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President of India honours Lieutenant General Vimal Arora Director General of Defence Services – with Ati Vishishta Seva Medal

DT South Asia

The Armed Forces has always taken pride in producing professionals of exceptional quality. The Army Dental Corps is no exception of having produced dental officers of great caliber, but rarely has one seen an ideal blend of academic and clinical capabilities coupled with the oratory skills of exceptional order in a true soldier who never compromised on quality in his career. All this rolled into one, has given the Army Dental Corps, it's most dynamic and competent General officer; Lt. Gen Vimal Arora, AVSM, VSM and Bar, who possesses a larger than life image in almost every sphere of his work and commands respect, a perfect role model worthy of emulation by every dental surgeon. Achievements in his life have not come to him naturally; it required immense hard work starting from beginning of his academics right to the pinnacle of his career where he stands today. He is presently the Director General of Dental Services and Head of the Army, Navy and the Air Forces Dental Branches of the Dental Corps. He is also the Colonel Commandant of the Army Dental Corps. He has been appointed the Honorary Dental Surgeon to the President of India.

His sojourns abroad include deputation abroad while being in Air Force; i.e. Deputation to the Sultanate of Oman on duty. He served at Muscat in their most prestigious hospital, the Forces Base Hospital for a period of three years from 1983 to 1986. In recognition of his professional acumen towards his specialty, he was selected to be sent on training to Germany for learning the advancements in the field of Prosthodontics in 1984. For exceptional Military Services rendered of the highest order in a foreign land, he was awarded the "Order of the Special Royal Emblem" by the Sultan of Oman for his dedication and professional proficiency.

Investiture 2014 Scroll of Honour presented to Lt. Gen. Vimal Arora by the President of India

In 1992, he again went to Germany on his own, for advanced training in the field of Implantology to the Freie University, Bremen, where he underwent six weeks hands-on training under Dr. Hans R. Metelmann, Professor and Head of Rehabilitative and Reconstructive surgery using HATI Implants. He was instrumental to conceptualize and establish a 'Rehabilitative Wing' in the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF) on their request during 2004. He represented the Indian Army in Australia, China and Istanbul in the SDFDS Military conferences and presented the various aspects of the Armed Forces Dental Services.

While being at the AFDC Palam, he worked as the Principal worker in a novel project funded by the 'Rajiv Gandhi Foundation' based on the concept of 'Home Care'. The project, a brain child of Dr. Avnish Varma involved travel to homes of terminally ill cancer patients in a mobile van under the banner of 'International Congress on Oral Cancer'. It was based on the famous Italian concept of 'H-O-H' (Home Oncology Hospital) and was the first of its kind in India to have received the recognition by the prestigious RGF.

He was awarded the Commendation by the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command 1990 and later again by the Chief of the Air Staff in 1992. His professionalism brought immense laurels to the Dental Corps when he was awarded his 1st Presidential Award, i.e. the Vishisht Seva Medal' for his exceptional achievements in 1996.

He was instrumental in starting the 'IDA Defence Branch' with Lt. Gen Paramjit Singh in the Army Dental Corps and he became the first Founder President of the IDA Defence Branch. IDA Defence Branch boasts of various updates and conferences throughout the year all over India and also has on its credit a defence journal titled *The Journal of Defence Dental Services*.

General Arora had a penchant for improving the infrastructure of every Dental Centre he happened to work. A staunch believer of strict asepsis in every dental surgery, he brought in the concept of 'sterilized corridor' in the various buildings of the Armed Forces. He received his second Presidential Award i.e. his '2nd Vishisht Seva Medal', which is called the 'Bar to VSM' in 2006 for rendering exceptional service o the nation.

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Professor Mahesh Verma receives Padma Shri Award

DT South Asia

Prof. Dr. Mahesh Verma, Director Principal of Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi, one of the premier educational institutes in the region, was awarded the Padma Shri Award by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India in a special ceremony held on 26 April 2014 at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Prof. Mahesh Verma has received this award for his immense contribution in the field of dental sciences. Under his leadership, the specialty dental services in the city of Delhi through Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences expanded and reached a record high. He was instrumental in setting up the best dental institute of the country from a very small dental department at MAMC, which is currently a "Centre of Excellence" treating thousands of underprivileged and common citizens every day in "state-of-the-art" modern facilities.

Receiving the award, Prof. Verma urged for "the Central and State Governments to give further priority to oral health programs and create more job opportunities for young professionals. There is large pool of dental manpower available, which may be utilized for dental services reach amongst masses across the country. The dental services also be included as part of National rural and urban health missions. The Dental specialty services are required to be aggressively expanded on the lines of medical services in states so as to make it available far and wide in the country. There is need to establish independent and separate Dental Directorates in each state to organize and coordinate dental services. The dental needs in the country are so high to the tune of almost 80 to 90 per cent". This award is also recognizing the dental sciences and its contribution towards healthcare services and the rapid scientific advances made in the field of dental care. DT

Dr Mahesh Verma receiving Padma Shri Award from President of India

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Later, he commanded the prestigious Dental Centre at Pune i.e. the Command Military Dental Centre, Pune where he got promoted to the rank of Major General. During his command, the unit saw a tremendous surge in infrastructural development as well as professional advancements and the unit was on the fore front of delivery of dental services. His exceptionally outstanding contributions were suitably recognized and he was awarded the 'Commendation by the Chief of the Army Staff' in 2008.

