

FICCI RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEDICAL ELECTRONICS

New Delhi, June 17, 2011: Mr. Dinesh Trivedi, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, inaugurated the International Conference on Medical Electronics at FICCI, on June 2, 2011. He shared his kind views on the scenario of Indian Healthcare: Its Access & Affordability. He suggested, that the industry and Ministry doesn't have any time left to think- It's time for Action! He emphasized on the fact India can do it, We have all the capability & skill required, We know what the problem is, it's just the need to put some plans into deliberation now. He announced that the National Health Portal proposal, has got an approval from the expenditure committee and he suggested that the Industry should passionately work towards making the National health portal, an interoperable network which has all the information regarding healthcare, patient records and hence will be a great enabler of access and affordability. He further suggested that pilot projects are being undertaken with Indian railways to set up Diagnostic centres at Railway stations so as to harness the access and reach of Indian railways and provide accessibility of Quality diagnostic setups to far flung areas of our country. Clean Drinking water provision for all was also clearly marked out as an imperative towards preventive healthcare.

Mr A. Vaidheesh, Chairman FICCI, Medical Electronics Forum & MD, Johnson & Johnson Medical India spoke about the Need of Advanced Medical technology for the Common man of our country. He said: The Aim of the Conference is to figure out how to provide Access and Affordable Healthcare sector in **India**. In adequacy of well trained healthcare professionals is another point that was pointed out. He pointed out that, High end Technologies are available in India but aren't available to all, still 46% travel of patients have to travel 100 km for medical healthcare! With Over 600 million cell phone subscribers, the power of mobile phone can change healthcare access and preventive diagnostics scenario. The need for support for Local manufacturing to make healthcare affordable.

Ms Sangita Reddy, Chairperson, FICCI, Andhra Pradesh State Council and Executive Director, Apollo Hospitals had put across a valuable statement: Information is the raw material of the Healthcare sector. So, Information technology has a lead role to play in enabling Access and Affordability. She shared the idea of 3-Bs as the three imperatives for enhancing growth in healthcare sector. The **3Bs are** – **B**iology, **B**ytes and **B**andwidth. She discussed about a healthcare scenario which uses IT and Communication as a enabler and hence improves access and better preventive measures of treatment in time to not only the urban but also to the rural population. Facilitation of a Collaborative environment with universal standards & interoperable systems. She congratulated FICCI for organizing the Conference where further collaboration can be sought by further discussions and brainstorming sessions.

Dr Pervez Ahmed, CEO & MD, Max Healthcare stressed the need for allocation of resources towards research Institutes for Neglected Diseases, tropical diseases like Malaria /TB. He suggested that it is important to deploy advanced technology in Preventive healthcare since it is much cheaper for the patient with less suffering than the treatment/cure which is much expensive and entails suffering. Max Healthcare is carrying out a study project, taking trials on an Access and Affordability model in 5 villages near Delhi. Dr Pervez also pointed out that adequate attention from Accreditation agencies is required on the Quality and safety of Healthcare delivery in India.

Dr Sujit Chatterjee, CEO, Hiranandani Hospital emphasized the need of Collaboration and said that collaborative solutions can help bring the costs down and hence enhance affordability. An inverted Insurance premium structure was also suggested by him: 'I pay more when I am young and reap the benefits as I grow old'. This innovative premium structuring will help increasing affordability amongst the masses.

The session "**Technology for Chronic Disease management**" was Chaired by Ms Sangita Reddy Chairperson, FICCI, Andhra Pradesh State Council and Executive Director, Apollo Hospitals. It focused on the burden of Chronic diseases and technology solutions to manage and prevent the same.

Dr Bachani, DDG (NCD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, highlighted statistics like only 10% of all cancer cases are detected at stage 1 and Stage 2 which are curable and 90% reaches medical healthcare when chances of survival are low. In urban Slums 30-40% had NCDs like Hypertension or diabetes or both and they were not aware of that. **Dr Bachani**, also highlighted the various programme/schemes promoted by the Government to manage the burden of NCDs: 10% of total budget has been allocated for Awareness of NCDs, Its planned to have Trauma centres all along the National Highways and other accident prone roads of the country, Massive screening programmes in rural areas to help in early detection, Checkups for all age 60 + population, 10 beds reserved for old age patients in all district hospitals and provision of domiciliary care to handle the rising Geriatrics situation in the country.

Mr Yashdeep Kumar, MD, Stryker India, shared statistics which highlighted the rising burden of Chronic diseases in India and India having very less trained healthcare staff to manage the situation. He suggested that in this situation, Technology can really help, in improving Surveillance – disease population mapping; Prevention – early detection; Management- Treatment. He said technology can bridge the gap of inadequate Healthcare workers and hence increasing productivity. He requested to the health Ministry for recognition of Medical technology industry under certain regulations and proper Incentives.

