

Presidential address

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- Hon'ble Chief Guest – Shri. Kali Charan Saraf, Health Minister of Rajasthan
- Hon'ble Guest of Honour – Dr. Vijay Rao
- Immediate Past President – Dr. O.P. Bansal
- President-Elect – Dr. K. Mohanan
- Other dignitaries on the dais and off the dais, Respected Past Presidents, Office Bearers of IRIA, IJRI and ICRI
- Member colleagues of our Association, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

Good Evening. On this special occasion, I would like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year. I welcome you all to this 70th Annual Congress of IRIA being held at the beautiful historic Pink city of India – Jaipur. I hope you are enjoying the warm hospitality and academic feast being provided by the organizing team of this conference.

At the outset, allow me to thank all of you for your generous support and reposing your faith in me to serve our Association in this capacity. It is indeed an honour for me to take over the prestigious post of President of the "Indian Radiological and Imaging Association" in the presence of a galaxy of renowned radiologists of India and the whole world. I would like to thank all my teachers, senior colleagues, past Presidents, and Senior Executive members of the association for their teaching, able guidance, and timely support. You have given me this great responsibility, and I assure all the members that along with my entire team I would do my best to carry out the job assigned to me. Friends, as we all know our respected teachers, seniors, and past executive members of the association guide us in this tough professional life, I am really fortunate that I had teachers like Prof. V. K. Rohatgi, Col. C. S. Pant, Dr. R. N. Bagga, Dr. S. K. Sharma, Dr. Harshad Shah, Dr. R. K. Gupta, and many more.

Our Association as it was then called the "Indian Radiological Association" took birth in the year 1931 in Calcutta, and in 1937, it was registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal with a total membership strength of merely 24; that was 80 years ago, making this

a very momentous year. Over the years, we have grown from strength to strength and as on today our strength has grown over to 13600.

Dear Members, the aims and objectives of our association are to promote the study and practice of Radiology and Imaging Sciences. To fulfil the aims and objectives of IRIA, we have to collectively focus on promoting the knowledge to the younger generation, which is possible by organizing conferences, CME programmes, Workshops, and Resident Education Programmes. Last year we successfully organized four well-attended CMEs and two Resident Education Programmes, and the same will be continued this year as well. The State Chapters of IRIA will also be encouraged to conduct more such academic events.

This year we are dedicated towards further improving the academic standards of the IRIA. To achieve this, we shall have a central scientific committee, which will be responsible for deciding the scientific programme of the annual conferences, various CMEs, and Resident Education Programmes. An International Relation Committee is being proposed to further improve the relationship with various international associations. You will be happy to note that today only we had three leadership meetings with international societies. It is my pleasure to introduce you all to Dr. Vijay Rao who is gracing the dais as the Guest of Honour who is the President Elect of RSNA.

The process of subspecialty heads started last year and I would like to take it further and ensure that CME programme to be held as per subspecialties in various parts of the country.

We have also planned to organize sessions/CMEs on Obstetrical Ultrasound and Imaging in different states every month. This is very important in today's scenario because Fetal Medicine is coming up in a big way. We want that our members should remain updated in every field of radiology and imaging.

We are working hard to start fellowships in Body Imaging, Fetal Medicine, MSK Imaging, and Neuro-imaging. Hopefully, we will start these fellowship programmes this year.

IRIA is being recognized worldwide. Our member Radiologists are invited in various international meetings as faculty which shows that Indian Radiology has made its impression over the years. You will be happy to note that this year seven IRIA members have been invited as faculty members in ECR 2017.

PNDT

My predecessors have worked and put in considerable efforts to stop and discourage sex selection by Ultrasound and thus female feticide. IRIA is fully supporting the Save the Girl Child Programme. But the problem is the mind set of our society where the female child is considered a burden because of many reasons. I am not going in to those details but unfortunately radiologists are being blamed for the declining male/female sex ratio. Certainly we are not! I am confident that none of our members are performing sex determination in today's time. In fact as a responsible person of the Indian Society, we all should work for empowerment, Girl Child Education, and programmes such as "Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao." As we know that sex selection and sex determination techniques were brought under the legal jurisdiction by the PC and PNDT Act, significant changes have not been witnessed on the other side. Radiologists are being harassed at every small opportunity by the concerned authorities. Consistent efforts have been made by Dr. Col. C.S. Pant, Dr. S.S. Doda, Dr. Rajesh Kapur, Dr. Jignesh Thakker, and Dr. O. P. Bansal. It has resulted in relief from some of the draconian provisions of the PC and PNDT Act but not as we desired. I promise you all that we shall continue fighting against all these irrelevant provisions in the Act for the Relief of our Association Members.

As IRIA is strongly committed towards fixing eligibility to perform Ultrasound by qualified persons only, and IRIA is already in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on this issue, we strongly feel that persons with a statutory qualification, as approved by the MCI and National Board of Examinations, should be allowed to perform Ultrasound. We shall honor the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on this issue.

My humble request to all the members of IRIA is to please refrain from illegal malpractices in the profession. I strongly oppose all these activities. If we do it today, it ultimately reflects on our next generation.

At the same time, I would request all my members to do more and more charitable activities on behalf of the association. We must associate with social and charitable activities more aggressively and in an organized manner.

Friends, I would be failing in my duties if I do not thank our trade partners. They have been a great help to our association in the past and I hope they will continue in the same manner in the future as well.

I am indebted to everyone for helping me to achieve this position and wish to thank all my teachers, seniors, friends, and family members, my wife Mona, and my children Shubham and Varnika Ahuja. With God's grace both are medical doctors and determined to serve the mankind. Special thanks to all my friends from Agra, UP State, and whole India. Friends, you all have been my real source of encouragement and strength.

Finally, my message to young and budding radiologists is

- Strive hard for knowledge – attend 2 or 3 CMEs every year
- Stay away from malpractices – it will make you more confident
- Always say no to sex determination – no work can be worse than this
- Work hard – excellence is not an accident.

I request all the members to feel free to contact me on any issues pertaining to the association.

Long Live IRIA

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Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	Website: www.ijri.org
	DOI: 10.4103/ijri.IJRI_74_17

Cite this article as: Ahuja B. Presidential address. Indian J Radiol Imaging 2017;27:4-5.