

## **Annual meeting OMAG 2021.**

### **On Sidelines of the Virtual IAPSM Annual Congress 2021**

#### **Hosted By: PGI Chandigarh**

Annual meeting of OMAG was held on 19th March 2021 in conjunction with 48th Annual Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine(IAPSM) in virtual mode. The meeting was organized after appointment of Dr Suneela Garg Professor of excellence and National President IAPSM as President OMAG 2021 in addition to her elevation as President IAPSM2021.

This meeting was chaired by Dr. Sanjay Zodpey (outgoing IAPSM president) and Dr. S. Natarajan (Outgoing President OMAG & AIOS President 2019) who opened the session by their remarks. This was followed by a brief journey of OMAG and its philosophy by Dr. Ishwar Gilada

(Hon. Secretary General OMAG). He highlighted the importance of collaboration of leading professional associations under Umbrella of OMAG mandated to support Global Health Security agenda of Government of India.

This session was followed by brief remarks from representatives of different organizations of OMAG which focused on their strategy of integration under OMAG in addressing the pandemic and complementing each other in terms of manpower and resources. These include Dr. Bakul Parekh, Dr. U Bodhankar, Dr. Santosh Soans, Dr. Ramesh Bhatt and Dr. Akshay Dhariwal. After this Dr. Sujeet Singh from NCDC mentioned about their critical role in Epidemic intelligence services and surveillance with regard to global health security.

Dr. Suneela Garg Mentioned that IAPSM is in unique position with its associate organizations of OMAG to drive GHSA with its public health perspective and focus on surveillance and epidemiological intelligence and their focus is to Shift to Ayushman Bharat incorporating Atmanirbhar Bharat. The pandemic has demonstrated the need of having a relook at Global Health security Agenda. India being a member of Global Health Security Agenda, Steering Committee has led to GHSA cell within Ministry of Family Welfare which focus on Epidemic Intelligence Services. This is where the Government's Agenda has to be driven by the associations during the pandemic as well as otherwise. She highlighted that it is

the need of the hour to sensitize the governments & NITI AAYOG about strengths of OMAG and creating taskforces within the associations of OMAG to strengthen Ayushman Bharat and reach the last mile. She stressed that the representative organization of OMAG should be there in the national task force committees of the Government. Thus, OMAG as an organization has played a critical role in preparing a policy document for epidemic preparedness in mobilizing technical assistance. She also added that the associations can drive the governments agenda in addressing the pandemic from public health perspective.

Dr. Sagar Galwankar stated that the OMAG has been constituted with a vision of addressing Global Health Security. He also emphasized all about policy one world one health vision policy as borders are porous and pandemic is still evolving. Global health security focuses to follow a multisectoral approach to address the gaps and to introduce sustainable financing for global health security efforts. Capacity building of the manpower, financial sustainability, transparent collaboration between countries are needed to strengthen global readiness for outbreak control. Thus, he suggested that the focus for emergency preparedness should be on an elaborate surveillance, rapidly acting public health system and infrastructure including wide laboratory network and a trained epidemiologic workforce.

Dr. Sunil Raina (National Convenor) concluded the session with laying a road map on future of OMAG. He also discussed about role of focussed policies addressing Pandemic Agenda and their timely implementation. He stressed on working in alignment with govt policy to facilitate Pandemic control .

The meeting added with vote of thanks to chair.