Dr Sreekanth Raghavan, Senior Consultant, Interventional Cardiologist, BGS Global Hospital shared his vision on Chronic Disease and Medical Technology :Developing an ecosystem to deal with the current and ever expanding healthcare needs of our society such as chronic disease management needs to be developed soon. Patient's centric and realistic prioritization of healthcare needs such as addressing current and growing disease processes is important. Tripartite collaboration of healthcare providers, patients and technology is the best way to address the healthcare needs of India.

Ms. Sangita Reddy, Chairperson, FICCI, Andhra Pradesh State Council and Executive Director, Apollo Hospitals summed up the various opinions and shared her own. She suggested Post discharge Monitoring and surveillance is very important to enhance Quality and Affordable Healthcare. She requested the Ministry of health for creation of a Joint Committee on Communication of various independently running healthcare systems, Standards of Communication, Protocols, to decide what level of communication and How to achieve them. She said, simpler solution (like lifestyle improvement and awareness) and filling of the knowledge gap can avert a very adverse situation. The Role of primary healthcare physicians gets important in building awareness and screening for NCDs. She says a persistent diseases management, which begins with pre detection and assessment in a protocol based manner can eventually reduce the burden of NCDs and reduce cost and suffering.

The Session “**Advances, Accuracy & early detection the imaging perspective**” was moderated by Prof **Dr Arun Malhotra, HOD Nuclear Medicine, AIIMS** and the co- speakers were: Dr Pankaj Tandon, Scientific Officer, Radiology Safety Division, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board(**AERB**); Prof. Benjamin M. W. Tsui, Ph.D., Professor of Radiology & Director, Division of Medical Imaging Physics, Department of Radiology, John Hopkins Medical Institutions

The key deliberations that emerged from this session were summarized by **Prof Dr Arun Malhotra** as follows:

follows:

- FICCI should co-ordinate to transfer the technology to India manufacturers, assist in getting Govt. approvals
- Industry should accept the challenge of limited users & create infrastructure even for low turn over
- Ministry should help in getting custom waiver for essentially required radiopharmaceuticals used in Diagnostics like Imaging and Scanning (PET-& SPECT) & Therapy some of which are either not manufactured in India like Iridium , Strontium, Lutetium , Thallium 201 and Gallium 267 etc or manufactured in India but not in adequate quantity like Technetium 99, Iodine 131
- **AERB** should be liberal for short lived radionuclide's such as 90 Y, 68 Ga, 177 Lu.....
- India should be the world leaders in making these generators.
- Significant export potentials.
- Production facilities & expertise exist

The session “**Technology & Connectivity excerpts**” was chaired by Prof S.K.Bhargava, HOD , Radiology & Imaging GTB Hospital ; Co – speakers were Dr Rajiv Pathni; Dr Amit Verma , Director, Critical Care , Fortis & Mr Manimaran Rajakannu, GM, Medical devices PES, Wipro technologies.

Dr Pathni shared his views by highlighting that the 2 monsters of rural communities are Time & Distance. Several studies have shown that there is very high acceptability of Telemedicine in rural communities in India and the level of satisfaction is very good to excellent .It also has the potential for 80-90% of financial and work – hour savings. And the technology for delivering the Telemedicine is available and as per with the best in the developed world.

The session “**The role of training & partnership with Healthcare providers**” was chaired by **Prof Dr. Gautam Sen, Ex-Member, Board of Governors, MCI** ;Dr Anil Sharma, Consultant Cardiologist, Fortis Raheja Hospital ,Mumbai & Nanavati Hospital, Mumbai ; Mr. Yashdeep Kumar, Managing Director, Stryker India; Dr Satyanand Shastri, Medical Director, Johnson& Johnson Medical India

Professor **Dr Gautam Sen, Ex Member, Board of Governors, MCI**, chaired this session and shared his vision on Training of Healthcare professionals: The need for information and communication technology in Health resource education and training is well established world over. In India with faculty shortage in training institution, vast area of country with poor infrastructure in remote areas this need for robust introduction of ICT, should be developed on urgent basis. There should be a national body for ICT development & a regulatory body to standardize Context of E curriculum, Training & Assessment process and competence.

Dr Prasad Wagle , Consultant, Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgeon, Lilavati Hospital as the Chair of the session (**Technology/Enablers for transplant**): Dr I.S. Viridi , Senior Consultant & Chief of Cardio Thoracic & Vascular Surgery – Max Healthcare, Dr Rahul Kakodkar, Senior Consultant Surgeon, Institute of Liver Transplant and Regenerative.

In the session on organ transplant the following points emerged: Ethical technological policies regarding organ transplantation were discussed. India needs to do 200000 solid organ transplants each year to meet the recipient target, which is grossly undersupplied due to the shortage of donor pool. Amendments to the transplant act (1994) needs to be looked at, to increase donor pool. Costs need to be subsidized to meet demands of the common man. A national registry with a common pool of donors is of utmost importance.

Dedicated suggestions that came out are:-

1. Fiscal benefit & free insurance to the donor and his family for life
2. A national registry with interstate coordination for organ showing
3. Deliberations for relook at transplantation of human organs Act (1994)
4. Dedicate an allocated fund for organ transplant to increase affordability