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July 4, 2020

To,
Dr. Harshvardhan
Minister of Health and Family welfare,
Government of India

Respected Sir,

Namaste.

We hope you have received our letter of thanks from FOGSI (Federation Of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society of India). We would like to send the report of inauguration of E-conclave organized on National Doctor's day for Organ donation awareness programme and pledge drive for your kind reference.

On the occasion of National Doctors day FOGSI conducted an E- Conclave on Organ Donation under the leadership of Dr Alpesh Gandhi, President FOGSI to sensitise common people and launched an organ donation pledge drive. Hon Cabinet Minister of Health and Family welfare, Dr Harshvardhanji was the Chief guest to inaugurate the E-Conclave and launched the organ donation drive. Dr Rajan Sharma, President IMA was invited as the Guest of Honour. Hindi movie Actors Ritesh Deshmukh and Genelia Deshmukh joined the E Conclave as special guests and pledged to donate their organs. The Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology Societies of India (FOGSI) has grown to one of the largest organizations of any medical speciality in the world with over 38000 practicing gynaecologists as its members across the country.

Dr Alpesh Gandhi started the conclave by commemorating the COVID warriors who martyred their lives in this pandemic with a minute of silence. In his Vision for FOGSI-2020, Dr Alpesh Gandhi stressed that, despite the current mayhem, the entire ObGyn Fraternity will continue to serve the mothers of the country and ensure that no pregnant woman has to suffer due to lack of proper health care during pregnancy and labour. The primary mission of FOGSI will continue to reduce the Maternal mortality rate and neonatal mortality rate by uplifting women healthcare in India. FOGSI was one of the first organizations across India to publish short term advisory for its members, released it on 17th March to continue the essential maternity and abortion services and released a revised version on 27th March for the use of Telemedicine in the practice. He informed that it was indeed a proud moment for team FOGSI when our honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji took our inputs via a video conference meeting and implemented 4 out of the 5 suggestions given by us.

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He also informed that FOGSI was the 1st in south Asian countries to published the guidelines on "Pregnancy with COVID-19" on 28th March to help all the gynaecologists to manage such patients. Also, Dr Alpesh Gandhi announced that we are the pioneers in entire South Asia to start a National registry for Pregnancy with COVID 19. As we know that Novel COVID 19 is going to be a health challenge for us for the foreseeable future, it cannot be stressed how important it is for us to know the pathophysiology of the condition so as to manage the disease more effectively. On this note, Dr Alpesh requested Hon health minister to inform all the medical colleges of the country to provide data to the FOGSI registry so that we can lead the world in managing Pregnancy with COVID-19.

In these extra ordinary times of COVID pandemic, President Dr Alpesh Gandhi and his team have taken this extra ordinary drive for Organ donation pledge and mass awareness programme for the entire Ob-Gyn Fraternity and for the common people on the occasion of National Doctors day. He informed that about 5 lakhs people die every year in agonizing wait for a transplant in India. 2 lakhs people die of liver disease, 2 lakhs of die renal disease and more than a million suffer from corneal blindness. He informed that there is huge gap in demand and supply for organ donation in our country. Through its public appeal, FOGSI called for the citizens of the country to join this cause, and to take the pledge to donate organs to gift life to others.

Dr Meera Agnihotri, past Vice-president FOGSI, had the privilege of introducing our chief guest Hon. Health Minister Shri Harshvardhanji reminiscing the times when he was her student and how even at a very young age Dr Harshvardhan showed great enthusiasm and passion towards improving the health care of the country. She also mentioned about his close association with FOGSI activities since long. She complimented Dr Harshvardhanji on behalf of FOGSI for his recent appointment in WHO.

Dr Harshvardhan began his speech recalling how Dr B.C. Roy was persistent in pursuing education at the Royal college despite the hardships. He informed about starting of fellowship in India for foreign students. He appealed all the doctors of the country to follow Dr B.C. Roy's lead and continue serving the country in these troubled times. He congratulated every single doctor who stood the government and the people of the country in this pandemic and acknowledged the honour given to doctors by the Prime minister of the country on March 22nd 2020 when 1.35 billion people joined to salute the Corona warriors in every healthcare professional. He thanks doctors for placing the needs of the country above their fear, cultural- social-political differences, emotions towards family. He also praised the entire FOGSI fraternity for continuing maternal care despite the hardships the country is facing as well as for establishing guidelines for safe practice. He urged all the organizations to continue placing their heart and soul in dealing with this pandemic together.

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He praised the team FOGSI for taking up this social noble cause of Organ donation that is very close to his heart. Dr Harshvardhan himself has been a pioneer in this movement for initiating total body donation. He informed that each donor can save 8 lives by donating his/her organs. He told that every year 80000 people are dying in India due to road accidents. Although there is more that needs to be done, he is confident that each step towards it is an achievement in itself. He felt that Clearing the myths regarding Organ donation is probably the need of the hour and was overwhelmed that FOGSI took up this initiative. He also requested to work to eradicate anaemia, zero maternal mortality and uterine transplant surgeries. He congratulated Dr Alpesh Gandhi, President FOGSI and his entire team and requested them to continue the good work.

In his closing remarks FOGSI President, Dr Alpesh Gandhi thanks Dr Harshvardhanji and promised to be work hand in glove with the government in all their endeavours for the woman of the country and continue work in lines of the theme for this year: Safety first- safety for mother, for the unborn, for the new born and for the doctors as well. He also promised that this drive for organ donation will continue throughout the year. He also urged the government to support FOGSI registry for COVID-19 in pregnancy so that we can lead the world in establishing better practice guidelines due to higher incidence of pregnant mothers in our country.

Dr Atul Gantra Vice president in charge of the Organ donation drive made all the office bearers Incoming president Dr Shantakumari, Immediate Past President Dr Nandita Palshetkar, other4 VP Dr Archana Baser, Dr Anitha Singh Dr Ramani Devi Dr Ragini Agarwal, Secretary General Dr Jaydeep Tank, Deputy secretary general Dr Madhuri Patel, Treasurer Dr Suvarna Khadilkar, Jt Treasurer Dr Parikshit Tank, Jt Secretary Dr Sunil shah, Coordinator Dr Priti Kumar, MOC Dr Apoorva Pallam Reddy, Dr Priyankur Roy, Dr Neharika Malhotra and Dr Rohan Palshetkar take the oath for Organ Donation Infront of the esteemed Health minister.

The session concluded on a patriotic and dutiful spirit.

Thank you,

Dr. Alpesh Gandhi
President, FOGSI

Dr. Atul Ganatra
Vice President, FOGSI

Dr. Jaydeep Tank
Secretary General, FOGSI

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