In addition to his long list of personal awards, he is the only AD Corps Officer who could bag two awards for the whole of the unit. The Greatest recognition in the Army is not a personal award but an award for the whole unit, which is called 'Unit Citation'. It is given to the whole unit for exceptionally outstanding services to the nation. The award is given by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the command to the Commandant and the Subedar Major of the receiving unit. The Army Dental Corps in its existence of over seven decades received two 'Unit Citations' for the Command Dental Centres. Both the Unit Citations by the Army Commanders were awarded during his Command tenure; 1st to the Command Military Dental Centre, Northern Command in 2006 & later to the Command Military Dental Centre, Central Command in 2011.

He has written three volumes of text books on Dental Technician which was adopted by the Govt of Karnataka for the vocational training, the para-dental courses for Dental Mechanics. He also contributed chapters in various books on Oncology, HIV and AIDS and Rehabilitative Protocols. He has also written a book titled Military Dentistry – Terrain, Trends and Training along with Lt. Gen Paramjit Singh for which he was awarded the Certificate of Honor by the Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services. He has contributed professional articles to many journals and is also the Chief Editor as well as on the editorial board of most of the national journals in the country. He has made noteworthy contributions in the field of academics. Presently, he is the Prof and Head of Prosthodontics in the Army Dental Centre (R & R), New Delhi, where PG in Prosthodontics is being carried out. He is also the PG Examiner for Delhi & Pune University. He has over 13 years of teaching experience duly recognized by the Dental Council of India as a Post Graduate Teacher.

In the first of its kind of venture, he has set course to bring in Implantology as a discipline in the Dental Corps and his steadfast approach has resulted in ushering in the era of Implantology in the Armed Forces. The recently concluded Implantology course consisting of eight modules benefitted more than 80 officers of Army, Navy and the Air Force in the R&R Dental Centre, which has been another milestone in the history of the Corps towards achieving professional capability development.

His vision for the development of the Army Dental Corps has been carried out with a steadfast approach and determination for the past 18 months, since the time he has been occupying the highest chair in the country as the DGDS.

His main thrust areas have been to develop the infrastructure and give the dental officers the wherewithal to deliver their mandate, to develop the Organization and Establishment in consonance with the expected levels of delivery of optimal dental care at all echelons, to Provide professional direction to Officers to evolve into highly skilled dental force with capability enhancement in all spheres to match the international best practices laying enormous stress on putting place firm processes and practices which will form the backbone of the Corps, essentially laying a foundation for all round development of the Corps. In addition, he has brought in accountability, responsibility, professional auditing and development of soft skills which can give the necessary edge. He has also encouraged developing the research bent of mind and ethics amongst the younger generation from the very beginning not only of latest techniques and protocols but also of basic tenets of practice of dentistry.

He has been given the 'Life Time Achievement Award' at IPS Conference, Lko. He has also been awarded the 'Life Time Achievemnt Award' by the Indian Dental Association, Ludhiana Branch. He has also had the honor of delivering the coveted 'Dr BC Shroff Memorial Oration' in the 41st IPS Conference at Ahmedabad and the 'Oration Lecture' at the Implantology conference in Hyderabad. He was given the 'Award of Excellence' by Asia Pacific Dental Federation International College in the year 2013. He has also been awarded the Fellowship of 'Academy of Dentists International' as well as the Hony Fellowship of 'International College of Dentists'. He is the Founder Member of the 'International Congress on Oral Cancer' and also the Founder Member of 'World Assembly on Tobacco Counters Health' (WATCH).

He was the Member, Special Committee on Under Graduate Education constituted by the Dental Council of India. He is holding the 'Executive Chair as the Regional Representative of the West Asia' in the Board of the Military Dentists Forum in the SDFDS under the FDI. He is also on the Board of Governing Council of the 'Moulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences' New Delhi. He is also the Member of the Dental Council of India.

His vision has given the Army Dental Corps, its most magnificent and versatile building of Army Dental Centre R & R which is hailed as the pride of the Corps. In spite of enormous achievements he remains an extremely humble person. His humility adds to his charming personality and has won him many friends and admirers. A god gifted intellectual, he has a remarkable knowledge of so many things beyond his chosen field of specialty which include designing of dental centres, interior decoration and a sharp mind for accounts as well.

He has burnt midnight oil for numerous years to achieve what many of his contemporaries could just dream off. He has never tried to follow the laid down path. He has always chosen his own path, however difficult it might be and has gone forward without looking back to fulfill his dreams. Lt. Gen Vimal Arora today stands in an envious position where he is the most sought after doctor by the patients and the beloved teacher of his students.

Today, Lt. Gen Vimal Arora is the 'highest ranking military officer in the World Dental fraternity' and is commanding approximately 700 Dental Officers in uniform, technically managing more than 1,500 Dental Surgeons employed in the Ex-Servicemen clinics all over the country along with the supporting staff of approximately 1,700 para-dental personnel. He has been appointed the Colonel Commandant of the Army Dental Corps. He has also the rare distinction of being the 'Honorary Dental Surgeon to the President of India'.

He has been the proud recipient of the Presidents' Award for the 3rd time in his professional career, when he was awarded the most prestigious and coveted award of 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' by the President of India, His Excellency Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee on the 26th Jan 2014. It is a befitting recognition of his professional excellence, service to the nation and dedication and devotion to his duties as the Head of the Dental Services. DT

"In spite of enormous achievements he remains an extremely humble person. His humility adds to his charming personality and has won him many friends and admirers."

