naruvi HOSPITALS ®

Enhancing health as a licensee of American medical technology from

HenryFord HEALTH SYSTEM ®

www.naruvihospitals.com was launched in January. I look forward to our steady progress as we move steadily towards our final goal.

-Chairman

From the Chairman's Desk...

January 2018 has been another month of achievements by my administrative team and experts from the various clinical departments. A few more live and virtual sessions later, the design and layout of the principal building of Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore was streamlined, keeping only patient care and safety in mind. I acknowledge with pride, the overall efforts that are being expended by our dedicated team towards implementing the safest and latest 'best practices' prevalent in the top most institutions the world over, from efficient patient flow to the safest delivery of patient care.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that we honoured the highly acclaimed doyen of scientific research the world over, Prof. Jacob T John, awarding him the first "Rajeshwari Memorial Award for Excellence in Scientific Research" at our second Naruvi Seminar held on the 20th of January. The seminar titled 'The role of private super-specialty hospitals in public health in India - A 21st century perspective' truly underlined our commitment to the cause of Public Health in the local community. This was topped off with the announcement of the 'The Rajeshwari Memorial fellowship for public health' to be awarded bi-annually to young scientists genuinely committed to public health.

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THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SUPER-SPECIALTY HOSPITALS IN PUBLIC HEALTH IN INDIA - A 21ST CENTURY PERSPECTIVE:
A NARUVI SEMINAR | JAN 20, 2018

The seminar was well attended. The speakers added a regal touch to the program. We had extremely celebrated experts propounding on the most relevant subjects in Public Health

Dr. Arun Risbud brought into focus the role and relevance of Public Health in Private Hospitals

Dr. Manoj Murhekar's talk opened up a vista of avenues where the private sector could partner with governmental agencies to improve health delivery in our country with his talk titled 'The role of private sector in public health: examples from Indian states'.

Dr. Saurabh Gupta's talk titled 'Hi-tech private sector hospitals can profit from investing in Public Health" was a clear eye opener to all of us that, public health activities in the private setting does not only mean loss of revenue, but also translates to profits, albeit small. However, the good will it rakes in, would justify the money and effort spent on such a noble activity.

Single use device protocols

An important meeting of medical and nursing experts, to assess the use of Single Use Devices (SUDs), point of care (POCs) devices was held to implement robust safety measures and appropriate technology. The meeting was attended by our infection control consultant, nursing consultant and OT management consultant.

THE RAJESHWARI MEMORIAL AWARD FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Prof. Jacob T. John was chosen, and justifiably so, to receive the first such award. He is an eminent virologist and is globally recognised for his contributions towards vaccine preventable diseases. He trained as a paediatrician and virologist in India, UK and USA. He introduced the concept of "Pulse Polio" immunisation program, carried out field testing of oral and killed polio vaccines in Vellore district and established the efficacy of killed polio vaccines. He organised a health information system as a prototype model. He implemented measles vaccination through the Rotary International 3H program. He was honoured with the Dr. B.C. Roy National Award. He has also carried out pioneering work in HIV research. He has numerous publications, national and international to his credit. He was formerly the President of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics and Indian Association of Medical Research.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI): THE NEXT FRONTIER IN MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS

IBM Watson health: This is a software that aids and directs a physician / laboratorian towards specific diagnosis and is reliant on appropriate investigations. IBM purports that, with Watson, one can achieve enhanced accuracy of medical / pathological diagnoses.

Watson Health Imaging: Plans are afoot to introduce solutions that analyse structured and unstructured patient information. Measurable data which include laboratory results such as blood sugar and cholesterol levels are considered structured data. This is discrete data suitable for electronic medical records (EMR) / Electronic Health Records (EHR) via predefined fields. Structured data is amenable for software application and can be put to use by clinicians at the point of care to aid them in making decisions. Qualitative data includes symptoms like pain, discomfort and fatigue, and is grouped as unstructured data. A hindrance to AI would be disconnected silos (data sequestered within different units of a system). AI aims at organising and making available information in a contextual and probability based manner for use by healthcare professionals at a reading workstation or at the point of care.

