

## Dr. B. Suresh



**Vice-Chancellor, JSS University,  
Mysore & President of Pharmacy  
Council of India, New Delhi, India**

Born on 5th March, 1959, at Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India Prof. B Suresh has been actively involved in uplifting the standards of pharmacy education and profession in India. Starting his career in 1982 as a Lecturer at J.S.S. College of Pharmacy, Ooty, today, he is elevated as Vice-Chancellor of JSS University, Mysore. He was elected in 2003 as the President of Pharmacy Council of India, the statutory body regulating the pharmacy education and profession in India. He was once again reelected as the President of Pharmacy Council of India in August 2008 for another period of five years.

Dr. Suresh had pioneered the cause of promoting “Pharmacy Practice” concept in India and has the unique honour of having introduced postgraduate programme in “Pharmacy Practice” and “Pharm D” programmes in India and continuous to strive to uplift this facet of pharmacy profession by closely working with other global leaders.

Dr. B. Suresh was recently nominated as the Chairman of the Scientific Body of Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, which is responsible for setting of standards for pharmaceutical substances and formulations. He has to his credit several national and International publications and has initiated several international collaborations through bilateral, academic and research exchange programmes. He has to his credit of having organized several national and international meetings and conferences in India and elsewhere, and had recently spearheaded the organizing of the World Congress of Pharmaceutical Sciences 2011, 71<sup>st</sup> International Congress of FIP, recognizing his invaluable services in the field of pharmaceutical education he is a recipient of several national and international awards and to mention in particular the FAPA Ishidate Award–2004 (International Award) and Doctor of Science (D.Sc.,) Honoris Causa conferred by The Tamilnadu Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai in 2007. He is fondly like by all his colleagues for his humane approach and his excellent team leadership.

## **Challenges in Pharmaceutical Education to Meet International Quality by 2020:**

Access to essential medicines is one of the most basic health services. To ensure access to and appropriate use of medicines, there is a need for an appropriately-trained pharmacy workforce. Unfortunately, pharmacists and pharmacy support personnel in many countries are too few in number and trained at a critically insufficient scale. Pharmacists represent the third largest health care professional group in the world after nurses and doctors. Pharmacists' evolving role as experts on medicines within multidisciplinary health care teams needs to be strengthened.

Acknowledging that health care needs can vary across geography and culture, an international group of key stakeholders in pharmacy education and global health has reached unanimous agreement that pharmacy education must be quality-driven and directed towards societal health care needs, the services required to meet those needs, the competences necessary to provide these services and the education needed to ensure those competences.

Need-based education is a strategy that calls for any given system to assess the needs of its community and then develop (or adapt) the supporting educational system accordingly.

The scaling up and quality improvement of pharmacy education and training are essential for tackling workforce shortages, meeting basic health needs and saving lives. They form one of the major bottlenecks in expanding the pharmacy workforce. In India, pharmacy education had an unprecedented growth in the past one decade. However, this has raised concerns with regard to quality. There is a need to face the challenges in pharmaceutical education to address international quality by 2020. To confront these concerns and new challenges, there is a necessity to restructure the pharmacy education and scope of pharmacist and reengineer pharmacy education. In this regard, the following need to be looked into:

- ✓ developing a vision framework,
- ✓ developing a competency framework,
- ✓ ensuring a quality assurance system, and
- ✓ building academic and institution capacity.