise thinking have been of great help to the academy especially during my term as the President. Lata, thank you! I am sure our travel is permanently book through the next many years.**

**I have been fortunate to be associated with Dr Prema Ramachandran. This soft spoken and dignified lady has probably the largest experience at the academy as of today. I have bothered her from time to time and there has never been a NO. I am sure the academy will continue to be benefitted by her mere presence at the academy and her selfless constructive advice.**

**Deep, I was talking to your wife, a few days ago. I wasn't surprised when she said that she was likely to divorce you since she firmly believes that you are now married to the NAMS and not anymore to her, considering how little time you spend at home and how much more at the academy! Deep, you have been a great friend and advisor in running the academy with such efficiency. He is very hard working and an efficient secretary, who has looked after the academy with so much interest. Being a radiologist, I know how**

**much time needs to be spent in an interventional lab and I wonder how this untiring man finds all the time in the world to carry out his responsibilities!, both at the AIIMS intervention lab and at the administration at NAMS. Talking to him on several occasions in the week has given me much confidence and above all that I am happy and confident that the academy is in safe hands.**

**My eternal thanks to Dr P K Dave, who receives his life time achievement award in Pondi. Sir, I have seen your commitment to the academy and your contributions in making the council take the many vital decisions. Please be a part of the council and the academy at all times. Personally, I have cherished my association with you during my tenure. I have admired your gentle words of advice when needed most.**

**The academy is built on the strong blessings of dignitaries like Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr S Radhakrishnan and many others. Dr J S Bajaj has been a pillar of strength as far as the academy is concerned and remains so inspite of his ill health. Let us wish him the very best and pray that he will be with us soon.**

**I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Saroj Chooramani for being elected the next President of our academy. She has been a brilliant educationist and is the first woman pediatric surgeon in the country (is it Dr Deshmukh Or Dr Saroj ?). She is a recipient of Padmashri in 2013 and is also a B. C. Roy awardee. She has been a former vice chancellor of the King George's medical university and has had several academic contributions. I wish her all success.**

**I am very happy that we are strongly continuing our aim of MEDICAL EDUCATION. The Kamala Raheja auditorium is a big blessing in carrying out our academic activities. Dr. K. K. Sharma's vast experience has added further to the excellent monitoring of the academy which is of great value, especially our academic activities including our Annals. I am sure we will continue to progress further under his guidance. Our journal - Annals will soon be indexed. I request all the members (especially the younger enthusiasts) to contribute articles to the journal and enrich our academic strength. I sincerely appreciate the efforts put in by our editor Dr Sanjeev Mishra & his team led by Dr Kuldeep Singh.**

**I greatly appreciate and am ever thankful to the members of our council who have supported the academy at all times selflessly with their valuable suggestions from time to time. I request all the council**

**members to continue their active support in the decision making of NAMS. It will mean a lot.**

**Last but not the least, no organisation can ever function unless it has dedicated staff. No cricket team can be complete without good 10 other players other than the captain. I am fortunate that at the academy we have a bunch of hard working members of the staff, ( no individual names but my strong teammates ) who have kept the academy going. No thank yous are enough, my friends, for your contribution in running the show at the academy so efficiently.**

**If I have spoken a bit too long, it is only because I sincerely wanted to express my feelings to all of you for having done me this great honour of being THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES. Much as I am ending my tenure, I would love to be associated with the academy in whatever capacity that the council feels fit.**

**Saroj Good Luck to you.**

**And finally, my humble gratitude to the academy for all that I have achieved by being here.**

**God bless one and all and my regards to each one of you**

**Thank you ever so much!**