

Bidding Adieu to IAP Year 2022

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The year 2022 was quite exciting and invigorating, by the simple fact that the coronavirus disease (COVID) blues were quickly over, with people joyously moving out of the covid shell. And at the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) too, members regrouped with the motto “Academics with Camaraderie”, and the vibe was so infectious that we had an unbelievable number of physical activities across the country this year. Our membership too has been increasing at a quick pace of around 1500 new members per year, to take us to an amazing figure of 39,000 members as on October 31, 2022.

PEDICON 2022, the National Conference of the Academy at Noida, gave IAP the much-needed confidence and belief that the epidemic has not shaken the spirit of the IAPians. Along with the flagship activities of the yester-years like NRP, NC-ECD and NTEP, the 13 new academic modules in various pediatric domains floated in the year kept the branches on their toes.

Central IAP could successfully enlist around 240 branches in this year's activities, and much more heartening was the fact that as many as 40 of them were undertaking CIAP activities for the first time. Initiating academic and community activities under the banner of Kashmir branch of IAP has been a long-awaited dream, which got materialized in November, 2022. We could successfully launch the UK branch of the Academy in July this year, and the inauguration of the Bahrain and Oman branches are round the corner.

The Standard Treatment Guidelines in Pediatric Office Practice have been reaching our members thrice every week, throughout this year. It is quite heartening to note that more than 75% of the authors for STG are young pediatricians, and we wish to see them contribute to the academic corpus of IAP in a big way in the years to come.

The year also saw IAP taking up community and charity activities at a big scale. The U5MR 25 by 2025 project, which focused on 57 high-burden aspirational districts with a under-five mortality rate of more than 50, has taken off with much zeal and enthusiasm, with the IAP District Champions passionately behind it and UNICEF and District Health administration proactively facilitating the initiative. The distribution of “Superhero Kits”, with selected items conveying messages on undernutrition and anemia, was launched on Children's Day at Barabanki District in Uttar Pradesh. These kits are to be distributed to under-privileged children in 100 families each in the chosen 50 districts this year, and will be continued as a Charity Project from Central IAP, with deserving children as direct beneficiaries.

Central IAP has also been able to provide a single point access to all IAP portals through the revamped IAP website and the introduction of the PEDCARD. Self-updating of member data and profile is an important feature in the new website. The Pedcard mobile app, once installed on your home screen, can take you to any IAP site or activity with a single click. Apart from this, the Pedcard will be offering loyalty services in the near future on purchase of subscriptions to academic publications, and other products.

The regular flagship academic journals of Central IAP, *Indian Pediatrics* and *Indian Journal of Practical Pediatrics*, and the Drug Formulary continued their academic work in the year with documented increase in their reputation. My sincere gratitude to all the Office bearers and Executive Board members of 2022, and all the academy members for their unstinted support and for keeping the team inspired all through the year.

Jai IAP, Jai Hind!