

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS
FOR THE 24th CONVOCATION

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

Hon'ble Minister for Health and Pro-chancellor of the University

Esteemed Chief Guest, Madam Shanta, Chairman of Cancer Institute, Adyar and Member of State Planning Commission.

The Recipients of the Honorary Doctor of Science and Life Time Achievement Awards,

Members of the Governing Council, Authorities of the University and Former Vice-Chancellors,

Faculties of the affiliated Colleges, Graduates, Parents, Distinguished invitees, Press and Media,

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

I welcome His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of the Medical University. He has been evincing keen interest in the development of Medical Education and has been supporting this University to strive for academic excellence. He has

served the people of Andhra Pradesh for over 5 decades in various capacities including the highest post of Chief Minister. Considering his dedication for the welfare of the people, the Andhra University conferred the Honorary Doctorate on His Excellency. I warmly welcome you Sir, to this academic gathering and to preside over the Convocation.

I welcome the Honourable Minister for Health and Pro-chancellor of the Medical University. He has been the source of support and has extended all possible encouragement to the activities of the University. The Hon'ble Minister, being a Medical doctor has shown keen interest in improving the standards of medical education.

I welcome Respected Madam, Dr. Shanta, the Chief Guest of this Convocation. She is a prominent Cancer specialist and the Chairman of Cancer Institute. Her career which spans over 50 years has been dedicated to organising care for cancer patients, and intensive research in the prevention and cure of the disease. Her work has been widely acknowledged with several awards including the Magsaysay Award, and Padma Shri. She has been associated with the Cancer Institute since 1955 and was heading the Institute as its Director for over two decades. She is a member of the World Health Organisation's Advisory Committee on Health. On a personal note, as Vice-Chancellor

of the Medical University, I deem it my duty to place on record my respects and heartfelt thanks to Madam and the former Advisor of Cancer Institute, late Dr. S. Krishnamurthi who reposed their confidence in me as early as 1988 and allowed me to do clinical services and research on Limb Salvage Surgery in Bone Tumours by Custom Mega Prosthesis. It was under their guidance that I developed Orthopaedic Oncology as a sub speciality in Orthopaedic Surgery, propagated it throughout India, and reached the heights where I stand today. I have great pleasure in welcoming you, Madam.

I welcome the recipients of the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) for their outstanding contributions in their chosen field.

I welcome the Life Time Achievement Awardees who are Senior Teachers and leaders in their speciality.

I welcome other distinguished guests, dignitaries, students, Press and Media.

It is a proud moment for this University. 5,978 students are being conferred with their degrees. 3,399 Under-Graduates; 2,531 Post-graduates have been conferred their degree in person today. 18 candidates are being conferred with Ph.D degrees under various disciplines. 30 P.G's are receiving their Post-doctoral Fellowship. 90

candidates are receiving their medals. My heartiest congratulations to all the students on your achievement.

Our respected Prime Minister while delivering the convocation address at JIPMER recently expressed concern over the quality of Medical Education. He opined that there is a perception of deteriorating quality in medical education. He said that the medical curriculum should be revised to produce technically competent, socially sensitive, ethically correct and ready to serve health professionals, who can respond to the diverse demands of India's health needs. Keeping in tune with his vision, let me take this opportunity to briefly share with you some of the select achievements of the University in recent times. It has been a time of transformation. This Medical University has brought out major changes I quote "to put in place a credible regulatory and institutional mechanism to develop standards in our medical system".

CURRICULUM

Curricular and training changes from knowledge base to competency base in all the four fields of Medicine, Dentistry, AYUSH and Allied Health Sciences has been implemented by this University.

TRAINING

Medical services and Medical education go hand in hand. Medical services have advanced to world class levels in our country. We have tertiary care corporate hospitals offering the latest technology in all disciplines to society. But, unfortunately medical education is still outdated. The teaching and evaluation methods were 2 decades old. Medical education in the whole country had not advanced in the last ten years due to the problems with tainted leadership of the Medical Council of India. The Medical University took the task upon itself to update the syllabus and evaluation methods. Having implemented several advances, we were able to give valuable suggestions to the Association of Medical Universities of India and Medical Council of India. Several of these have been taken up for implementation at the National level. I will elaborate the changes being brought by the University.

Team Based Learning (TBL)

This concept is being followed in western countries where right from the under-graduate training, small groups are formed with facilitators helping the students in problem solving, case scenarios, decision making, etc. This will make the students realize real life situations which they will be facing as junior doctors.

