



NHS70: Foreword from the President

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On 5 July 1948, the National Health Service came into existence. 70 years on, it continues to be there for patients and communities. Its core values have stood the test of time: comprehensive care, free at the point of use, delivered on the basis of need rather than the ability to pay. We at BAPIO are proud to be part of this national institution and committed to providing high quality patient care.

Of course, there will be problems in any institution of this size. The recent case of Dr Bawa-Garba had a significant impact on the medical fraternity. It exposed many serious shortfalls that have been bubbling under the surface. It also uncovered the susceptibility of staff to untoward incidents. BAPIO played a significant role in this saga and stood up for fairness and justice. Thankfully the victory in the appeals court has opened a way for justice to Dr Bawa Garba and equally importantly set a precedence for future cases. We hope that various enquiries and reviews commissioned by DH and GMC will lead to better and more transparent approach promoting 'no blame culture'.

BAPIO has recently launched an Indo-UK Healthcare Policy forum at the Indian High Commission, London. We plan to proactively contribute to the healthcare policies in the UK as well as in India. If you are interested in this endeavour, please do get in touch.

Bullying and harassment of NHS staff continues to be a significant problem. We are looking in to finding a solution in collaboration with WRES, GMC and NHS Employers. Interestingly our recently formed unit in Isle of Wight have formed a local anti-bullying committee. If successful, this can be a role model to be extended.

DH has approached BAPIO for assistance with medical manpower shortages in the NHS. We do not encourage brain drain from India, but we are supporting 'Earn, Learn and Return' programme of Health Education England. Our condition is that these doctors should not be just used as a pair of hands to do the clinical work but must get proper training and pastoral care. To ensure this BAPIO has developed an International Fellowship Scheme and our team will be visiting India in November to interview doctors under this programme.



'Gods own country' Kerala has had devastating floods leading to tremendous destruction of properties and infrastructure. After completion of relief work, there is a daunting task of rebuilding damaged houses, social infrastructures and livelihood. BAPIO Charity would like to contribute to the massive rehabilitation efforts being undertaken and has set up a relief fund. Your contribution will be much appreciated.

The local organising committee has worked hard to ensure a very successful conference and deserve compliments. I congratulate Prof Parag Singhal and Mr Sanchit Mehendale for providing excellent leadership in coordinating the Conference preparations. Thanks to the Editorial team of Sushruta.

I hope you will enjoy the conference and I look forward to meeting and interacting with you.