

Greetings to all the AAPI members! As you all know, Covid pandemic has been playing a hide and seek game with the humanity in the last 2 years. Since Global Healthcare Summit, the prestigious event that AAPI puts together every year in India got cancelled last year due to heightened level of transmission in the country, this year was special. AAPI President, Dr Anupama Gotimukula put together a dream team under the chairmanship of Dr Udaya Shivangi, to conduct the 15th Global Health Summit in the vibrant and cosmopolitan city of Hyderabad. A very energetic and joyful group to sum it!

Planning meetings were started few months in advance and weekly review was done and the programs discussed. A theme for the meeting was arrived at, "Prevention is Better than Cure". Since Covid brought forward the utility of technology, we decided to use Technology, Telemedicine and Transformation as the tagline.

A constant fear was in the back of the mind that the summit might be cancelled if the pandemic rears its ugly face during the time of the summit between Jan 5-7th of 2022. "To attend or not to", was the question in the minds of the US delegates and to "Organize or not to", was the question in the minds of the organizers. Since the vaccinated and the ones taking good care with the masking, hand hygiene and physical distancing are doing very well with the pandemic, we decided to stick to this mantra and go ahead. The US delegates deliberated at length about this and decided to proceed forward. By the time, we reached Hyderabad, government just issued an order banning all the public gatherings due to the new variant Omicron being detected locally. But given our commitment to the precautions, we were allowed by the Telangana government to proceed with the meeting.

A group of the delegates had a special retreat on Jan 3rd at the Kanha Shantivanam, an ashram on the outskirts of Hyderabad run by Heartfulness meditation organization. Confirmed dignitary Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu attended the inaugural session, virtually due to the changed situation. He invoked Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (world is one family) and praised Indian doctors in the US for being the personification of our nation's civilizational value. Vice President complimented AAPI for its services in India and especially during the second wave of pandemic by helping Indian healthcare system with most needed oxygen supplying equipment's like concentrators and ventilators. He also complimented AAPI for initiating the "Adopt a Village" program looking into rural health screenings. The host chapter Osmania Gandhi Kakatiya and Telangana Medical Alumni arranged a banquet ceremony on the 5th night and treated the delegates to the sumptuous Hyderabad cuisine.

We had medical student research poster competitions, forum discussions on medical education reforms, women's issues etc. CME sessions were held all three days during the mornings and sticking to our theme, a special lifestyle medicine session was conducted with renowned speakers from US and India. CEO forum panelists agreed on writing a recommendation to the Indian government on the need for setting up Indian Preventive Taskforce akin to the US Preventive Taskforce committee and come up with preventive guidelines. All the sessions were well attended and enjoyed. The summit was capped with a night's stay in the famed Falaknuma Palace, a 7-star hotel now and having a glimpse of erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad's residence. The entire 101 chairs dinner table was occupied by the AAPI group and the delegates were treated as royalty. That was a memorable, once in a lifetime experience for most of us.

– Dr Sujeeth Reddy Punnam, MD, FACC
US Convener, 15th Global Healthcare Summit