

President Dasgupta's Message for 2017

At the outset, I give thanks to the almighty for this opportunity to lead this vibrant organization of Indian American physicians from the state of Illinois. Indian American medical association of Illinois is one of the largest ethnic organizations in U.S.A., which has been contributing to the mainstream of organized medicine in the USA for more than three decades.

Today for me is a very special day as I accept the gavel and presidency of this prestigious organization, which boasts of a galaxy of distinguished presidents like Dr. Tapas Dasgupta (my namesake), Dr. Satya Ahuja, Dr. Gopal Lalmani, Dr. Yemuri Murthy, Dr Hanumadass, Dr Shastri Swaminathan, Dr Rohit Vasa, Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Dr Marwah, Dr Prem Rupani, Dr Pratap Kumar, Dr Sheri Merchant, Dr Amarjit Singh, Dr Hemlata Bakane and our immediate past president Dr Samir Shah, to name a few.

I guess the words of James Allen, a British philosophical writer and a poet, best amplifies the actions of our 34 past presidents: "Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so you shall become. Your vision is the promise of what you shall one day be: your ideal is the prophecy of what you shall at last unveil".

To appreciate the present and dream for the future, we have to be conscious of our past. Good leaders create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision and relentlessly drive it to completion. Like our immediate past president, Dr. Hemalata Bakane and our energetic Dr. Anita John, who is also the Chair of IAMA-CF.

Vision gives you the impulse to make your own artwork. Vision entails a task to accomplish. To assist me during my incoming presidency from 2016 to 2017, we have a visionary executive committee that has the capacity to translate our vision into reality. Where there is no vision, there is no hope. I would also like to recognize pillars of our organization who have contributed immensely to the growth of IAMA-Illinois: Dr. Virenda Bisla, one of our founding members, Dr. Roger Rodriguez, Dr. Brij Malani and Dr. Babu Arekapudi. Please give them a round of applause.....Thank You.

I stand before you as your President because of the holistic energy and spiritual dedication of my most loving & caring life partner, soulmate and the love of my life, my wife Kathakali, beauty my love...today Kathakali could not join me because of the Bengali Laxmi Puja being performed in our home tonight. Kathakali and I wish all of you Peace & Prosperity on this auspicious day.

During my presidency, the first 100 day plan would be to a) recruit at least 100 life members, b) initiate basic research methodology workshops for young postgraduate students in India to create awareness about the importance of research in science and to generate an interest among India's student population in at least 20 tier 1 and tier 2 cities during the year in cooperation with India's Ministry of Science & Technology and non-governmental organizations in India, and a salute to our alumni medical colleges in India & USA to commemorate India's Republic Day here in Chicago. I also plan to resume the monthly newsletter of IAMA-Illinois to ensure communication to all is encouraged. These are few of the initiatives I plan to implement with all of your support. It is my sincere hope that our new executive committee with the past presidents' blessings and all of your support, will enrich the activities of IAMA so that our members can scale greater heights.

Apart from the usual monthly CME's on every fourth Wednesday, I plan to have an exciting program every month to provide a variety of stimulating and relaxing evening for our members. Please save the dates for the following: the trip abroad is planned in July-August 2017, an exciting tour of Iceland, Norway & Scandinavian countries, and our 37th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 18, 2017. It is my hope to have his excellency Mr. Pranab Mukerjee, the President of India at our Annual Gala, next year.

The theme for my Presidency is "Building a Broad Framework for Collective Action".

I am confident that the following words of Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States of America will resonate in IAMA-Illinois throughout the year and for many more years to come: "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand".

Thank you.