



# AMBI Association of Medical Biochemists of India

Looking back through the memory lane of AMBI's existence over the past two decades the founding members can take real pride in what it is today. It has been, at times a very long and rough path to witness a dream unfold to encourage medical graduate aspirants to specialize in the field of medical biochemistry.

After under graduation with the medical MBBS degree there was not enough encouragement or appeal in the 60's and 70's to take up this specialization as it was thought to be a dry area and money flow would not have been good! There were hardly a handful of medical graduates in this field. As the years went by a large number of medical professionals realised that clinical biochemistry was an enchanting area to be in. It was no more just a branch of Pathology under whose umbrella biochemistry existed, for many it turned out to be a passion! Stalwarts in this area, to name a few r. S .Gopalakrishnan (MRCP) – Director of Biochemistry at the famous Madras Medical College along with his student Dr. V. Govindaraju, Dr. C. Sita Devi, Dr. N.C. Panda, Dr. B. Sadasivudu, Dr. A.S. Saini, Dr. C.R. Maity, harboured the idea of a unique identification of this meritorious field of medicine and hence an association of medical graduates in this speciality was born. After long deliberations the idea was brought forward in February 1991 at Bangalore with senior members of the fraternity, representing all zones of India.

The successful deliberations advocated the forming of an association which was named "Chemical Pathologists of India", but was renamed shortly in April 1991 as Association of Medical Biochemists of India. Dr.Gopalkrishna was the first president and Dr.Govindaraju, the brain child and field worker for the association was nominated honorary secretary, a post he held for nearly 17 years and still houses the head office of the association at Bangalore.

Rules and byelaws were framed and approved along the lines of the policy and vision of the associates. At the start the membership was hardly in double figures but over the past 23 years the number has risen approximately to 1500 and now it is a proud and viable association with large numbers of young medical graduates pursuing careers in

laboratory medicine, research and teaching. This large community of associates have year by year proved the potential and challenges of using clinical medicine to upgrade laboratory medicine. In 2012 and 2013 AMBI was granted affiliate member status in IFCC and APFCB, enabling the association to offer to its members a platform to wider exposure. In this short term it has been recognised and has nominated corresponding members in various Task Forces and representation in the young scientists group. They have also been awarded travel fellowships to various international conferences. Regular CME's and symposia are organized by different chapters and annually there is a conference to which all AMBI members look forward to. The aim that a lot of medical graduates should develop a desire to be a specialist in laboratory medicine has driven the association to smaller cities and towns than the metros only, to conduct the annual conferences which consists of orations, free paper presentation, award for best young scientists and interaction by means of quizzing etc. In these 23 years AMBI has travelled far and wide sustaining itself and promoting clinical biochemistry as a field on par with not only other laboratory branches but an essential necessity for clinical medicine.

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