Directly Observed Procedural Skills (DOPS)

For improving the skills of the Post-graduates we are implementing the Directly Observed Procedural Skills. The post-graduates in an emergency situation will be fully equipped and confident to carry out the procedures which will be life saving for the patients. Bio skills workshops and cadaveric labs have already been set up in the Government General Hospital to fine tune the skills of the Post Graduates in Orthopaedics and Neuro Surgery departments.

Simulation

Simulation is the next big change that is going take Medical Education and Training to the next level. This form of learning has revolutionized the Aviation Industry and war scenario. It has been successfully adapted to the Medical Curriculum, wherein students can practice procedures and run through protocols for any given emergency situation. Mannequins are being designed to look, feel and react like real human beings with computer- aided technology. Virtual reality teaching has come to stay.

Orientation to Research for Under Graduates

All scientific outcomes are based on research. My teacher Prof. Shanmugasundaram often used to say “PUBLISH OR PERISH’. To inculcate the proper approach to research methodology training is

vital for every medical student. The University has designed modules for research methodology to benefit the under-graduate students.

Publication of Scientific articles for Post Graduates

The e-journal of the Medical University has been a resounding success with all the post-graduates publishing case studies and articles which is being evaluated by senior professors. Three issues have been brought out with over 700 articles and have been well appreciated by the students and the faculty. This trains them in the nuances of publishing scientific articles in peer reviewed journals.

Research for Super Speciality Medical Courses

For the 1st time in the Indian Sub continent, The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University has given permission for the super specialty Medical and Surgical Post Graduates (D.M./ M.Ch.) to do Ph.D simultaneously along with their course in order to promote academic excellence and research. While the Medical council of India is toying with the idea of dual degree, we have successfully implemented it in Tamil Nadu. At this juncture, I like to acknowledge and thank Dr. M. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Board of Studies, Super Speciality for initiating the e-Journal and dual degree program.

M.Med. (Family Medicine)

The University has introduced a new 2 year Post graduate programme called Master of Medicine(M.Med.) in Family Medicine through distance education. This is to equip the primary care physicians with better diagnostic and therapeutic skills. Eleven students have successfully completed the first year of this programme.

Silver Jubilee Year (2012)

The University is celebrating 2012 as the Silver Jubilee Year (1987 – 2012). Various academic activities have been implemented as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

- The Seminar on "Technology driven teaching methodologies keeping up with time and challenges" was conducted in the University.
- International Women's day was celebrated on March 8th. Outstanding women who have contributed to the welfare of differently abled children and adults were honoured. A health screening camp was conducted for the University employees.

- Dentist Day was celebrated on March 6th and screening for Precancerous Oral Lesions was done for the conservancy staff of the Corporation of Chennai.
- National Bone and Joint Day was celebrated on August 4th with the theme – Stronger Bones: Stronger India. An orthopaedic screening camp was held with BMD and x-ray for the public and staff.
- On the occasion of Doctors' Day on July 1st, an eye camp was conducted at the University premises.

During the 22nd Convocation, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, laid the foundation stone for construction of the Auditorium, Guest House and two Additional Floors in the existing administrative building. I am happy to say that the inauguration of the Auditorium with the capacity of 900 people and a Guest house with 25 rooms will take place shortly this year and we will be inviting Hon. Madam for the happy occasion.

Medical Profession is the only profession where you need a Teacher/ GURU to teach the science and art of the speciality. Books alone will not suffice as they give only knowledge. The gurus of the Medical profession have to train us in the skills and attitudes required for doctors. These teachers have made a difference in the lives of the Medical professionals who are now taking care of the

health of the people. I conclude by offering my salutations to Matha, Pitha, Guru and Deivam. As a tribute to the great GURUS I quote a Sanskrit Sloka.....

GURUR BRAHMA,

The Guru is Brahma (The God of Creation)

GURUR VISHNU,

The Guru is Vishnu (The God of Sustenance)

GURUR DEVO MAHESHWARA

The Guru is Shiva (The God of Annihilation)

GURUR SAAKSHAAT PARA-BRAHMA,

TASMAI SHRI GURUVE NAMAH

My Salutation to such a Guru, who is verily the Supreme God.

Before concluding, I once again extend my heartiest congratulations to the young graduates. I call upon you all to realize the responsibilities bestowed on you and to serve the people for the betterment of their health.

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

THANK YOU

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