

country, who are full of energy, ideas and enthusiasm, who could take up the challenge of the future.

Indian Society of Gastroenterology: reminiscences of the days gone by

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Delhi

It was the winter of 1960. In the third week of January, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, was only 4 years old, and was hosting its first medical conference at national level – the Joint Annual Conference of the Association of Physicians of India (API). During this meeting the late Dr. P N Chhuttani, who was one of the activists of the API, came up with the idea that there should be a separate society of gastroenterology in India. Some felt that this would weaken the parent organization, the API. However, a group of physicians with interest in gastroenterology signed a document for registration of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG). Its Constitution was adopted along the lines of that of the API. I was asked to be its Hon. General Secretary and Gen. Amir Chand its first President. I submitted an application to the Registrar of Societies; registration was received in March 1960.

Soon came news that the internationally famed gastroenterologists, Dr. Henry L Bockus and Dr. Clifford J Barborka, would be visiting India from USA. Dr Bockus' book was the standard textbook in gastroenterology. The first scientific meeting under the aegis of the newly founded ISG was held March 22 and 23, 1960 at the AIIMS, attended by these two eminent gastroenterologists as well. Three symposia were organized, on cirrhosis of liver in India, peptic ulcer in India, and the problem of chronic diarrheas in India, moderated respectively by Prof. V Ramalingaswami, Prof. P N Chhuttani and Prof. S S Mishra.

After the meeting, Dr. Bockus and Dr. Barborka went to Bombay, where they met with a group of doctors interested in digestive diseases. Some of them – Dr. P Raghavan, Dr. F P Antia, Dr. B J Vakil and Dr. B D Pimparkar – had earlier associations with Dr. Bockus. Later, Gen. Amir Chand visited Bombay and brought gastroenterologists there into the fold of the ISG. The next year Dr. Raghavan was unanimously elected President of the Society. Drs. S J Baker, F Narielwalla, V I

Mathan and B M Pulimood from the Christian Medical College, Vellore, along with Dr. R Subramaniam and Dr. N Madanagopalan from Medical College, Madras became active members of the Society, giving it its all-India character.

The first annual conference of the Society, along with the annual conference of the API, was held in Madras January 1961. Gen. Amir Chand's Presidential Address was on gastric acid secretion, the only one on a scientific subject.

The second annual conference was held in Indore; Dr. Raghavan was the President. The theme of his learned address was the past and future of gastroenterology in our country and the role the Society can play to foster and accelerate its development. The third annual conference was held in Calcutta; Col. Sangham Lal was President. A committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Vakil to revise the constitution of the Society.

I finished my tenure as Secretary in 1963; Dr. B N Tandon took over as the next Hon. Secretary. In 1964 the Society parted company with the API. It hosted the Asian Conference of Gastroenterology in Chandigarh. Dr. P N Chhuttani was the President of the Society as well as of the Asian Pacific conference. The presence of a large Japanese contingent with their latest endoscopic equipment was a great stimulus for endoscopy in our country. With this international meeting, our Society became a part of the OMGE.

Dr. Wilfred Card from the University of Edinburgh attended the conference in Calcutta. He had been President of the British Society of Gastroenterology and chief editor of *Gut*. On his return to the UK he wrote about his impressions of gastroenterology in India and what its future development should be, in an article, "Open letter to the Indian Gastroenterologists". He emphasized that gastroenterologists in developing countries should not be disheartened by lack of sophisticated technology and skills. They can effectively contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge with the help of locally available techniques; some of the greatest advances of science have been achieved by using simple techniques. What is really needed most is an inquisitive and penetrating mind, unbending honesty, and total commitment to the search for truth.

This important message should ever remain an abiding guideline for Indian gastroenterologists.

, radiologists (British Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology), general practitioners (Primary Care Society for Gastroenterology) and patients (Crohn's and Colitis UK). A systematic review of 88 247 publications and a Delphi consensus process involving 81 multidisciplinary clinicians and patients was undertaken to develop 168 evidence- and expert opinion-based recommendations for pharmacological, non-pharmacological and surgical interventions, as well as optimal service delivery in the management of both ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. After commissioning of the guideline by the BSG CSSC, a Guideline Development Group (GDG) was convened by the Chair of the IBD Section Committee of the BSG (ABH).