

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to report to you that after an initial hiccup, 2nd Annual AMADAANA International Convention, Advances in Medicine 2006 held at Government Medical College, Amritsar on February 19-21 and 27, 2006 went extremely well. The GMCA faculty received us very warmly and made excellent arrangements for the entire event. About 30 AMDAANians were in attendance!

The details of the convention are as follows.

Pre-convention – Feb 18 Final MBBS morning theory classes by AMDAANians

- Lunch at Boy's Hostel
- Campus Tour
- Meeting with ICU Team to evaluate and upgrade ICU
- Meeting between JS Sidhu (Nephrologist) of AMDAANA with Dr. Varinder Singh, Nephrologist at GMCA to evaluate Nephrology section
- Dinner for Team AMDAANA – hosted and paid for by Drs. Prem Singh Viridi, Ved Gossain, Vinod Puri and Satwant Singh of AMDAANA
- Deep Cleaning of Ophthalmology OR by Balpreet Kaur

Recent Advances in Medicine – Feb 19-21. An excellent CME meeting, credited for 18.5 hours by ACCME and the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH. There were 12 AMDAANA Speakers and 12 speakers from India – all GMCA graduates from Delhi, Jalandhar, Patiala and Amritsar.

February 19th – Bonfire for medical students and GMCA faculty sponsored and paid for by AMDAANA. It was held in the quadrangle between Pathology and physiology/pharmacology blocks – also known to grads of 1960s as Dr. Santokh Singh's Durbar. The venue was overflowing with students and faculty and the atmosphere was simply electric and magical. Medical students presented a fabulous entertainment program.

- It was followed by dinner for Team AMDAANA – hosted and paid for by Drs. Prem Singh Viridi, Ved Gossain, Vinod Puri and Satwant Singh of AMDAANA.

February 20th – Banquet for all delegates and speakers for the Convention, hosted by GMCA/AMCAA and their CME Committee. Some of the folks who really worked hard are Drs. AS Multani, AS Padda, Santokh Singh, and Shiv Charan; they were ably assisted by a group too large to name individually.

February 27 - A panel discussion with the medical students. The topic was Medical Ethics. The Lecture Theater was overflowing with students standing in both aisles. I made a presentation on the basic principles of medical ethics. Six students made presentations which were all excellent and the discussion was very animated and high quality.

I will be remiss if I did not mention the large contributions of Drs. Vinod Puri, Ved Gossain and Prem Singh Viridi in preparing for the convention as well as assisting me on ground zero when instant help and action was needed.

I am extremely thankful to Team AMDAANA, and especially non-physician spouses who went to Amritsar, just for this event. They not only paid for their travel and stay in Amritsar but also took a hit in their income by closing their practices in USA. It is a great sacrifice and commitment and I am truly grateful to them. The presence of a large number of AMDAANians at the past 2 conventions and their dedication and commitment has left no doubt that AMDAANA is fully committed to its Amritsar Project and will do what ever necessary to make GMCA a first rate institution again.

I am also happy to report that several of this year's attendees are looking forward to the 3rd Annual AMADAANA International Convention in 2007! I hope that you will also be able to join us in 2007.

With best wishes,

Satwant Singh