

Message From the President

1st January, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me an immense pleasure to learn that IPS has brought out practice guidelines for the mental disorders in elderly population prepared by the task force of clinical practise guidelines for psychiatrists in India.

It can be said beyond doubt that within few years geriatric population will increase enormously which is true globally and India is not an exception. Life expectancy has increased enormously from 42 yrs in 1947 to 65 yrs today. But sad story is that geriatric population continues to be neglected as ever. Apart from that presentation of mental illness in this group of population differs from that of adult population. Sometimes non prescription drugs produce significant psychiatric symptoms. While treating the psychiatric illness in elderly population few things must have to be kept in mind. Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs are changed at this age. Many organs remain in compromised state, for this reason even therapeutic dose of medicine produce toxic effect. Considering all these it is high time to bring out clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of common geriatric illness so that interested people can have first hand knowledge about the management of these illnesses.

On this happy occasion of the publication of practice guideline comprising of the writings of many eminent psychiatrists of our country we do reaffirm our resolution to contribute to the fullest extent in mitigating the multiple problems of the old people living both in urban and rural areas and I do believe that all our effort on our part will go a long way in extending a balmy touch to the suffering humanity.

I like to convey my sincere gratitude to Prof. Shiv Gautam, Chairman and Prof. Ajit Avasthi, Convenor Task Force for their incredible work. In the same breath I like to express my heartfelt thanks to all who have participated and helped to bring this practice guidelines.

Dr. Asit Baran Ghosh
President, Indian Psychiatric Society.
Kolkata