

41ST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDIAN COLLEGE OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA AND APPLIED IMMUNOLOGY (ICAAAI) New Delhi, from 9th to 12th December 2007

The 41st National Conference of the Indian College of Allergy, Asthma and Applied Immunology (ICAAAI) was organised by the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute (VCPI), New Delhi, from 9th to 12th December 2007. The uniqueness of this conference was that connected basic and clinical scientists of many specialities. Allergy and asthma are worldwide public health problems which require concerted efforts by medical profession and public to improve the quality of life of subjects suffering from these chronic diseases for which there are no cure at present. Allergic rhinitis and asthma are two leading causes of absenteeism due to chronic illnesses. Other allergies that are commonly encountered are drug allergy, skin allergy, food allergy and insect sting allergy. These allergic disorders and bronchial asthma are common in children, as well as in adults. The pulmonary disorders are of special importance for this huge country. Indian College of Medical Research observed that prevalence of bronchial asthma in India is 2.38 % in adults, what leading us to the number of 15 million people, suffering from this disorder. This prevalence is predicted to increase rapidly in the coming years, with dramatic increase exactly in India.

Regarding that, this Conference had a significant influence on regional (South Asia) and Indian public health policy. Many international experts from whole World were invited by the Organizing Committee to present personal results in basic and clinical research about pulmonary disorders. I was deeply honoured that my colleague from Belgrade, Prof. Dragan Djuric, and myself were also invited speakers at this Conference. The title of my lecture was "The role of oxidative stress in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: is there any place for antioxidant therapy?", presented on December 10th in front of more than 300 colleagues, basically from India. I really hope that our attendance on this Conference should be very important for further developing communication with India in coming years. Last, but not at least, our friend, Chairman of this Conference and Director of VCPI, Prof. VK Vijayan, give us opportunity to enjoy incredible India with "Maharaja hospitality".

Vladimir Lj. Jakovljevic