

PhonoCon 2018 – Report

The 14th annual national conference of the association of phonosurgeons of India (APSI) – PhonoCon 2018 – was held in Kochi, Kerala on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th February. The venues were Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre (Live surgery and Hands-on workshops, 2nd Feb.) and IMA House (Main conference and Instructional course, 3rd and 4th Feb.).

The invited international faculty were Dr. Mark S. Courey (Professor of Otolaryngology, Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Division Chief of Laryngology-Mount Sinai Health System, New York, USA) and Dr. Uttam Sinha(Director, Head and Neck Surgery, Watt Chair, Head and Neck Cancer Research, Keck School of Medicine at USC, Los Angeles, California, USA). Ms. Melody Oyyoung, from the Dysphagia team of the latter institute also participated. It is a measure of the popularity of the conference that Ms. Kate Young, well-known speech language pathologist from Derby, UK, who has been a faculty in earlier editions of Phonocon, also expressed keen interest in being a faculty this time. We were indeed blessed to have so many experts sharing their experience with the delegates!

The first day witnessed live surgeries at Amrita Hospital, performed by national and international faculty. The audience got the benefit of watching a variety of cases (benign and suspicious vocal fold lesions, Coblator-assisted cordectomy, glottic web) along with relevant discussions.

The show then moved to the main venue (IMA House) on Sat. and Sun. A variety of topics were covered in all three areas of laryngeal function. Saturday post-lunch had three halls running parallel sessions on Voice, Swallowing and Airway. A dedicated three hours long SLP session with an impressive array of faculty was held on Sunday. The academic feast also included the award paper section. Junior and senior laryngologists and SLPs presented interesting research work. Competent judges from the national and international faculty helped in deciding

the winners. The Rising Star prize went to Dr. Ruchi Shah, Senior Consultant prize, to Dr. Sushmita Ghosh and SLP, to Ms. Anju V. N. A new segment was introduced this year – PG Paper presentation. This was won by Dr. Pradeep, the prize being sponsored by AOI Kochi branch, one of the host organizers.

The grand banquet on Saturday night was enjoyed and appreciated by one and all. The variety entertainment programmes included short demonstrations of the Kerala-specific art forms such as Kalaripayattu and Mohiniyattam. A magic show performance held the audience spellbound. The lavish dinner spread was the proverbial icing on the cake.

The delegate count touched 250, with the presence of almost 40 SLPs. There were nearly 10 international delegates too. The conference was supported by major and minor sponsors. The conference received good coverage in the local press.

