



**SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE  
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY,  
TRIVANDRUM – 695 011**

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY  
DR. K. RADHAKRISHNAN, DIRECTOR  
AT THE 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION ON 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012**

Honorable Chief Guest Dr. Viswa Mohan Katoch, who will be joining us soon, Guest of Honor, Dr. M.S. Ananth, Dean of the Institute Dr. Jagan Mohan Tharakan, distinguished guests, faculty colleagues, graduating students, senior residents, research scholars, ladies and gentlemen:

On the momentous occasion of the Annual Convocation of the 28<sup>th</sup> Batch of graduates of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, I once gain extend a very warm welcome to you all.

Convocations are occasions to acknowledge intellectual excellence and achievement, and also to remind the students that

**the pursuit of knowledge does not end with the portals of the university or with the acquisition of a university degree. It is also an occasion for the faculty members and parents of the graduates to enjoy the fruits of their labor. I congratulate you all for your respective achievements.**

**The beginning of the Institution can be traced back to the gift of a hospital by the Royal Family of Travancore. Conversion of the Royal gift to an Autonomous centre for specialized health care for Cardiovascular and Neurological diseases were envisaged by the then Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. C. Achutha Menon in 1973. The Medical Centre had already established its credibility as a Centre of Excellence by the time it was elevated to the status of an Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Science & Technology by an Act of Parliament in 1980.**

**Through the Act of Parliament, our great nation mandated us to develop indigenous biomedical devices, evolve innovative postgraduate programs, provide high quality advanced patient care, and address public health issues. The Institute during its journey during the last three decades has tried its best to accomplish these objectives and has largely succeeded in achieving them.**

**The Hospital Wing, in addition to serving more than 100,000 patients with cardiovascular and neurological diseases every year, has also established some of India's foremost comprehensive**

**super-specialty programs in epilepsy, movement disorders, cardiac electrophysiology, congenial heart diseases, interventional radiology, cognitive and behavioral neurology, sleep disorders and stroke.**

**The Biomedical Technology Wing, set up with an objective to develop affordable medical technologies to meet the health care needs of the people of our country, has so far developed and transferred a number of technologies and successfully commercialized majority of them. Today, the Institute holds 86 patents, has applied for an additional 43, 30 technologies have been transferred to industries from which 12 products have been marketed. Notable ones include the Chitra Heart Valve, Blood Bag, Ventriculo-peritoneal Shunt, Membrane Oxygenerator, Electromyography Needles, dental and bone filling materials so on and so forth.**

**In 1997, a school of public health, the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies was set up for research, training and consultation in public health. The country's first Masters' Program in Public Health was started here. The centre also conducts several short courses in subjects, which have growing significance on healthcare, such as professional ethics, gender issues, maternal and child health, in addition to conducting population-based research and providing consultancy services to national and international agencies.**

**As enumerated in the Act, the Institute has given paramount importance to its academic activities. With a view to achieve this objective, the Institute is running 27 academic programs in doctoral, post-doctoral and diploma courses in medical sciences, biomedical technology, nursing and public health. Through our postgraduate programs till now 214 DMs, 169 MCh and 61 PhD. Most of our graduates are occupying prestigious positions in academic institutions in India as well as abroad. Compared to 162 research publications during 2010, 191 research publications have emanated from the Institute in Journals with an impact factor of over 2 during 2011.**

**Let me take this opportunity to offer my respectful regards to the founder Director Padmavibhushan Prof. M.S. Valiathan and former Director, and Prof. K. Mohandas who have made enormous contributions to the development of the Institute. While Prof. Valiathan, a great visionary, initiated the mission, Prof. Mohandas during long tenure has made this Institute as an Institute of international repute by steady enhancement in all its activities. This Institute is currently not only a member of Association of Indian Universities, but also the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Presently the Institute is having academic and research collaboration with different international as well as national research agencies and institutions such as Oxford Health Alliance, McArthur Foundation, World Health Organization, Indo-US Education Foundation, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Medical Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial**

**Research, Indira Gandhi Center of Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, Chennai, IIT Madras, IIT Bombay and NIT, Trichi.**

**The Institute could attain these achievements with the wholehearted support of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The Institute during this past two years could initiate certain major expansion programs with the unstinted support of the Government of Kerala.**

**I would also like to acknowledge the guidance, support and co-operation of Dr. R. Chidambaram, President of the Institute, Dr. Ramasamy, and the Secretary of DST, Members of the Institute Body, Governing Body and other Standing Committees, and above all the employees of the Institute for the overall development of the Institute.**

**Let me also acknowledge the remarkable contributions of Dr. Bhuvaneshwar, Head of BMT Wing, Dr. Jagan Mohan Tharakan, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. K. R. Thankappan, Head, Achutha Menon Center for Health Science Studies, Dr. Sankar Kumar, Medical Superintendent, all the Associate Deans, Heads of Departments and Divisions, Registrar and Deputy Registrar in evolving and sustaining the high quality academic environment in the Institute.**

**As we head into the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan, let me define the following objectives we must try to achieve:**

- **First, we should expand our infrastructure. Space constraint has been one the major factors that stood on our way of progress during the last two decades. In the area of land recently we acquired from the Medical College, Trivandrum, two new buildings will come up – one for medical specialties and the other for surgical specialties. With the addition of nearly 500 beds to the already existing 240, Intensive care units and operation theatres, we will be able to minimize the long waiting period for admission and treatment for cardiac and neurological disorders. The Engineering Block in our Biomedical Wing is nearing completion and is expected to be inaugurated later this year. The construction of the Biology Block will be restarted soon. The project for Sleep cum Research Block and Animal House will be initiated.**
- **Second, we have to increase public-private partnership in research and development and further enhance interaction between BMT Wing and industry. We should attract industrial funds into applied research areas by strengthening and cementing such an association.**
- **Third, we will have to further expand our specialty and subspecialty development by developing Comprehensive Heart Failure Program, Department of Clinical Genetics, Department of Clinical Immunology, Department of Hospital**

**Administration and Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.**

- **Fourth, the Government of Kerala is expected to soon establish a rural-based hospital in Wayanad, in a backward area where lot of tribal and marginalized people are residing, in which ICMR and SCTIMST are going to actively participate. Through this venture, our Public Health Wing will have an opportunity to develop a Public Health Laboratory and experiment on innovative models of public health care; and**
- **Fifth, through Board of Studies, in addition to revising and modernizing our existing postgraduate training programs and making them more flexible, we will develop additional programs in collaboration with outstanding Institutions within our country and with foreign universities.**

**My dear graduating students, the ceremony today, marks a new beginning for you. Being degree holders from this Institute of National Importance, yours is a greater responsibility, as the reputation you make for yourselves, wherever you may be, will pave way for those who follow. We cannot drive into the future by looking into the rear view mirror. The best way is the way forward and it is bound to have new twists, turns, some bumps and some ditches too. The challenge is to make your way “inspite of” all these. That is where the greatest learnings are and that is where tomorrow’s solution lie. In your career, you must seek a difference**

and *make* a difference. Be the *master* of your destiny but also a *servant* of the society. Whatever you do, make sure you leave your mark on the social progress of our country and make your alma mater proud that you were once in these portals as a student.

May your path be blessed by God.

**JAI HIND!**