

PAFMATCON-2018

16th Annual Conference of Punjab Academy of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology

November 17, 2018

Presidential Address

Good Morning

Respected Chief Guest & Dignitaries on the Dias and off the Dias, Office Bearers of PAFMAT, learned speakers and chairpersons of scientific sessions, delegates, organizers, media friends, dear students, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I am thankful to the members of the academy for giving me the opportunity to once more lead this august body of forensic medicine specialists of Punjab State.

At the very outset, I on behalf of PAFMAT and on my personal behalf, welcome all of you for participation in the 16th Annual Conference of Punjab Academy of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology.

I formally thank the department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology Govt. Medical College Patiala for accepting this responsibility to hold the conference and at the same congratulate the organizing committee for showing the great enthusiasm to hold this academic event.

Apart from regular annual conferences since its formation, the trend of holding Mid-Year CMEs of PAFMAT was also started few years back in my department and this year, this scientific event was organized in PIMS Jalandhar and I on behalf of PAFMAT congratulate PIMS organizing committee for successfully holding this CME on 12th of May 2018.

Our indexed Journal of PAFMAT is being published regularly since started and today the current issue is being formally released. With every successive issue, the standard and indexing of the journal is touching new

heights and for that I congratulate the present Editor-in-Chief Dr Parmod Goyal and the editorial team for completing the tough task of publication of every issue in advance.

This year, we have started a new trend of PAFMAT Awards. I am thankful to the members of PAFMAT for accepting this proposal requested by me in the last GBM. The honours include Life Time Achievement Award, PAFMAT Fellowship Award and Young Forensic Medicine Expert of the Year Award. I congratulate the award winners and feel proud for their contribution and participation in the upliftment of the specialty of Forensic Medicine. The awards have already been announced except one Surprise Award which is being presented as desired by the organizing committee, to one of the senior most faculty member keeping in view the vast experience and practical knowledge of the respected award winner.

The theme of the conference “Advancing Forensic Medicine & Medico-Legal Services” has been chosen to discuss and evolve better ways to further improve the forensic medicine and medicolegal services in the region because the status of these services till date has not touched the desired levels. The specialty of forensic medicine is being ignored at all levels. More than 80 percent work in the state is being looked after by doctors who are neither expert nor properly trained in medicolegal examination of living as well as dead, thus resulting in poor quality of work as evident in courts of law and ultimately damage to the justice delivery system. Not many doctors are opting for the specialty of forensic medicine for one or the other reason and those who opted for the subject have not been properly adjusted. The successive Governments have failed to retain the forensic experts in the state. The Government should create more job opportunities for experts including creation of specialist posts of forensic

medicine at the district level and posting of PCMS Cadre Forensic Medicine Specialists in the newly proposed State Chemical Labs. Like other states, the doctors dealing with postmortem should be given Risk Allowance. The medical officers dealing with medicolegal cases should be given proper practical training before they are put on job.

At the end, I will say our academy is going well so far as academic part is concerned. We are holding regular conferences, CME programmes and other public interest seminars. The journal is being published regularly and in time. But we are lagging behind in our duties for practically improving the medico legal services in the state and for that I need support and active participation of TEAM PAFMAT so that Society as well as Govt. of the Day should better recognize our specialty and our experts.

Thank You All
Have a Nice Day
DS Bhullar
President PAFMAT