

I recently had the pleasure of visiting JSS Bilaspur and meeting all the colleagues. I was delighted to meet the wonderful team of JSS doctors including Dr Chatterjee, Dr Yogesh Jain , Dr Raman Kataria, Dr Rachna Jain, Dr Anjoo Kataria, Dr Alka Rahalkar, Dr Sushil Patil and many other Residents, DNBE trainees and visiting fellows. It was heartening to note their continuing and stirring efforts to improve the healthcare of this impoverished region especially given their limited resources. The organisation continues to grow in every respect and remains an important landmark in this remote area and regionally.

I was pleased to note the progress on their ICU project which is now fully operational and has made a huge difference in the care of sick and critically ill patients. I also visited the onsite Nursing school which continues to progress in the right direction with more number of students and programmes. Dr Yogesh Jain has informs me the school will soon be starting the BSc Nursing programme which is in line with the national objectives. JSS remains grateful to all its UK friends for their unflinching efforts in supporting both these projects for the last four years. These projects are now well established with other funding streams. JSS has provided a broad overview of last four years of funding expenditure contributed by the FOJSS UK. I note a sum total of more than 5 million rupees were contributed by FOJSS UK on these programmes.

During my stay at Bilaspur, Dr Raman Kataria discussed the need to start DNBE programme in Surgery for which the necessary formalities have been initiated. He also mentioned about the need to start laparoscopic services which would be a necessary pre-requisite for any such curriculum. Given the surgical volumes involved and the spectrum of procedures undertaken this is certainly a desirable project. To this effect JSS has submitted a funding proposal to FOJSS UK for their kind support which will be presented at the next FOJSS UK board meeting. The project does include a capital cost of over million rupees towards the cost of a laparoscopic stack.

During my short stay, I actively contributed in the surgical clinics, operating lists, ward round and resident teaching programme. I also visited the outreach village centre of Bamni.

Dr S.Gupta

Secretary FOJSS UK

Bilaspur, 6-14 March 2019