

Editorial**Changing face of Chest Medicine****D P Singh¹, S K Ghosh², Manish Kumar³**

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It is our pleasure and honour to present a special issue of JIMA on CHEST MEDICINE before you. As we are nearing the end of second decade of 21st century, respiratory diseases are posing a great challenge to the public health problem in India. According to a report by World Health Organization, the deaths due to lung diseases in India are on rise accounting for 11% of total deaths. India has the dubious distinction of remaining on the top of the world in lung disease deaths. India having 18% of global population has a disproportionately high burden of chronic respiratory diseases.

Incidence of chest diseases like chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD), asthma, pneumonia, tuberculosis (TB), interstitial lung diseases (ILD), Lung Cancer and obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is increasing day by day. COPD is one of the leading non-communicable diseases in India. This increase in COPD has occurred despite a shift away from using biomass (woods and dried cow dung) as fuel in our Country. Unprecedented increase in air pollution is said to be the cause of epidemic of lung diseases. National Health Policy of India 2017 recommends that premature mortality from non-communicable diseases like COPD should be reduced by 25% by 2025.

Drug-resistant TB is still a continuing threat to the public health problem in India. Notification, early diagnosis, prompt treatment of drug-sensitive as well as resistant TB and its prevention is of paramount importance to achieve the END TB GOAL.

Medicine is an ever-changing science. New researches and clinical data have broadened our knowledge. During last three decades there has been stupendous advancement in science and technology that has changed the face of respiratory medicine. The gleaming machines and sophisticated gadgetry, intricacy and authenticity of molecular science and beautiful images often through computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging and bronchoscopy are the wonderful gifts of science which have unfolded mystery of many diseases especially interstitial lung diseases. Newer imaging, advanced diagnostic modalities and therapeutic options have revolutionized the diagnosis and treatment of chest diseases.

Attempts have been made to cover important topics of chest medicine from COPD under airway disease, pneumonia under pulmonary infection and pulmonary hypertension under pulmonary vessel disease, multidrug resistant tuberculosis and early diagnosis of lung cancer. Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) have been added to complete the spectrum. A few very important topics like Bronchial Asthma, Interstitial Lung Disease could not be included which will find due place in subsequent issue of JIMA.

I sincerely thank a versatile and towering personality my dear friend Dr. Prof. Jyotirmoy Pal editor-elect and vice president of Association of Physician of India for giving me an opportunity and responsibility to edit this special July issue of JIMA on '*Chest Medicine*'.

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