

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT THE INAUGURATION OF 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
INDIAN SOCIETY OF PERIPHERAL NERVE SURGERY ORGANISED BY INDIAN
SOCIETY OF PERIPHERAL NERVE SURGERY AND SRM INSTITUTE FOR
MEDICAL SCIENCE AT HOTEL GREENPARK, VADAPALANI, CHENNAI ON
09.02.2019 AT 11.45 AM**

Anaivarukkum Vanakkam

Dr. K. Sridhar,

President, Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery

Thiru. Ravi Pachamoothoo,

Chairman, SRM Group

Prof. R. Krishnamoorthy,

Organising Chairman

Dr. K. R. Suresh Babu,

Organising Co-Chairman

Prof. Sumit Sinha,

Secretary, Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery

Dr. Ketan Desai,

President-Elect, Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here at the inaugural ceremony of 8th Annual conference of Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery.

The Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery (ISPNS) is a non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit making association of surgeons, involved in the care of diseased nerves. The society was founded in 2011 and its aim is to improve research and treatment of peripheral nerve injuries.

Nerves arise from the brain and the spinal cord, and go to all parts of the body. They are responsible for sensations like touch, pain and special sensations like taste, vision, hearing and smell. Similarly the nerves are responsible for

conveying messages to the muscles enabling us to move our hands, feet etc.

Nerves get affected in injuries owing to Accidents, or surgery. Babies may get affected with paralysis of hand because, of damage to the nerves of the hand due to excessive pulling during delivery. This is called birth palsy.

In leprosy, nerves of the hands, feet and eye may get affected leading to paralysis of hand, foot and even blindness.

50% of the patients suffering from diabetes are vulnerable to peripheral neuropathy, which happens due to damage to nerves, caused by increased blood sugar levels. This can lead to loss

of sensation in feet leading to ulcers, infection and even amputation.

The study of peripheral nerve injury began during the American Civil War in the middle of the 19th century and has greatly expanded to the point of using growth-promoting molecules.

Early and timely surgery can restore complete function to the patient. If the nerve surgery is delayed beyond a certain time, the muscles undergo irreparable damage and the patients are doomed to live their entire life with disability.

The incidence of birth palsy is estimated to be between 1.6 and 2.6 in 1000 births, equivalent to autism and congenital deafness. In spite of a large number of children suffering from this debilitating

disease, many children do not get referred to the correct specialist. These patients require surgery within six months; but most of these patients in India are referred late and cannot undergo the proper treatment in time. These children will grow up with a disability, which was preventable.

The victims of injuries need assistance as the treatment duration is prolonged and the recovery can sometimes take months to years. These patients often are unable to support themselves or their families. They are transformed from being bread-winners and productive members of the community to being dependents on their family. Only with the support of the society they can get back to being productive members of the society.

World class centres treating these complex problems are available in our country and the services of these centres should be widely publicised, so that even a common man should be aware of their availability. It is the responsibility of the medical fraternity as a whole to spread this message among the general public.

India has always been known for its techniques of medical treatment and surgery enunciated in the systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Siddha etc. In Sushruta's description of nerves he demonstrates how he meticulously studied the neuro-anatomy. In his Sushruta Samhita he says "Two nerves lower down at the back of ear (vidhura) which if cut, produce

deafness; a pair of nerves inside the two nostrils which if cut, cause loss of smell; a pair of nerves below the end of the eyebrow which if cut, causes blindness”. Such was the depth of knowledge about nerve surgery even in ancient India.

I am mentioning all this for you to appreciate that the ocean of knowledge is vast and limitless. While the system of medicine in which you have been trained has its own benefits, it is important that there is a continuous inter-action between different medical traditions, whether modern or ancient, whether of the west or east, so that they could blend harmoniously and rid each other of their defects. It is necessary to create a new model for health and healing, keeping the patient at the

core of the treatment, without being fixated on a single system of medicine.

Tamil Nadu has always been well known for the special attention that it provides to the sick and suffering. Many innovative techniques whether it be Liver transplantation, or eye care or Cardiac treatment have been propagated widely in the State. Tamil Nadu is hence figuring as the main hub for medical tourism in the eastern part of the world. Already the State has more than 10% of the medical colleges in the Country. With this Rosy background and a open mind to accept the latest techniques in medical treatment, I am sure that the medical fraternity will be able to record significant path breaking advances in the coming

years to combat disease to make medical care more affordable and reduce pain, suffering and mortality rates. By doing this, they will be fully realizing the use of their talents and skills for the benefit of mankind.

Life is a beautiful gift of God. We must learn to treasure it and use this special gift for the benefit of society.

This conference aims to gather all those treating nerve problems under one roof, enabling free sharing of knowledge and experience.

It is therefore an august gathering of all those treating peripheral nerve problems in the country. Difficult surgical procedures were demonstrated in the live operative workshop yesterday, and

lectures, symposia and case discussions are taking place today and tomorrow.

There will be panel discussions on Birth Palsy, Facial nerve palsy and about Challenges faced in establishing peripheral nerve surgery units and many other important matters.

I am happy that two eminent surgeons are being honoured today. Dr. Kazuteru Doi of Yamaguchi, Japan is a renowned surgeon. He is a past president of the World society of reconstructive microsurgery. He will be delivering the Prof. A. K. Banerji Oration in the conference.

Prof G. Balakrishnan is one of the senior most plastic and hand surgeons In India. He served as Professor and Head, Department of Plastic

surgery at Stanley Medical College, Chennai, which is one of the largest centres of hand surgery in our country treating thousands of patients with injured hands every year.

I appreciate the efforts of Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery and SRM Institute for Medical Science for having taken painstaking efforts to organise this national conference. May they be greeted with success in all their endeavours.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....