The Thousand and 96 Days!

It has been a privilege and pleasure to be the Editor of IPHA Maharashtra Newsletter (April’21 – March’24). Also, as a secretary of Maharashtra Branch during this period, I will say that giving new recognition to our branch Newsletter was on our agenda from Day 1. We had aimed at involvement of Community Medicine faculties from various medical colleges of Maharashtra, from officials of Public Health of Government of Maharashtra, the members of association, making it a face of branch communicating to you about topics of public health importance and branch activities. Hope, we have succeeded in our endeavours, and you have liked our efforts. With the new Editorial team taking over from April’24, I am sure that our Newsletter will reach to new heights.

Sinhavlokan:

The Vol.13 Issue 01 (April-June’21) was circulated only as a soft copy on social media. However, all subsequent issues till now have been circulated as both softcopy and hard copy with funding support from UNICEF Maharashtra Field Office. The hard copies of each issue are being couriered to all senior Public Health Officials, District Health Officers, Civil Surgeons and Dean, Library and HOD Community Medicine of all Medical Colleges in Maharashtra.

Dr. Gajanan Velhal, President IPHA Maharashtra (21-24) has played major role in obtaining funding support and in reaching out to faculties and public health officials and motivating them to write for the newsletter. Other than editorial work, I personally have done designing and desktop publishing of all the issues, which has been my liking since the ages. The EC Member, Dr Sarika Patil (Assistant Editor) and Major (Dr) Ashlesha Tawde Kelkar (Retd) assisted me in preparation and circulation of Newsletter and their inputs have always helped in raising the bar. Dr Muralidhar Tambe from whom I took the baton had been always supportive and appreciative.

The Editorials for the last 12 issues were written by eminent personalities in field of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, viz. Dr Prakash Doke (Covid-19 in India), Dr Pradeep Awate (Lessons from Covid-19 Pandemic), Dr Harshal Pandve (HIV Response Lessons for Covid-19 Control), Dr Karbhari Kharat (Urban Childhood Malnutrition), Dr Harshal Pandve (Hypertension Control), Dr Gajanan Velhal (Enriching Public Health Teaching Expertise), Dr Shyam Ashtekar (India’s Health Care System), Dr Sanjeev Kamble (TB Free India), Dr Muralidhar Tambe (AI in Public Health), Dr Munral Pimparkar (Empowering Public Health through Technology), Dr Nisha Relwani (Research Frontier: Public Health Always), Dr Sudesh Gandham (Emerging & Reemerging diseases)

The Newsletter published the abstracts of UG & PG students who completed their research work with funding from IPHA Maharashtra Branch.

Thanks to IPHA HQ, EC, all the IPHA Members and authors who contributed to take the issues of Public Health importance to masses, through this Newsletter.

- Dr. Prasad Waingankar
Dr. Muralidhar Tambe spoke on “Vaccine Research for Public Health Progress”.

This was followed by Panel discussion on “Research in Public Health”. The panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Shashank Dalvi, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, MGMHIHS, Navi Mumbai and was Moderated by Dr. Madhavi Mankar and Dr. Nisha Relwani. The Panellists included esteemed speakers – Padmashree Dr Raman Gangakhedkar, Dr. Prakash Doke, Dr. Surjit Ghosh, Dr. Shyam Ashtekar and Dr. Harshad Thakur. The delegates found that the interactive panel discussion was very informative.

After the scientific sessions, General Body Meeting of both the associations was conducted which was attended by several members of IPHA and IAPSM. The day ended with Banquet at Hotel Devanshi. The delegates enjoyed the warm hospitality, dinner and musical performance of student’s band of MGM Medical College.

DAY 2: MHIAPSMIPHACON2024

The second day of the conference started with session on “Public Health Research Beyond Borders” by international speaker Dr. Graciela Jaschek, Professor Epidemiology & Biostatistics, College of Public Health, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA sharing her experience. The session was chaired by Dr. Shrivalli Natrajan and Dr. Vaibhav Thakkar. It was a very interactive session.

This was followed by Panel Discussion on “Public Health approach to Occupational Health”. The Panellists included renowned speakers- Dr. R Rajesh, Dr Vijay Singh and Dr. Vandana Shinde.