Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.

- Mark Twain

Dear friends,

I wept when I lost my father 25 years back, then my mother and then my younger brother; all of them have left their marks in my life. My father – a man of integrity, my mother – lady to be worshipped and my brother – an idol of simple living and high thinking, have shown me the way, how to live and achieve in life.

This preface is written when the World and India has been hit by the worst disaster and the heart gets saddened imagining the cries of the people who lost their near and dear ones and there are many people who have no one to cry even as all the members of the family have been swept away.

HIV and CAD epidemic are creating havoc in India and it is time (we are already late, but better late then never) for all of us to get into action and try to create an atmosphere to bring down the incidence and prevalence of at least the above mentioned two diseases by creating awareness of safe practices and healthy life style living.

I wish to present “Medicine Update 2005 – Volume 15” before you – the Scientific Proceedings of the 60th Annual Conference of Association of Physicians of India – Diamond APICON 2005. In the busy world, how difficult is to write, but the faculty have put their heart in writing the articles, some State-of-Art, and some looking after the interest of physicians. May be, this is the first time in history of Medicine Updates – 23 Chapters have been written by the International faculty. I am extremely thankful to all the faculty members who have contributed to the Medicine Update 2005.

My heartfelt thanks are due to Prof. (Dr) J S Bajaj who has been a constant source of inspiration and agreeing for writing the prologue for the book. I am thankful to all the executive members of API and the organizing committee of Diamond APICON 2005 for their support in all my endeavors. I am especially thankful to Dr V R Joshi, Dr Satyavan Sharma, Dr Deepak Amarapurkar, Dr Rohini Handa, Dr Jyotsna M Joshi, Dr Ashok Kirpalani, Dr M B Agarwal, Dr A A Mahashur, Dr Shashank Joshi, Dr Purvish Parikh, Dr K Ravishankar, Dr S V Khadilkar, Dr Anand Bhave and Dr Khusrav Bajan for sparing their valuable time and helping me in arranging the International faculty and in designing the Scientific Program for Diamond APICON 2005.
Dr Rajeev Soman, Dr Uday M Jadhav, Dr M Gaur and Dr B R Bansode deserve special mention for their special contribution.

My special thanks are due to Dr D K Das, DG (RHS) who has always been my guide and supporting pillar in fulfilling my dreams and all my railway physicians for their unstinted support. I am also thankful to all my PG residents and all my staff for lending their hand of support.

No words to thank Dr Milind Nadkar whose hard work has resulted in bringing out the Medicine Update 2005.

In the past few months, I have not been able to look after my family – my wife Sadhna and my two sweet loving daughters – Shilpi and Shivani but they understand my passion and I love them for their whole-hearted support. I am the lucky one to have the blessings and love of my sisters – Dr Usha Didi, Rashmi Didi and Rajni and my younger brother – Bharat and their families.

Lastly, I am thankful to all the Pharmaceutical Industry who has gone out of the way to help me in executing the scientific program and in bringing out the proceedings of the conference. Special thanks are due to USV Ltd., Aristo Pharmaceuticals, Zydus Medica, Ranbaxy, Aventis, Cipla, Pfizer, Roche, Abbott, Serdia, Respironics, Medtronic, Eli-Lily, Wockhardt, Wipro GE, Fulford, GSK, Bal Pharmaceuticals and Sun Pharmaceuticals. Without their support, Medicine Update 2005 and the whole Scientific Program was not possible in such a manner.

I am extremely thankful to Mr H N Trivedi and his dedicated team for their hard work in bringing out Medicine Update 2005 in style. My thanks are due to Ms Sangeeta for efficient secretarial assistance and other API staff for their necessary help.

The thought, the dream, the vision
Always precedes the act.

- Orison Swett Marden

Looking forward for your suggestions for the growth of API.

Dr. S B Gupta
Editor, Medicine Update 2005

22nd January 2005