# Editorial
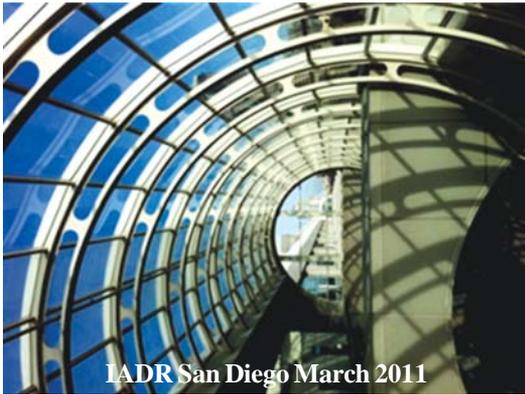
**Call for Indian dental faculty, students and dental researchers to join
"The International Association for Dental Research (IADR)"**



**IADR San Diego March 2011**

The International Association for Dental Research is a premier scientific organization populated by over 12,000 researchers and educators in dentistry from all over the world. The headquarters of this non-profit organization is located in Virginia, USA with a mission to "advance research and increase knowledge for the improvement in oral health worldwide, support and represent the oral health research community, and facilitate communication and application of research findings". Established as an organization in 1920 in New York by a group of dental educators and researchers, including William J Gies. IADR has now flourished into the most respected dental research organization in the world with membership from all over the world. The Journal of Dental Research of the IADR has a very high impact factor. At any given IADR annual meeting, we can experience a sampling of the world's people, cultures, names and languages, but with a common thread "Dental Research". At the recent 2011 IADR meeting in San Diego, there were many a thousand presentations from all over the world. Even countries, such as Japan that had experienced the devastating earthquake followed by the tsunami, forged a strong contingent of dental researchers. While Brazil and China also had significant representation by students and faculty what stood out was a very meager representation from India, the second largest mass for dentistry in the world.

One must note that there are almost 300 dental schools in India, over 100,000 qualified dentists and thousands of dental faculty, dental students, postgraduate students and researchers. The number of dentists in India is soon to be the greatest number with respect to the absolute number as well as dentists to population ratio in the world, but representation of Indian research is minimal at best. While India is a forerunner in fundamental research in fields including molecular biology, molecular biophysics, genetics, statistics, theoretical and applied physics, material sciences, computational sciences, mathematical sciences, aerospace, astronomy, management, etc. these resources have not yet trickled into or have been utilized by dental researchers in India. Therefore, every dental institution, be it purely an academic institution or one that is involved in research as well, must organize into one singular group and show the world that we are a significant player and a contributor. This should be the Indian national pride with respect to dental research. On another note, the largest dental research contingent of IADR is the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) and the president elect is one of Indian origin, Dr Rena D'Souza. Dr D'Souza's message as well as that of the IADR for India is—"A new and exciting initiative to organize and expand representation of Indian Dental Researchers has been launched through the IADR. The goals are to draw researchers in the dental, oral and craniofacial research sciences from the existing academic and research communities in India into the IADR. Please contact the IADR main office at www.iadr.org".  As a 20-year member of IADR, a humble request to all in dental research in India is to get organized by becoming a member of the IADR. The person incharge of research from each institution should become a lead member, each of the specialty departments that has a postgraduate training program must afford one member. Both postgraduate students and undergraduate students, interested in or conducting research should join in as student members. Further, specialists or faculty interested in certain dental specialties should be encouraged to join the respective "scientific groups" within the IADR. Please feel free to reprint and disseminate this editorial in each and every dental journal, magazine or newspaper or newsletter or as a posting on information boards.

**Raghunath Puttaiah**
Editor-at-Large
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