The New INASL President: Brilliant and Articulate

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Dr. Vivek Anand Saraswat is a personal friend for nearly three decades now. Our association began when our gastroenterology residency training overlapped at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Working together there, he impressed me as a brilliant, assiduous, and persuasive gastroenterologist, who was critical of most of the things around him. Whenever I wanted a second opinion on any presentation that I had prepared, I always went to him, because I found him to be extremely meticulous, thorough, insightful, and candid. He always had crystal-clear opinion on how to improve any project. Much later, in 1994, we availed Commonwealth Medical Fellowship together at Birmingham and became very close friends. It was here that I learnt about his penchant for history of places that we visited. He has even now an encyclopedic knowledge of the history of every place I can think of.

Vivek graduated from the Maulana Azad Medical College in 1977. He did his MD (Medicine) in 1983 and DM (Gastroenterology) in 1986 from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. He has also undergone training in esophageal manometry and pH metry from Gasthuisberg Hospital, Leuven, Belgium, and Guy's Hospital, London, UK, in 1988. He was a Research Fellow and Honorary Registrar at the Liver Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, UK, from March 1994 to September 1995. He was a member of the liver transplantation team visiting the Kings College Hospital Liver Unit, London, UK, in 2002. He joined the Department of Gastroenterology at the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, India, in 1988 where he is presently holding the post of a professor since July 2004.

He is an outstanding scholar and has received almost every conceivable award for academic brilliance. He has 124 publications in reputed journals to his credit and has authored 13 chapters in various books. He has conducted a large number of research projects and has done pioneering work on cerebral edema in liver failure, biliary lithogenicity, and microlithiasis.

He is not only brilliant but also articulate. He is a man steeped in academia, but with a trenchant critical eye toward the flaws in the practice of medicine. His comments are incisive, eloquent, and thought-provoking. His all-encompassing knowledge comes from his passion of reading on varied subjects besides hepatology.

Dr. Saraswat has been intimately associated with INASL for several decades. He has been a member of the governing council twice in the past, the Honorary Secretary on two occasions as well as the past president in 2006–2008. He takes over the reins of INASL at a time where the association is taking a leap and making radical changes in its structure and management. It is only appropriate that a visionary like him is in charge at a critical time like this. On behalf of all members of INASL, I wish him all the best in his new assignment and assure him that we will support him in all his endeavors to improve INASL.

Lt Gen Anil C Anand, VSM

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