Message from the Editor

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the FDI Annual World Dental Congress 2014 New Delhi, India. We present to you the South Asian edition of the world-renowned newspaper *Dental Tribune*. This has been the leading World's Dental Newspaper for over 10 years and we are very proud to launch the South Asian edition of the same.

We at *Dental Tribune South Asia* believe in bringing the dental community together and want to help by sharing our experiences. This edition will include a host of articles ranging from the latest technology to what's buzzing in our profession. In the near future, we will also offer online courses for individuals around the world. We work hard to maintain a high quality publication that is innovative and helpful to clinicians so that it formulates a desire to continually improve their skills.

All in all, we are a one-stop publication to know everything that is trending in dentistry.

I would like to congratulate the IDA and FDI teams for organizing one of the biggest dental shows in the world and selecting this great event to launch the South Asian edition of *Dental Tribune*. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did compiling it. Any comments and/or suggestions that would improve this newspaper are very welcome.

Thank you,

Dr. Meera Verma
Chief Editor
Dental Tribune South Asia

Dental Tribune welcomes comments, suggestions and complaints at feedback@dental-tribune.com

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India extends public dental health care with 2014 budget

Daniel Zimmermann
DTI

NEW DELHI, India: In his 2014 budget speech presented to the parliament in New Delhi, India's Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley has proposed multimillion-rupee funding for the establishment of a number of new government-run hospitals. The 12 institutions that he has said will be established in cities throughout the country will include treatment facilities for oral health care.

In addition to increased funding for public dental services, a new research and referral institute for higher dental studies is to be set up in one of the existing dental schools. The minister did not provide details, however, on where or when the institute will be established.

The measures are just two of a number of initiatives intended to improve access to health care for a large part of the Indian population. The additional investment in this sector for the next fiscal year will amount to 500 million rupees (US$8.3 million), according to Jaitley.

Commenting on the budget, which will also see tax reductions for low-income households and seniors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the new budget will be a ray of hope for the poor. Despite the trying times, he added, his government is committed to extending every possible assistance to the less off, the neo-middle and the middle classes.

Honorary General Secretary of the Indian Dental Association Dr. Ashok Dhoble commented: "IDA has been championing the cause and has undertaken several initiatives to improve oral health and with it the quality of life of people in the country. Setting up a research and referral institute for higher dental studies on a national level as proposed in the budget is the need of the hour, if we are to usher in a new dawn in oral health care."

The measures would be welcome in the country, where the majority of the population is still unable to access even basic dental treatment. According to a report published last year by researchers from the Gian Sagar Dental College in Rajpura near Delhi in northern India, the current dentist-to-patient ratio ranges from an already low 1:10,000 to a devastating 1:150,000 in some rural areas, despite the ten thousands of students graduating from the country's approximately 300 dental schools each year. Lead author Dr. Ramandeep Singh Gambhir therefore doubts that the proposed budget concessions will have any long-term effect.

"The budget means no reform for the existing problems, as it only concentrates on dental research which is already being conducted in postgraduate dental institutions," he explained. "Setting up dental clinics in medical hospitals won't solve the problem either, unless there are programmes which can raise the awareness level of the Indian population."

According to reports, most Indians are still unaware of the benefits of oral health measures that are common in other parts of the world. In a 2011 study conducted in public schools in Mumbai, for example, it was found that 40 per cent of students still used their finger instead of a toothbrush to clean their teeth. Even worse results were found with regard to flossing and the use of mouthwash. DT

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Dentists take up ICOI credentialing at 3rd ICOI South East Asia Symposium

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The International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) movement is getting popular in South East Asia with membership and credentialing increasing manifold in 2014. At the recently concluded 3rd ICOI South East Asia Symposium held 25 to 27 July 2014 at JRC Conventions, Hyderabad in the newly formed State of Telangana in India, a record 178 proud dentists got the coveted ICOI credentials. Aptly titled "The New Frontiers in Implant Dentistry" the Symposium received a record 700 plus delegates from South East Asia. The Symposium was headed by Dr. Vikas Gowd, the proud ICOI Study Club owner of School of Dental Implants. The organising team was guided by the recently formed ICOI South East Asia Scientific Committee, which is headed by Co-Chairmen Dr. Firoze Mirza, the Father of Implantology in India; Prof. Dr. Mahesh Verma, Dean at Maulana Azad Dental School in New Delhi; the current President of Indian Dental Association, who is also the Chairman of the forthcoming FDI Congress to be held in New Delhi; and Lt. Gen Vimal Arora, the Director General of Dental Services in India. The Scientific Committee includes owners of the most prominent and active ICOI affiliated Study Clubs in the region.

The scientific programme once again set the gold standard in South East Asia with neatly designed topic-wise sessions. At the end of each session, the delegates held a healthy discussion. Dr. Anandakrishna GN of Bangalore, the ICOI Scientific Committee Coordinator, whose hard work to put together a fantastic scientific and then maintaining it on schedule, a unique feature in India, was commended by all.

For the first time in South East Asia, a Lab Forum was successfully held at an Implant Symposium. Dr. Prasad Joshi, who is the ICOI Scientific Committee Coordinator for Lab Programs, conducted the Lab Forum to an enthusiastic group, who had never been to an implant meeting and were pleasantly surprised to be at one.

