

20th Convocation
The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University
Vice Chancellor's Address

Venue: **Madras University Centenary Auditorium**

Date : **10-7-2010** Day: **Saturday** Time: **11.30am to 1.15pm**

Your Excellency, Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University.

Esteemed Chief Guest, Hon. Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India.

Hon'ble Minister for Health, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Pro-chancellor of this University.

The Recipients of D.Sc. (Honoris Causa).

Former Vice-Chancellors of this University.

Respected members of the Governing Council, Standing Academic Board, Senate, Boards of Studies, Faculties.

Deans and Professors of all the affiliated colleges of the University.

Distinguished invitees,

Graduating students and their proud parents,

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, I consider it great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to this august gathering on the occasion of the Twentieth Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University.

I welcome Your Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, who has been leading this University to its zenith, in terms of academic excellence and administration. On this memorable day, I am extremely thankful for your kind presence and for presiding over this Convocation sir.

We are extremely fortunate to have with us Dr A. P. J Abdul Kalam, Former President of India. He has graciously consented to be the Chief Guest of this occasion and we have great pleasure in welcoming you Sir. His dream of transforming India into a developed nation by 2020 will soon become a reality.

On a personal note I must say that I am a standing example of a person being inspired by the concepts of this great personality. Fifteen years ago Dr. Abdul Kalam as the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, in one of his speeches addressed to young scientists, stressed the need for indigenous technology development program in the medical field to bring health care facilities within the reach of the common man. He said that the vast majority of the people in India were unable to receive affordable, accessible health care because of high cost and imported technology. He underlined the need for indigenous technology

development based on locally available resources and called for re-orienting the health care delivery system towards the rural masses.

Inspired by his speech, I developed the Custom Mega Prosthesis using locally available resources for treating bone cancer patients at Chennai, at low cost which is 10% the cost of an imported prosthesis. The imported prosthesis costs about 4 lakhs whereas the indigenous prosthesis costs Rs.40,000 only. In a 20 year period, more than 1650 limb saving surgeries avoiding amputation have been performed on bone cancer patients using this prosthesis. My mission of pursuing Dr. Kalam's vision of developing cost effective medical device using indigenous technology had become a reality. This work has bestowed upon me, 3 National Awards including the Padma Shri Award. I am fortunate to have received all the 3 awards from Hon. Dr. Kalam during his tenure as the President of India.

I am sure the Convocation address to be delivered by such an illustrious son of India, will inspire our young bright graduates to make them more creative to achieve excellence in their chosen fields.

I welcome the Honorable Minister for Health, Govt. of Tamilnadu and the Pro-chancellor of the University who has been the constant source of support and has extended guidance to the activities of our university.

I welcome the recipients of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, and other distinguished guests, dignitaries, post graduates and graduates.

I welcome the press and media.

I would like to congratulate all the degree recipients who, on successful completion of their respective courses of studies, will receive degrees from the University. Today is a proud day for this University, 10773 students are being conferred degrees. Of this 3290 students are being conferred with their degree in person. There are 2390 Under-Graduates and 900 Post-graduates. I am privileged to state that 66 Gold medals, 16 Silver Medals and 36 Cash Awards are being awarded to meritorious candidates. Further, 16 candidates are being conferred with Ph.D research degrees under various disciplines.

The University feels honoured and privileged to confer Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science upon the following eminent persons, considering their substantial, sustained and exceptional contribution to scientific knowledge. They are Dr. K. Ananda Kannan, Dr. R. Surendran, Dr. B. Biswakumar, Dr. J.P. Raj Kumar, Dr. G. Natchiar and Dr. S. Baskaran I have great pleasure in congratulating them.

Today is certainly an historic moment for the University and especially in the lives of all the students who have received their hard earned degrees and awards. This is also an occasion for us to introspect the course of our journey, pause for a moment and to reflect from where we started, where we are today and where we aspire to be tomorrow. I am extremely happy to inform you that the 20th Annual Convocation of our University is taking place at a time when the University is poised to make giant strides towards

achieving excellence in diverse areas. Let me take this opportunity to briefly share with you some select achievements of the University in recent times. It has been a time of transformation – both on academic and administrative front, not only for me leading the University, but also for all the officers and staff of the University.

(1) For ease of governance, the University courses have been grouped under four major heads- Medical Sciences, Dental Sciences, Indian Medicine & Homeopathy and Allied Health Sciences.

(2) The University has started accepting Hospitals as Temples of Learning and they are being affiliated as Teaching Institutes of the University. Sub specialisation within the speciality being the change for the future, we have initiated one-year Clinical Fellowship programmes in various Medical and Surgical specialties. New job oriented Allied Health Degree and Diploma courses, are set to commence from this academic year.