The IBM Watson Analytics software has the capacity for "cognitive computing" using data mining and predictive analytics to provide diagnosis.

It is considered that heart failure poses a diagnostic difficulty in its early stages, but The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and IBM scientists have developed a system to predict heart failure based on hidden clues in EHRs / EMRs.

A collaborative research project is underway with IBM by a Japanese group to adopt the artificial intelligence Watson for Genomics (WfG) to more definitively diagnose malignant diseases. Artificial Intelligence algorithms derived from the Geographical Information System (GIS) is now being developed for predicting infectious disease outbreaks like Dengue fever.
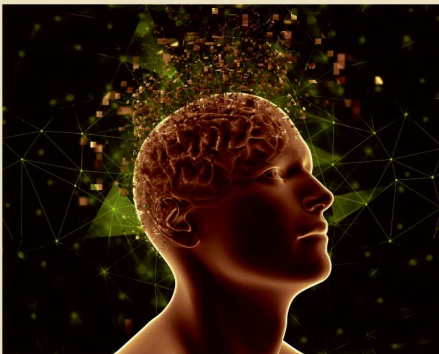
Robin™ is another artificial intelligence-powered IBM Watson like "cognitive computing" initiative. It is a voice-enabled digital assistant for doctors that allows easy medical documentation for physicians. Robin is personalised for every physician, gets smarter as they use it, and integrates with doctors' current EHR and progressively becomes easier to use. Interestingly, this is a product of "AI enabled health-tech startup Robin" a company started by an Indian, Mr. Punit Soni who resides in the USA.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN INDIA

Mental health is an integral part of health care. It includes health maintenance and preventative care. It refers to a broad array of activities directly or indirectly related to well-being of the mind, prevention of mental disorders, and treatment and rehabilitation of people affected by mental disorders. India faces a huge problem in mental health issues as indicated even by our Honourable President. He referred to this in his convocation address at NIMHANS in Dec 2017. His Excellency pointed out that nearly 10% of Indians had subtle to frank mental illnesses with only around 5,000 psychiatrists and less than 2,000 clinical psychologists to take care of this herculean problem.

WHO statistics indicate that some mental illnesses may be transient or permanently mild, allowing the individuals to participate in most social and economic activities with dysfunction levels that can be picked up only by mental health professionals. In a country like India, only the extreme clinically obvious individuals are brought to medical attention. WHO estimates that the burden of mental health problems is to the tune of 2,443 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) per 100,000 population of India. The age-adjusted suicide rate per 100,000 populations is 21.1. It is estimated that, in India, the projected economic loss, due to mental health conditions, between 2012-2030, could be in excess of 1.03 trillion dollars. There is some amount of patient care in medical colleges, both in the private and government sector. There are private practitioners who also provide mental health services. Interventions, focusing on raising awareness of mental health issues and mobilising efforts to support mental health, are an abject necessity to address the situation.

Determinants of mental health and mental disorders are complex. They include the following: individual attributes such as the ability to manage one's thoughts, emotions, behaviour patterns and interactions with others along with external inputs such as social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors. Poverty and low education levels are amongst the key ones. Specific psychological and personality factors also contribute largely to the vulnerability of the individual. There are three centrally operated mental health institutes, 40 state operated ones and 398 Departments of Psychiatry in various medical colleges (183 in the Government sector and 215 in the private sector) across the country, equipped to treat patients suffering from mental illness (as of Dec 2014).

Some of the components of mental health literacy are: knowledge on how to seek mental health information, attitudes that facilitate recognition and help-seeking, knowledge and beliefs about professional help, knowledge and beliefs about self-help, knowledge and beliefs about causes, ability to recognise psychological distress, to name a few (John AF et al, 2000)

HOSPITAL WORK IN PROGRESS...