The Symposium had more than 10 pre-congress courses all of which were over-booked, again a record in the region.

The Symposium was inaugurated by the ICOI Scientific Co-Chairmen and the Symposium Chairman Dr. M. S. Gowd. This was followed by Oration Lectures by the Scientific Co-Chairmen. Dr. Firoze Mirza brought the delegates up-to-date with a history of Implantology of more than 40 years. Lt. Gen. Vimal Arora had a hard-hitting lecture that showed glimpses of research and the future of Implantology; he also discussed the Ministry of Defence Model for Implantology. Dr. Mahesh Verma spoke in his trade-mark style giving the dentists the information they did not have on the updates in education, ethical practices as well as Practice Management. The good news he announced for the Indian dentists was that advertising is now permitted.

Star speakers at the Symposium were Prof. Dr. Girish Rao, Dr. Anandakrishna GN, Dr. Glenn Mascarenhas, Dr. Christian Berger, Prof. Dr. Sudhindra Kulkarni, Dr. Thomas Hanser, Dr. T. V. Narayan, Dr. Tarun Kumar, Dr. Eugene Marais, Dr. Minas Leventis, Dr. Antonin Simunek, Prof. Dr. Daniel Rothamel, Drs. Andrea and Alessandro Agnini, Prof. Dr. Sanjay Kalra, Dr. Paresh Kale, Dr. Jaibin George, Dr. Ratnadeep Patil, Dr. Kiran Kelkar, Dr. Anand Murthy, Dr. Ajit Shetty, Dr. Sandesh Mayekar, Dr. Porus Turner and Dr. Shilpa Shetty amongst others.

The Symposium also helped delegates showcase their talents through paper presentations, poster presentations and free table presentations. The Young Implantologists Forum was also held and the trade participated enthusiastically, the credit for which goes to Dr. Venkat Reddy.

Hyderabad is known as the "City of Royalty" and the food is well-known for its royal flavour. The guested were treated at the Inaugural Dinner and the Credentialing Banquet to the best Hyderabadi Biryani, lamb cooked with rice and spices as well as Haleem, minced lamb cooked with spices. Both the dishes are cooked on a slow fire over several hours to bring out the flavour. Needless to say the food was outstanding.

The ICOI Credentialing Ceremony lasted more than an hour and went on flawlessly. DT

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The ICOI and its influence on dentistry in India – An interview

DT South Asia

What is the progress of Implantology in the Indian scenario?

Prof. Dr. Girish Rao: Dental Implantology in India too like the rest of the World is the fastest growing branch in dentistry. 15 years back, when I returned back to India after my training in Maxillofacial Surgery for almost a decade in the UK, we were just a hand full of consultants practicing Implantology. Today, it is heartening to see thousands of General Dental Practitioners and Specialists who have incorporated implants in their practice.

Dr. Jaibin George: It is rapidly progressing these days. More dentists have started practicing Implantology and patients too are more aware of the benefits.

Prof. Dr. V. Rangarajan: Implantology in India has progressed exponentially in the last decade. More importantly, it is now seen as a very viable treatment option with long term success by the general practitioner, and that confidence for the practitioner is important to spread the good word about the same to the general public.

Prof. Dr. Tarun Kumar: Dental implant market growth correlates with consumer behavior and macroeconomic environment. Economic pressure in developed countries fosters 'good-enough' mentality among patients and dentists. India being the developing country, gives tremendous scope for the expansion of Implantology. The general Indian population is beginning to realize that a dental implant is the next best thing ever to your healthy, natural tooth!

The dental implants market in India is said to reach US$101.2 million by 2014. The dental implants market in India has also been witnessing increasing dental tourism. Rising per capita spending across developed countries and increasing discretionary incomes in developing countries are driving global growth. The Indian market is set to see a robust growth in dental implants as awareness is on the rise. The dental implant market in India is expected to grow at a rapid rate on the backdrop of an increasing aging population and growing awareness to look good.

How do you think we can take implant dentistry to the masses?

Prof. Kumar: Utilize the audio-visual aids to the maximum. ICOI should come out with television commercials on dental implants and showcase them as the best treatment modality. Patient education videos on dental implants to be played in waiting area and reception area of all corporate hospitals, dental hospitals and clinics. All these projects to be taken up from organizations like ICOI and ISOI. However, little information is available to the patients regarding the dental implant procedure and problem is more magnified in developing nations where there is lack of education and awareness amongst people about dental implants as a dental treatment modality.

Prof. Rangarajan: Conduct of public exhibitions on the specialty backed by wide advertisements would certainly help spread awareness among the masses. As stated previously, the practitioner should be confident about the success of this treatment option, only then the good word about the same will spread among the masses.

Dr. George: Awareness programs, conferences, write-ups in newspaper and magazines.

Prof. Rao: My view is a two prong approach to take implant dentistry to the masses. Firstly, we need to train established dental practitioners in a structured training program to learn the science of Implantology so that they can confidently place and restore implants in their practice. For the younger generation, Implantology should become a part of the under graduate BDS curriculum so that they are confident to place implants when they graduate. Secondly, we need to bring in massive awareness campaign to the general public so that they will confidently accept this modality of treatment.

What are the road blocks for development of this specialty in India and what in your opinion are the solutions? How would you like to contribute?