(3) A University Research Council has been created for promoting research in clinical and basic sciences by giving research grants.

(4) A policy decision has been made to provide answer sheets to all candidates who had failed in UG exam, to promote transparency and accountability of the system.

(5) As a gesture of support to the noble cause, 13,500 books, including back volumes of medical journals and research reports has been donated to the upcoming Anna Centenary Library.

(6) The University has a State of the Art Regional Medical Library. A new Authentication system has been installed that allows all Faculty and Students of all Government Medical Colleges across the State to access over 2000 Medical Journals of the ERMED Consortium from wherever they are and at anytime. This will greatly help support research and encourage students, both UG and PG to keep in touch with the latest trends.

(7) It gives me immense pleasure to inform you, of the starting of the e-journal of University – “*Med ej*” - the first of its kind in the country. This will train our post graduates to publish their scientific papers and also submit their thesis work for publication after their exams.

(8) With reasonable contentment, I am to announce that, keeping in view the urgency to act, our University has initiated the development of e-governance by appointing Dr. Sumanth Raman as our IT Consultant. The University has undertaken a program of IT Transformation to enable it to improve operational efficiencies and enhance the quality of services it provides. This will move the current manual processes into the automated mode. In the near future the system of Colleges updating the Student attendance and Internal Assessment online is to be introduced. The Biometric Attendance

System for the University Staff has also been implemented successfully.

(9) Being an organization with an investment of more than Rs.100 cores in deposits, The University did not even have a PAN Number from the Income Tax Department. In order to revamp the financial reporting system, we have appointed Mr. Selva Ganesh a Chartered Accountant as our Consultant to give us a road map for the future. We have introduced Computerised Tally Accounting System and as suggested by the Govt. of India, we are moving to the Accrual System of Accounting for transparency and accountability. This will be a milestone in the history of any Govt. University.

(10) Our University actively participated in the Scientific Tamil Session during the World Classical Tamil Conference 2010 held at Coimbatore recently. I presented my life time work on Limb Salvage Surgery by Custom Mega Prosthesis at the session. Our Registrar Dr. Sudha was the Official Coordinator and compere for the events during the entire Conference. As per the guidance of our beloved Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar, our University has taken steps to translate medical books in Tamil and to award grants to the doctors who write medical books in Tamil. This will ultimately lead to a stage where Medical Education can be taught in Tamil. For patients information on various diseases a section on “ has been started.

(11) I am proud to announce that many renowned academicians have joined our University in the capacity of Visiting

Professors from other States of India and abroad. Adjunct Professorship is being conferred on doctors with Academic Excellence, to embrace them for their counsel towards further enrichment of teaching and research at our University.

(12) Proposing a “Vision 2020” for the University with inputs from faculties, students and other Universities, introduction of new methods of examination such as OSCE for post graduate courses with guidance from foreign medical universities, Creation of Skills Laboratories to enable them get hands on training experiences, building of new auditorium, guest house for examiners through Public Private Partnership, conducting Virtual classrooms by experts within and outside the country, to be relayed through Tele-medicine, with inputs from ISRO and IGNOU, are some of the other reforms which are in the pipeline.

Finally to conclude - it is an exciting moment for those who are here to receive their degrees. Graduation is a major academic milestone in an individual’s life. It is formal recognition that you are ready to move a step forward towards acquiring yet more knowledge in the area of your choice. Never in the past have there been so much hope and expectation about the future of India than at present. For the young graduates, the road ahead is long but the journey promises to be exciting. Have a constructive attitude and think in terms of solutions, not in terms of problems. Take each challenge not with “why you can’t” but “how you can” and do remember that great opportunities come to those who make the most of small ones. I wish you all success in your endeavors. I quote

Dr. Kalam 'We are all born with a divine fire within us. Our efforts should be to give wings to this fire and fill the world with the glow of its goodness'.

I would like to finish with a Prayer for Mankind and the Universe:

Sarveshaam Svastir Bhavatu – **May Good Befall All.**

Sarveshaam Shaantir Bhavatu – **May there be Peace for All**

Sarveshaam Purnam Bhavatu – **May all be fit for Perfection.**

Sarveshaam Mangalam Bhavatu – **May all experience that
which is Auspicious.**

May I now request the Chancellor to declare open the Twentieth Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University.

Thank you,

Dr. Mayilvahanan Natarajan

M.S.Orth. M.Ch. Orth (L'pool) Ph.D. D.Sc. F.R.C.S. D.Sc. (Hon)³

Vice Chancellor

The Tamilnadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University