

A brief history of The Indian Association of Day Surgery

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A group of like minded doctors came together one day and founded The Association. This was the year 2003. The first unofficial meeting was full of enthusiastic surgeons of different specialties, each one a stalwart in their field. The Executive Committee was formed from those present, some were invited later, and we had a 33 member team! Constitution was drafted, formalities of registration of the organization were performed after collecting signatures of its first Executive body, and we were officially in existence.

Now, we have elections on the floor of our Annual General Body Meeting, which is held once in two years.

The First Executive Committee was installed in the year 2005, during the proceedings of our 1st National Conference, 'ADSCON 2005'. The tenure decided for the 1st Executive body, was for 5 years. We had many luminary figures from the field of medicine gracing the organization.

Also during the First conference, we released a booklet: 'Protocols of a Day Care Surgery Center', written by me, to act as guidelines for anyone interested in Day Surgery in India.

The first issue of 'Day Surgery Journal of India', of which, I am still the Editor. And a special issue of Bombay Hospital Journal on Day Care Surgery, which I guest edited along with Dr. Begani, were released.

A Special Postal First Day Cover was released to commemorate the occasion.

At this time, we were 110 Life Members.

ADSCON 2006, 2007, 2008, saw us grow steadily. We held all the National Conferences in and around the city of Mumbai, so as to increase awareness and members, for the Association. It was deemed, that, since Mumbai is considered the Mecca of medicine in India, this is the city where the growth of Day Surgery would take off.

During our fourth Annual General Body Meeting (AGM), there was a formation of an Ad hoc Committee, from amongst the Executive body, which has powers, invested by the AGM, to take decisions on day to day running of the Organizations and make policies. This was necessary due to the large size of the executive committee and the fact that we would have AGM once in two years.

Also, we initiated our first Oration, during 'ADSCON 2008'. From this conference onwards, we decided to have biennial conference, so as to enable us to participate in the IAAS Congresses as well.

One Day Surgery Times, a newsletter, which is a month publication, was started by me in the year 2009, to be circulated for General Practitioners and Family physicians, who guide the patients. About 2000 receive this news letter in the city of Mumbai itself.

ADSCON 2010, was held in Nagpur, central India, outside of Mumbai, for the first time. A meeting, which was well attended and well appreciated.

The Indian Association of Day Surgery, became a Full Member of the IAAS, in 2011. We attended our first General Assembly in 2012, in Porto, Portugal. The IAAS, has been a great support to us since 2006. We saw Dr. Dick Du Jong, Dr. Ian Jackson, Dr. Carlo Castoro, Dr. Hugh Bartholomewz and Dr. Gamal Mohammed, participating in our National meets as Invited speakers. We too, were invited to speak in IAAS Congresses since 2007, Amsterdam. This interaction has given us great insight as to how to move forward in the organization of Day Surgery in India.

Present membership consists of 340 Life Members.

We just concluded our 6th National Conference in Hyderabad, in South India.

Apart from these, one of our major achievements is that, we have managed to convince our Insurance companies to accept Day Surgery as a separate category for re-imburement, without insisting on 24 hours admission, as was mandatory prior to this policy change.

Several Medical as well as, Non-medical organizations have shown keen interest in knowing about Day Surgery, we have presented guest lectures and publications of over 150 in numbers across specialties.

The future course is to include Day surgery as part of Medical school teachings. Create a separate category for registration and accreditation of DSC, which is nonexistent so far. Training for Nurses and Setting up of at least one DSC in each Medical School, and city, with Public or Private Partnership, is a personal ambitious plan. Hopefully, it will be realized in our life time.

To recap, India, with a population of over 1.21 billion, and a Govt. spending of just 0.94% of the GDP on health, (one of the lowest in the world); 82% of patients pay out-of-pocket on healthcare expenses, thus, making India a most privatized healthcare system in the world.