Prof. Rangarajan: Basically, cost, fear of surgery, lack of insurance and inadequate training for the general dental practitioner may be the most common reasons, which hits the development of this specialty in our country. The first two, cost and fear, can only be overcome by educating the patient. The cost in fact is the least in our country and the same message should be marketed in public forums. I see a lot of the higher social strata refusing implants because of fear of surgery. Again, only by bringing more awareness towards this aspect, the fear can be alleviated. The last is of course the inadequate training, which makes the general practitioner to negatively market, implants to patients. This can be easily overcome by setting high training standards and with over 20 years of experience in clinical Implantology, I am more than willing to contribute to this by being part of these programs.

Prof. Rao: India is a young country with a growing economy. However, we have a large geriatric population that is also exponentially increasing. This means a lot of people have the problem of edentulism. The best solution to partial or total edentulism is implants. We need to bring down the cost of implants so that everyone should be able to afford this treatment. We need to invest on Research and Development so that good quality implants are manufactured in India at a very economical price.

Dr. Jaibin George

Prof. Dr. Girish Rao

Prof. Dr. Tarun Kumar

Prof. Dr. V. Rangarajan

"Careful planning based on education on dental implants that not only involves oral health educators but society in its noble cause removing misconceptions and providing effective and cost-effective treatment in close proximity is the need of the hour in Indian society."

Prof. Kumar: The primary challenge faced is the lack of consumer awareness about dental implants, which could be a challenge to the growth of this market. Other factors include that the general public here presumes this treatment modality to be more expensive than conventional methods. The general apathy towards the dental treatment is another road block. Another factor is nearly traditional addiction of tobacco in Indian masses. Tobacco consumption, although harmful for systemic health, has many other ramifications in oral health including Implant health. There are many yet unexplored convictions and beliefs in Indian subconscious, which need to be worked on in a multipronged strategy. Even though India is progressing as never before in oral health, a keen understanding of societal aspects certainly would be helpful for both Implantologists and implementers especially in rural areas and urban areas. A change in society's outlook and attitude is slow, which requires persistent efforts and continuous education and active participation of society in its own oral health is of paramount importance. In brief, careful planning based on education on dental implants that not only involves oral health educator but society in its noble cause removing misconceptions and providing effective and cost-effective treatment in close proximity is the need of the hour in Indian society.

Dr. George: The major road block is that many dentists are yet to know more about implants and motivate patients and few of them even demotivate their patients. The solution is to organize courses and continuing dental education programs on implant dentistry.

How do you think as an organization ICOI will benefit the clinicians and the general population?

Dr. George: The ICOI is the finest organization in implant dentistry and they have been organizing a lot of continuing dental education programs and accredited courses. Their Web page for the public is quite informative and needs to be publicized.

Prof. Kumar: The ICOI has always been a patient-centred, science-based and ethically-driven association and has grown to become the leading source of dental implant related information for dentists and their patients. The organization is committed to its members and to the improvement of oral health for the public. Its vision is to be the recognized leader on Oral Implantology with its mission to help all members succeed. The ICOI delivers services to hundreds of communities and provides objective and credible information on the critical issues in the field of Oral Implantology. The ICOI in India still requires to do a lot more in patient education to increase the general awareness of the population.

Prof. Rao: ICOI is the world's largest body in Implantology with its tentacles in almost every part of the world. Its commitment to educate and train dentists to embrace Implantology is commendable.

Prof. Rangarajan: As stated previously, it's important to set the standards for training and recognition in Implant Dentistry. The ICOI training programs enable dentists to undergo high-quality standardized training programs, while the credentialing gives a lot of self-confidence to the dentist in the absence of recognized advanced training in Implantology in our country. The general public is also able to identify and choose an Implantologist with confidence, having an ICOI accreditation.

How can ICOI help to bring cutting-edge Laboratory Techniques to this region? What is your vision to bring Lab Technicians and Dentists on the same platform?

Prof. Rangarajan: I think a similar process of credentialing the dental labs/technicians by ICOI will help us to identify those who are trained adequately, which will in turn help to set the standards for lab work. There needs to be more advanced training offered to technicians here, which will help them gain confidence and communicate effectively with dentists. Only then will the dentists respect the work of the technician and the mutual confidence will help them to rub shoulders easily.

Do you think that the ICOI movement in India is gathering momentum?

Prof. Rao: Absolutely. I was the chairman for the first ICOI South East Asia Implant conference at Bangalore in 2012. At that point of time, we had about 300 registrations for this meeting. Last month, when we had the 3rd ICOI South East Asia Implant Conference, there were over 800 participants at Hyderabad. I'm sure in the years to come, we will have five figure registrations.

Dr. George: Yes. More and more dentists want to opt for courses and accreditation with ICOI.

Prof. Rangarajan: I was one of the first persons in the country to receive the Diplomate in the year 2003, which was when we all had first-hand knowledge of ICOI. In the last few years, it is heartening to see a lot of conferences and workshop being organized by ICOI and it's definitely gaining momentum.

Prof. Kumar: Yes, I feel glad to report to you that ICOI has been slowly but surely gaining momentum in India. The recent conference in Hyderabad was a grand success and it stood as one of a kind milestone. It was a common platform for our clinicians and members to exchange their ideas on recent advances and developments in Implantology.

What activities has your ICOI Affiliated Study Club planned to improve ICOI membership and credentialing in the South East Asia region?

