

Closing the Year With Gratitude and Vision

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“True leadership lies in empowering others to rise, uniting hearts with purpose, and creating a legacy of care and compassion that shapes a brighter future for generations to come.”

– Dr APJ Abdul Kalam

As winter casts its serene spell and we find comfort in warm cups and cozy layers, it is the perfect time to pause, reflect, and celebrate the incredible journey that we've shared in 2024. Together, we have embraced challenges, ignited inspiration, and paved the way for a brighter future in pediatric care. It has been a year of transformation, marked by moments that defined our purpose and unified our efforts. At the heart of it was PEDICON in Kochi, a gathering that recharged our collective vision and set the tone for impactful change. It was here that we launched the ambitious initiative 'IAP ki Baat – Community Ke Saath' which became a bridge between pediatricians, influencers, and community leaders. Together, we deliberated upon key issues like anemia, obesity, dengue, fever, autism, and many more, with passion and purpose. Through expert discussions and innovative social media outreach, we dispelled myths, empowered parents, and fostered trust within the families we serve.

Believing in simplicity with impact, we introduced the 'Algorithmic approach to pediatric diagnosis'—a revolutionary guide designed to enhance clinical acumen and rational therapy. Developed by leading child health experts and academicians, this resource is packed with practical tools, standardized algorithms, and sharp clinical insights, containing 20 different modules focusing on honing the acumen of practicing pediatricians and reducing the reliance on investigations while elevating the standard of care for every child.

We also launched the National Treatment Guidelines (NTG) to provide the pediatricians with an evidence-based resource for diagnosing and treating common pediatric conditions. This initiative is not just about increasing knowledge but ensuring that pediatricians across the country are well-equipped to handle the most pressing health issues facing our children, with a unified

approach that aligns with the latest evidence-based practices.

Building on our commitment to academic excellence, we have also launched innovative resources such as OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination), PG (post-graduate) (PG), and undergraduate (UG) quiz modules. These tools are designed to enhance the competitive edge of aspiring pediatricians while also fostering a culture of continuous learning. Recognizing the aspirations of young pediatricians, we rejuvenated the Indian College of Pediatrics (ICP), the IAP's premier academic wing. With robust fellowship programs, transparent certifications, and a wealth of educational resources, the ICP promises to shape the next generation of pediatric leaders.

The year also saw a historic collaboration with Oxford University and Manchester University, England. The signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) opened the doors to a prestigious three-year fellowship program in pediatric subspecialties, offering our doctors unparalleled global exposure. This partnership symbolizes our commitment to advancing pediatric care and raising the global profile of Indian pediatricians. Operational excellence has been a key focus, marked by the rollout of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) book for IAP. This comprehensive document establishes clarity and transparency, streamlining the roles of committees, procedures for Training of Trainers (ToT), and the execution of MOUs.

On the public health front, we intensified efforts to combat cervical cancer, a vaccine-preventable malignancy still out of reach for many due to its cost. Our relentless advocacy for its inclusion in the National Immunization Schedule is showing promising progress, bringing us closer to protecting countless lives.

To encourage research pursuits, we also started “Academics with Institutions” program involving post-graduates, eminent staff and institutional heads to revolutionize practice and showcase and encourage academic research. Our flagship academic publications—*Indian Pediatrics*, *Indian Journal of Practical Pediatrics*, and the *IAP Drug Formulary*—achieved unprecedented growth in readership and quality, reflecting our community’s commitment to advancing pediatric knowledge and research.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of the Office Bearers and

Executive Board of 2024. I extend my deepest gratitude to them, our esteemed contributors, and every pediatrician whose tireless efforts have made a tangible difference in children’s lives. As we close the chapter on an extraordinary year, we stand on the cusp of endless possibilities. Together, we have proven that knowledge, unity, and compassion are powerful catalysts for change. Let us carry this momentum forward, continuing to make a difference, one child at a time. Here’s to a future filled with hope, progress, and unwavering commitment to the children we serve.

Jai IAP! Jai Hind!
