

We shall journey through This world but once.
Any good that We can do Any kindness that We can show
Let Us do it now.
Let Us not defer or neglect it, For We shall not pass this way again.

I, Prof. Dr Ali Irani, born and brought up in Mumbai, India, began studying Physiotherapy in 1978. I started my career as a researcher and physiotherapist at Bombay Hospital, Mumbai, in 1985. Post which I moved on to join as the first physiotherapist for the Indian National cricket team from 1987 for ten years. I was appointed as the first-ever physiotherapist to tour with any sports team in my country. Currently, after 35 years of being a part of this glorious profession, I continue to serve my work as

- Head the Department of Physiotherapy and Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Centre, Nanavati Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mumbai (1987- present).
- Chairperson – International Affairs, Indian Association of Physiotherapists
- Principal, NMIMS University

My educational qualification includes:

1. B.Physio from M.S. University, Baroda 1983
2. PhD in Anatomy of Body Movement and Dance, Bombay University 1989
3. PhD in Sports Medicine 1990
4. Doctor of Physiotherapy, NUMS, Spain 2015
5. Kinesiology and Energy, Kinergetics National Association, Australia 2019

When I was a student, there were only 7 physiotherapy colleges, whereas today we have more than 250 colleges in India. I have seen the profession of Physiotherapy growing from 2 years' diploma course to 4 ½ years degree course and around 87 colleges with post-graduation courses and 15 college offering PhD Courses today. I was the first physiotherapist to be awarded the PHD from Bombay University, India. Also, Physiotherapy has not restricted itself only to Orthopaedics and Neurology but has expanded into all specialties such as Women's Health, Geriatrics, Paediatrics, Early Intervention, Sports Medicine, Fitness, Manual Therapy, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Chest Physiotherapy, Community Rehabilitation, Stress Management, Disaster Management and ICU care to name a few. I have always believed that physiotherapy has no boundaries and is an integral part of the health care system from "Womb to Tomb".

My Indian Association of Physiotherapists' journey began as the Vice president of Central Executive Committee CEC, Indian association of Physiotherapists (IAP) in 1988-89 and then went on to become the President, IAP 2008 and currently hold the position of Chairperson, International affairs, IAP. I am the first Patron Member of IAP.

My intention of joining the IAP was to protect our Indian physiotherapists' interests and provide opportunities for continual growth of our profession. However, development requires vision and 'super' vision to ensure that the goals and plans don't just remain dreams, but become a reality. I thus believe that my post's power came with a huge responsibility of paving the way for a secure future. It has been a considerable role motive to do full justice to that responsibility and my members' expectations. Since the day I entered the profession, I promised myself to leave no stone unturned in taking Physiotherapy to greater heights. Hard work always pays off, so it should come as no surprise to you'll that our efforts have not been in vain.

I having attended various World physiotherapy congresses - Amsterdam, Singapore, Switzerland and being fluent in Persian language, and many countries speak the language like Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Russia, Turkey I would like to promote physiotherapy in these Central Asia countries (CIS) :Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine where physiotherapy lacks an association. I am also a member of Iranian Physiotherapy Association. I have regularly been invited as a Chairperson and speaker at UAE, Oman, Qatar, physiotherapy camps and workshops at Kabul, attended conferences at Iran. I've also taken workshops for physiotherapists in pan India and internationally in Oman, Ajman-UAE, Iran and Afghanistan with my medical team at our own cost.

I've travelled across the country, visiting various physiotherapy colleges to understand the roots from which our profession is growing and to reduce the gap between the students, teaching staff, and society. I wish to see our students moulded and shaped according to the best knowledge and ideas. I've always wanted them to be led by example, show them a high standard of behaviour and teaching so that when they step out they are inspired to carry on the lighted torch with smiles on their faces. To achieve this, I have honored all the invitations to college seminars, webinars, youth festivals, conferences and graduations to have maximum interaction with the up-and-coming physiotherapists. I am associated to various universities as a PhD guide and also a faculty with NUMS University, Toronto.

My best experiences on field is the vital role we play in Disaster management. As healthcare providers, we also have an enormous social responsibility entrusted to us, which includes taking care of our community and standing by our people in times of adversity. Instances where my team and myself have conducted some of the most challenging camps that were held in extreme conditions, some of which were immediately post natural calamities:

1. The Bhuj Camp in Gujarat, India after an earthquake measuring 7.7 on 26th January 2001
2. The Bam Camp in Iran, after an earthquake on 26th December 2003
3. The Uri Camp in Kashmir, India after an earthquake on 8th October 2005
4. Camps to Iraq in 2015 and 2019 to serve those who do not have access to medical services post the Iraq War

As I appeal to be nominated as the General Board member 2022-23 – World Physiotherapy, I'd like to mention the 4 of the most vital qualities that help me stand out which include:

- Responsibility- My responsibility is primarily to the commitment of maintaining and conducting our services to the highest professional & ethical standards.
- Excellence -Achieving high performance and excellent results. My aim has always been to provide outstanding quality and service to our patients.
- Innovation -Innovation is a cornerstone of our success. Research and development are vital to our profession.
- Multi linguistic : I can fluently speak English, Hindi, Persian, Gujarati, Marathi, understand Arabic.

The following are a few of my Achievements.

1. “HITRA ORATION” Award in 1994 for achievements made in the field of Physiotherapy
2. Lifetime Achievement Award by Indian Association of Physiotherapy, 2004
3. Awarded Fellowship by Indian Association of Sports Medicine, 2005
4. Awarded Fellowship by Indian Association of Physiotherapists, 2005
5. Best Citizens of India award 2011
6. Best Physiotherapist Award in India from Medscape in 2014.
7. Global Outreach Physiotherapy Award 2020

I have also held the following affiliations so far:

- Patron Member, Indian Association of Physiotherapists
- Life member, Indian Association of Physiotherapists
- Life Member of Indian Association of Sports Medicine
- Member, Gujarat Physiotherapy council
- Member, Maharashtra OT PT Council
- Member, Iranian Physiotherapy Association
- Member, International Board of Medicine and Surgery, Florida, USA
- Vice-President of Bombay District Sports Medicine Association
- Vice-President of Bombay Suburban Amateur Athletic Association

Prof. Dr Ali Irani PhD, PhD

Chairperson, International Affairs,
Indian Association of Physiotherapists