Prof. Kumar: We have recruited and retained increasing numbers of our Individual Members. The ICOI programs in India are now becoming the representatives of the world-wide profession of Implantology in relation to international, inter-governmental, governmental, voluntary and other organizations. I feel pleasure in reporting to you that our analysis of trends and developments are worthwhile for many of the contemporary Implantologists in India. I even add a note saying we succeeded in adopting and encouraging pro-active programs to progressively develop implant health and implant care maintenance. We also made sure that we maintain the highest standards of competence and integrity in the ever developing branch of implant dentistry by ensuring a quality review process and regular evaluations of all policies, programs and activities of the organization.

Dr. George: Promoting the course and creating more awareness amongst the dentists with regards to our forthcoming courses and CDE programs.

Prof. Rangarajan: We are organizing the Foundation, Fellowship and Mastership programs on a regular basis and also plan to host the conference.

Prof. Rao: An Implant Study Group (ISG) was started about 8 years back by myself and Dr. Anand Krishna. We have over 400 members now and were delighted when ICOI recognized our contribution to Implantology and our ISG as an affiliate study club of ICOI. We have three levels of training program. The first one is the foundation program where in we ignite the minds of young dental practitioners to embrace Implantology. The second program is our signature program, called the Fellowship program, where the participants go through a four module structured program over a period 6 months and confidently incorporate implants into their day to day practice. These participants are also encouraged to become Members and Fellows of ICOI. The third program is the Mastership program, where advanced surgical and prosthetic techniques are trained with practice sessions on human cadavers. They are encouraged to take up Mastership and Diplomat of ICOI.

What value has the recognition of ICOI membership and credentialing for dentists and patients world-wide?

Dr. George: The dentists' name in the listing in the ICOI website is an added advantage and also creates a platform for the general public to choose and identify accredited Implantologists for their treatment.

Prof. Kumar: We get a noticeable position amongst professional colleagues with ICOI credentialing.

Prof. Rao: Fellowships, Masterships and Diplomate of ICOI have immense value to the practicing dentist, especially in India since we do not have a formal university recognized mastership program. This boosts the confidence of the practicing dentist and also gives a level of confidence to the patient when they see their dentist has been vetted as a formally trained dentist by a body like the ICOI.

Thank you very much for this interview. DT

AD

isg implant study group

an ICOI affliate study club

imparting implant education in India for over a decade...

Mentors

Dr Girish Rao *MDS., FDSRCS(Eng)., FFDRCSI(Ire)., Diplomat ICOI*
Professor & Consultant Faciomaxillary Surgeon

Dr Ananda Krishna *MDS., Diplomat ICOI*
Professor & Consultant Prosthodontist

Skill enhancement programs

Foundation program in implantology

This program is designed to intiate the young clinicians to get an insight into the exciting field of implantology

ICOI implant fellowship program

This advanced surgical and prosthetic implant training program is the signature program of ISG. More than 300 Clinicians have successfully incorporated implantology into their practices after this one to one trianing program

ICOI implant mastership program

This next level implantology program is for the practicing implantologists to further enhance their clinical skills. Bone manipulation techniques, socket preservation, onlay grafting, bone harvesting techniques, sinus lifts and soft tissue management is extensively trained and practice session on pig heads and on specially preserved human cadavers.

Institution based training program

ISG is also imparting implant fellowship programs in conjuction with a number of dental institutes such as Coorg Institute of Dental Sciences, Jaipur Dental College, Thai Moogambika Dental College, Chennai,

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Interview with Lt. Gen. Vimal Arora, Director-General Dental Services, India

DT South Asia

The forthcoming FDI is the 2nd World Dental Congress in India in the past decade. What do you recognize by this trend?

The World Dental Congress (WDC) under the aegis of FDI can be considered as the Olympics of dentistry. Hosting dental professionals from across the globe is indeed a matter of pride and satisfaction for the entire dental fraternity of our country. India is fast emerging as the knowledge based power hub. Knowledge of oral health sciences and the strategies to combat oral disease burden is integral and growth in this area in the last 25 years has been phenomenal. I have been fortunate to witness a great amount of capacity building in oral health services, treatment delivery systems, dental education, research, publications, industry and technology in the last couple of decades.

Dental professionals in India have contributed significantly to mitigate oral health concerns of our citizen's especially vulnerable population in countries across the globe, through dental tourism, thus enhancing the prestige of the profession and the nation. India is truly emerging as a dental superpower and our colleagues from the international community duly acknowledge the same. It is indeed a great feeling to have been a part of this wonderful journey. Therefore, needless to say, a positive trend and a great opportunity to showcase the training, practice, research trends, and technological prowess of the dental profession in India to the international community has been presented where we can gain from the best practices from the international experience.

Congratulations Lt. Gen. Vimal Arora for being the Chief Patron of FDI AWDC 2014. How do you feel about it?

It is indeed a great feeling to spearhead the World Military Dental Congress and I am humbled by this honor and eagerly looking forward to this meeting. My designation in the conference is purely salutary. However, the executive team behind this, under the capable guidance of Dr. Mahesh Verma and Dr. Ashok Dhoble is exceptionally proficient, immaculate and dedicated. The team realizes the immense relevance of this meeting and has put together a fantastic scientific feast and social rendezvous with military precision and tradition. It will be a great opportunity to promote good will, understanding and bonhomie among delegates of participating nations and also understand and analyze oral health services of various countries and to learn and share from each other's experience.

AD

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How will the Army Dental Congress be different from FDI AWDC?

