



**Association of Indian Universities Roundtable of  
Vice Chancellors of Health Sciences Universities  
October 10-11, 2017**



**Organized by  
Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati  
In Commemoration of its Silver Jubilee Year**

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

**By**

**Prof. T.S. Ravikumar**

**Director & VC, SVIMS & Organizing Secretary, AIU Roundtable of Vice  
Chancellors of Health Sciences Universities**

**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**

Respected Prof. PB Sharma, President , AIU & VC, Amity University

Distinguished Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Director General ICMR, Secretary Department  
of Health Research & the New Deputy Director General of WHO

Renowned Dr. Amarendra Pani, Director Research, AIU

Our Dynamic Professor V. Suresh

Most illustrious group of Vice Chancellors, Directors & Deans of Medical Varsities from  
all over India,

Esteemed members of IMA & Physicians from near & far,

Notable members of press, print & electronic media,

Members of SVIMS family, People link, SVBC, TTD, Ladies & Gentlemen: Thank you  
for this honour of welcoming you all to AIU Roundtable of Vice Chancellors of Health  
Sciences Universities on behalf of SVIMS. This event is live streamed, so that any  
medical or non-medical person can access the proceedings live – I welcome all those who  
are participating virtually, to this round table. We are grateful for the opportunity to  
host this prestigious conclave of medical leaders, held for the first time in India. This is  
indeed a key event to commemorate our ‘Silver Jubilee Year’.

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Our heartfelt thanks are due to the AIU, and I am pleased to welcome Prof. PB Sharma, the President, Prof. Furqan Qamar, Secretary General and Dr. Amarendra Pani, who is also representing the Secretary General of AIU today. I also welcome Dr. Usha Negi of AIU, serving as the organizer & liaison of conferences.

It is momentous that we have amidst us Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, who has a tall stature internationally for her seminal contributions in Tuberculosis Control & Research. It is only fitting that she has been chosen as Deputy Director General of WHO. Let us congratulate on behalf of AIU, on this accolade. I welcome you Dr. Soumya & thank you for being here amidst your busy schedule and look forward to hearing your vision for health research & education.

You will note from the coloured map of India in the stage backdrop, most of the states & union territories are represented in this conclave. Hearty welcome to all my fellow Vice Chancellors, Directors & Deans from around one nation, and SVIMS is truly privileged to have you all together on our premises – what an honour !.

As we are all aware, AIU is a think tank to coalesce the collective wisdom of leaders of Indian Universities. During the two day round table, we will have four sessions:

- 1) Governance and Regulation in Medical Education
- 2) Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Health Care
- 3) Curriculum development, Pedagogy, Assessment and Application of Technology in Medical Education and
- 4) Trends and Issues in Health Science Research.

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We will deliberate on new funding paradigm for overall development of health universities and strategies to solve physician & other health care personnel man power crunch & mismatch. We will weigh in on how to achieve uniformity in medical education and the PG certification process – it is time now to frame these issues. Now is also the time that this august group of medical leaders create the paradigm of education, to move away from rote learning into Education 3.0 and IOT in health care with focus on knowledge economy, critical thinking & life long iterative learning.

It is now the opportune time to focus on hospital safety & patient safety as key drivers of health care quality. Lately the focus light is on “What ails hospitals in India?”, with press & TV reports on high mortality rates in hospitals. While attention is on Govt. hospitals, I posit that it is systemic issue across both private & public hospitals and health systems. We should design systems to be proactive and preventive rather than post-hoc enquiry to find what went wrong and shift blame. This is a shared pain of preventable deaths in hospitals that we need to alleviate or mitigate. We at SVIMS have put forward a model during the last year or so, to define the metrics, & report real time data in public domain, so that we improve on ourselves (<http://svimstpt.ap.nic.in/qualityreport.pdf>). We need to quantify preventable mortality, by this leadership group – I welcome you all towards this goal. I welcome the medical leadership to come together and develop Key Performance Indicators - since it is the time.

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It is a propitious time for us to form cooperative research groups across universities for clinical trials (RCT, Comparative Effectiveness Research), health services and outcomes research, not to mention collaborations in basic & translational research. May it be in my own specialty of Oncology or in other disciplines (eg. Cardiology), much of the evidence based management has come from cooperative group trials (ECOG, CALGB etc). Almost all such evidence informed practice comes from the western studies. It is about time that we generate our own data, based on longitudinal themes of research, rather than one-off studies that are not sufficiently scaled and adopted internationally.

Let us find common solutions and new paradigms for achieving durable excellence in education, clinical care, patient oriented discoveries, community benefit and population wellness. It is the expectations of AIU that we generate a report, which may serve as a blue print for influencing policies and actions related to health, covering clinical care, population health, education and research.

Let us optimally use the valuable time that we have all committed together in the next 2 days – to this end I welcome you all to this holy city and to our institute for a robust dialogue.

I hope that with the blessings of Lord Balaji, we will have a successful roundtable, such that we foresee this as a biannual event, and between the conclaves, we implement actionable items in groups – pilot, review, validate & adopt.

Thank you