

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Honorable Dr. Harshvardhanji- The Hon'ble Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences of India (Chief Guest), Dr. Arun Raizada -The Organizing Secretary, Dr. K. K. Srivastava - The Chairman of local organizing Committee, Dr. Aditi – The Co-Organizing Secretary, dignitaries on the dais and off the dais, members of the organizing committee of the meeting as well as Executive committee of IABS; past Presidents / Vice Presidents, and Secretaries of this Academy; invited guests / speakers from within the country as well as from various parts of the world; faculty; delegates; dear students-who are future of the Nation, and Ladies and Gentlemen: A VERY GOOD EVENING.TO YOU ALL.

1. It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all at the 5th Annual Meeting of IABS and Symposium on Biomedical Sciences in the 21st Century and onwards, organised by Department of Biochemistry, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Medanta – The Medicity, Gurgaon, at this venue at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Definitely, I feel honored to be here as the President of our August Academy on the inaugural function of this 5th Annual Meeting.
2. First of all, on behalf of the IABS, I would like to congratulate the sons and daughters of the soil, who by their sheer hard work, zeal, dedication and innovations, have earned various scientific AWARDS this year from the IABS. Also, I would like to congratulate in advance, the contestants / aspirants, who would be receiving the Young Scientist and Young Innovators Award from the Academy after the declaration of results on the last day of this 5th Annual Meeting. The Academy feels proud of you all.
3. The Indian Academy of Biomedical Sciences was established a few years back i. e. around five years back, with the vision, keen interest and efforts of several scientists from India and abroad, and that, the idea of establishing such an academy was the brainchild of Prof. Abbas Ali Mahdi from KGMU, Lucknow and Prof. Hari Sharma from Holland, and thereafter, both of them involved me in all its establishment and development. Therefore, I would consider myself lucky enough to be a part of the founding family member of this Academy.
4. The importance of an Academy in any country, could be best understood from a fact that even around a few hundred years back, one of the most famous President's of USA- Mr. Abraham Lincoln, had sensed the need of such an institution in USA, and in turn, even in the midst of turmoil there at that point of time, signed into law, an ACT, thereby creating the National Academy of Sciences (USA). And what this Academy in USA has contributed to mankind doesn't require any introduction / or elaboration, as it's well documented. So, all kudos to Prof. A. A. Mahdi and Prof. Hari Sharma for mooted such an idea to establish the IABS in India to promote translational sciences in medicine.
5. Till date, i. e. prior to the current one, four Annual Conferences, as well as numerous Mini Symposia and Workshops, have been organized at different places under the banner of IABS. The first two Annual Meetings of IABS were conducted in KGMU, Lucknow; the Third one in AMU Aligarh while the fourth one in Hyderabad.

6. The academy's aim is to disseminate knowledge and promote academic excellence in the field of Biomedical Sciences, and to **promote translational research** covering different human diseases and their management, by bringing basic scientists / researchers and clinicians on a common platform. This would help in bringing the outcome of laboratory research in a fruitful way towards bedside of patients.
7. To achieve this, successful Translational Research Cycle (TCR) is mandatory. This TCR involves Laboratory researchers / basic scientists, clinicians, and the pharmaceutical industry. All the three of them must work together to design rational drugs for improved therapeutic efficacy.
8. One prime example of translational research in human disease is the study of cancer therapy. Extensive cooperation between basic researchers, clinicians, and industry has generated numerous new targeted compounds with enhanced efficacy and decreased toxicity.
9. My dear august audience, the world has come to realize that - Science and Medical Science has become more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been before.
10. I would quote and use some beautiful lines of President of United States- Mr. Barak Obama, who had said during his address during a scientific meet. We, the IABS fraternity as well as the august gathering here -refuse to accept that our country's as well as the world's sole purpose is mere survival. INSTEAD -we should believe in the fact that we **must add -- "the fuel of interest to the fire of genius in the discovery... of new and useful things."** Even in the hardest times, against the toughest odds, we take a pledge that we will not give in to pessimism; we will never surrender our fates to chance; instead- we have endured; we have and will work hard; and we will sought out new frontiers that may help our Nation and the World to grow and make it a comfortable and enjoyable place.
11. I am pretty confident that IABS fraternity would be instrumental in near future to envisage **national strategies to nurture and sustain a culture of scientific innovation in the field of Biomedicine.** I believe it is not in our Academy's character, to follow. Instead our Academy's character is to lead. So, we should be trend setters and not trend followers. And, it appears that, "The challenge as said above, in short, may be our Salvation."
12. I feel proud in stating here that there are those of you in this audience who became scientists/innovators/successful clinicians, and that, have been part of discoveries and inventions in medical science, just because of their sheer hard work and commitment. I request the students and young scientists / young innovators to replicate it.
13. And as I stand here before you, I, would like to say a few words about our Chief Guest, Dr Harsh Vardhanji, who at present is Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences of India. He was a practicing ENT surgeon before entering public life in 1993. Fondly called "*Doctor Saab*" by supporters and opponents alike, Dr Harsh Vardhan is known for disarming simplicity in his personal life and transparency at the work place. **Our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari**

Vajpayee sahib once said of **Dr Harsh Vardhan**: *“He joined politics with the laudable objective of using his considerable medical knowledge and experience for serving the common man”*.

14. As a Union Minister of Science and Technology, he is committed to set a roadmap for the implementation of the “Make in India” programme by building a robust R&D infrastructure and promoting synergies between industry and scientific research institutions.
15. And, as a matter of fact, as all of you know, **scientific discovery takes far more than the occasional flash of brilliance -- as important as that can be. Usually, it takes time and hard work and patience; it takes training; it requires the support of a nation. But it holds a promise like no other area of human endeavor.** Therefore, because a known robust background of our Chief Guest, I, on behalf of the IABS fraternity, feel highly encouraged to humbly request the Hon’ble Minister to kindly lend a helping hand in bolstering the aims and objectives of the IABS i.e. in making the results of laboratory research conducted by basic scientists into a fruitful tool for the treatment and management of patients at the bed-side suffering with various diseases. And this requires funds from the Government.
16. Furthermore, as Mr. Vannevar Bush, who served as scientific advisor to President Franklin Roosevelt, famously said: "Basic scientific research is scientific capital", and that, **because we know that a Nation's potential for scientific discovery is defined by the tools that it makes available to its researchers, HENCE, I, on behalf of the IABS fraternity sincerely requests the Hon’ble Chief Guest to increase / augment manifolds the funding for translational research in the country, which in due course of time, will prove beneficial to mankind.**
17. Lastly, I on behalf of the Academy as well as the Organizing Committee, encourage all of you to make use of this Symposium to share your knowledge and experience. I am confident enough that this platform will enable all of you to foster meaningful collaborations and establish networks that will enhance your research interests and goals. AND, thank you all for **all your past, present, and future discoveries.**
18. I, on behalf of the Academy, wish you an enriching time ahead.
19. Thank you and Jai Hind.

Prof. Najmul Islam
President
Indian Academy of Biomedical Sciences
Department of Biochemistry
J.N. Medical College
AMU, Aligarh (India)