Section Defence Forces Dental Services is the 'military chapter' of the FDI and a unique forum where military dental professionals from various countries meet. Our delegates represent their country in their official capacity and they attend the conference in uniform after seeking permissions from their respective governments. Courtesies are extended to respective foreign embassies for the visit of official delegates.

The Armed Forces is relevant to any nation big or small and it is integral to not only the security of the nation but also to economic growth. Dental health is organic to general health of soldiers and no Army can afford to lose manhours due to dental disease and ailments. Therefore, military dentistry becomes relevant for the Armed Forces across the globe. In this international meeting, military dental professionals will be deliberating on minimizing non-battle dental casualty rate in active operations, emergency-essential and comprehensive dental support to our combatants, management of maxillofacial trauma, gunshot wounds and ballistic injuries of face, forensic dental identification leveraging on military dental records etc. The theme of our conference has been aptly kept as "Combat Dental Support in Land, Sea and Air: Present & Future Perspectives". Thus great emphasis and focus is being laid on discussing strategies and techniques to deploy dental assets in different terrains like deserts, mountains, high altitude areas, on board vessels on high seas, etc.

What new trends and technology are expected at FDI AWDC?

With respect to latest technology trends, one has to consider the capacious changes that have come in to the operational demands of Indian Armed Forces and the impressive gains in science and technology involving dental sciences. Army Dental Corps has identified thrust areas for its future development namely CAD/CAM technology, lasers and CBCT for diagnostic purposes. In addition, the new biomaterial development for high altitudes and deep seas, which are of specific use in conditions like barodontalgia, is another area of interest.

Another area is transparent ceramics for invisible orthodontic brackets, transparent bone plates and maxillofacial shields for combatants. Dental implants made of different polymers in the anterior esthetic zone, bone grafts and scaffolds for hard tissue engineering are some other applications of these materials. Stem cells and tissue engineering for hard tissue loss in craniofacial area, bone tissue engineering using a triad of 'scaffold,' 'cells' and 'signaling molecules,' offer a feasible option. Current research in INMAS, aims to develop indigenously developed inter-penetrating triphasic composite scaffolds to be used in conjunction with stem cells derived from dental pulp and bone marrow.

A crucial area of research, which is close to my heart, is early diagnosis of oral cancer through protein biomarkers from serum and saliva determined through mass spectrometry and their related gene expression in tissue specimens through microarray methods. On the therapeutic side, critical gains with new chemotherapeutic compounds for inhibiting oral cancer growth have been achieved. In the field of Military Dentistry, you will appreciate that periodontal disease is one of the widely prevalent dental diseases and its known to interplay with gingival bacteria, reactive oxygen species (ROS) and tissue destruction. Therefore, a project on dental health including Periodontitis, fluorosis and barodontalgia, at high altitude has been undertaken and the results of this project may provide some answers for this chronic problem.

> **"Dental professionals in India have contributed significantly to mitigate oral health concerns of our citizen's especially vulnerable population in countries across the globe, through dental tourism, thus enhancing the prestige of the profession and the nation."**

A novel approach in Dental Dosimetry has been undertaken to improve our understanding through salivary research. Oral complications like xerostomia, mucositis, dental caries, osteoradionecrosis occurring with radiotherapy for head and neck cancers are also being studied with the objective of reversing them through novel radio protective agents. I am glad to say that my research officers are working on all these issues with tremendous enthusiasm and professional zeal.

Where would you place the current Indian defence dental profession in comparison with its counterparts across the globe?

We are one of the greatest and finest Armed Forces in the world. Army Dental Corps is integral to our Armed forces and we are second to none and one of the largest Dental Corps in the world. We provide cutting edge dental support to our men and women in uniform and their dependents. Like any science, dental sciences are continuously evolving and we are keeping pace with the newer technology and protocols. Our officers are deployed not only across the length and breadth of the country but also in various UN missions and Military training teams abroad.

What guests from across the globe are expected at FDI AWDC?

As of today, the World Military Dental Congress is represented by over 15 countries and around 40 international military dental delegates are expected to participate in the deliberations representing their Armed Forces. The number of participants may increase closer to the dates as military clearances take time.

Apart from tertiary requirements for combatants, what are the other developing fields?

I have already addressed your question on the current trends and I have given you a brief on dental research trends relevant to Armed Forces. Other developing areas are R & D of field dental equipment for quick deployment and use. Mobile dental clinics, air drop dental kits and container based dental clinics are the need of the hour in deploying dental assets in far flung and operational areas and efforts are on to improvise and deploy them. Man pack dental equipment needs a revisit and efforts to develop battery and solar energy leveraged dental kits is being explored.

What are your expectations from FDI Army Dental Congress in terms of continuing education and newer technologies?

The World Military Dental Congress 2014 will be path breaking scientific meeting and a great educative experience. The functioning of military dental services, particularly from the advanced countries will be an eye opener for young officers who would be the future leaders and planners. International military dental experience on management and prosthetic rehabilitation of dental and maxillofacial injuries would provide greater insights to minimize mortality and morbidity among our soldiers afflicted by the same.

Thank you very much for this interview. DT

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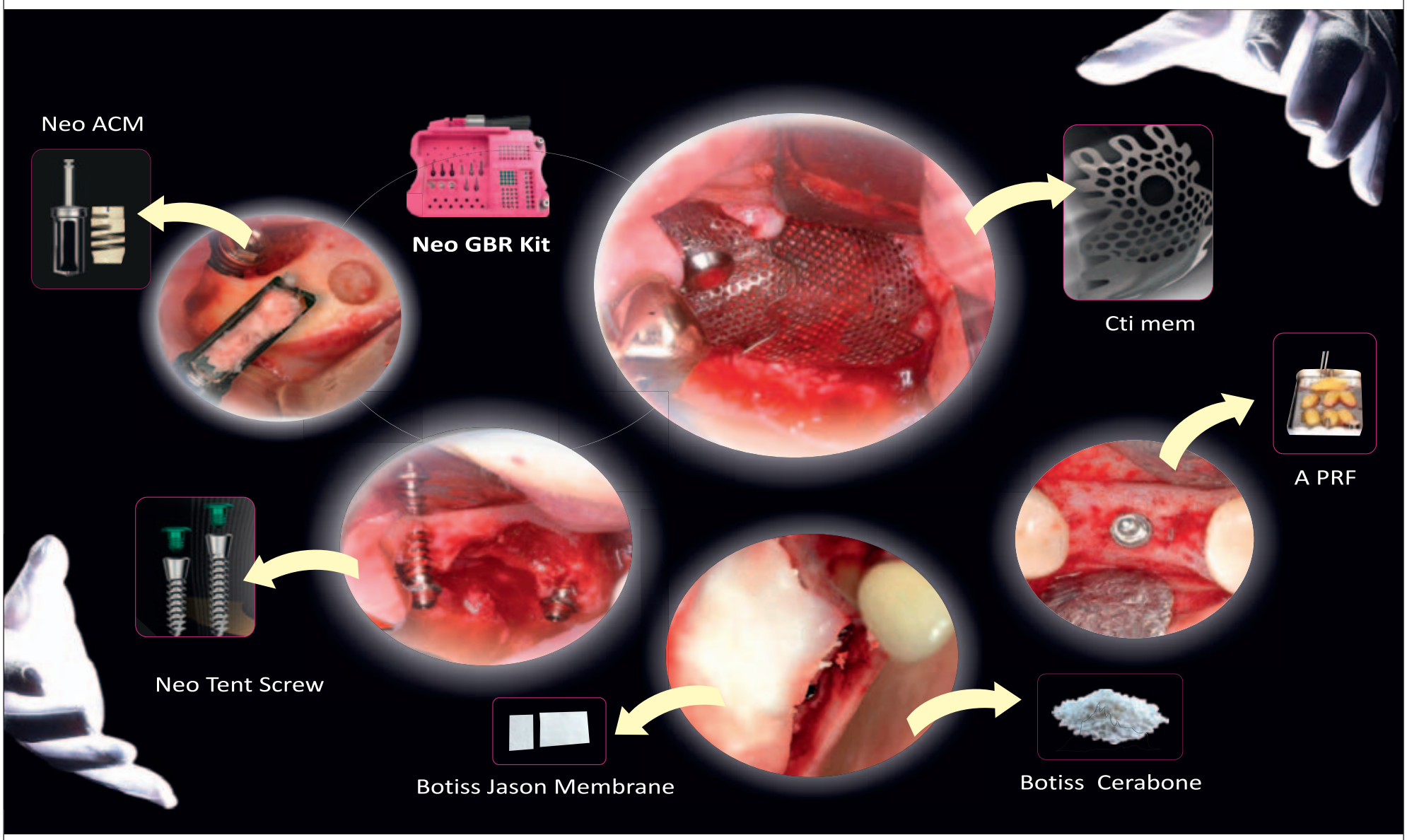

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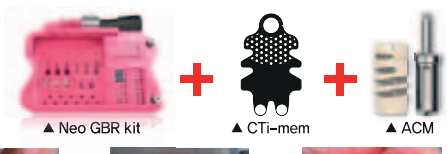

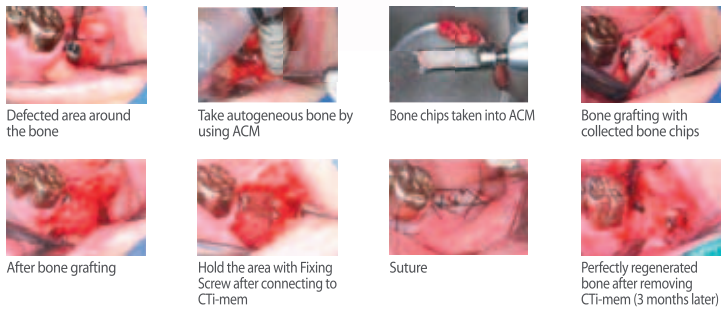

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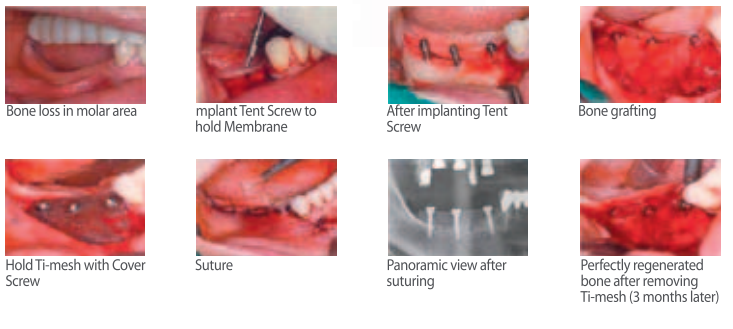

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