

Dear faculty, staff and students,

Another year has gone by, and a new one begins. It is also that time of the year when we must count our blessings, be grateful for what we have had and say a prayer for those less fortunate than ourselves.

This one year has been extremely challenging to me on a personal and professional level. As I saw my soul mate battling to stay alive for nearly five months, I had to pull myself out of the very depths of despair, helplessness, and anguish and try to confront and solve personal and professional problems with the sensitivity and mindfulness they needed. I was able to do so to a large extent only because I had so much support from friends, colleagues (both former and current), teachers, students, relatives, family and many, many acquaintances who offered a word of comfort, some advice, a hug, a smile, a whatsapp message or a cup of coffee whenever I needed it. Your gesture, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem to you will always be treasured by me. Words are not enough to express my gratitude for helping me to get over those days.

Despite this, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has seen many facilities being started and many amenities being introduced for the patients who are coming to the hospital. It is hoped that these will be well utilized by the public. Our outreach services are doing very well and account for 10% of the patients being treated by us, a reflection that we are committed to addressing our mandate of serving the underserved population. The hard work of everyone has been appreciated and we have received public recognition by being named as the Best Public Hospital in Eastern Region, Best Hospital in the twin cities of Cuttack & Bhubaneswar and ranked 15th as the best specialty hospital for Obstetrics & Gynaecology by "The Week," one of the well known magazines. Our students have done very well in the All India AIIMS PG entrance exams with 8 students in the first 500 ranks. These are public endorsements of our progress and quality which we all should be proud of.

We are looking forward to starting many new treatment modalities for cancer by inaugurating the linear accelerator, brachytherapy and gamma camera services shortly. Once our modular operation theatres and medical gas pipeline system become operational we shall be able to shorten waiting times for surgery. Our hospital, administrative and academic services are getting spruced up, upgraded, digitized and user-friendly. These will take time, energy and patience as we iron out the bugs and streamline the processes. We also look forward to welcoming new faculty and staff as our recruitment processes gets completed. This in turn will help us start more courses, tweak our curricula and provide our students with a stimulating academic environment. All in all, 2018 is expected to be more demanding and exciting than the year gone by and I am glad you are with me to take the ride. As we herald the New Year let us renew our efforts to make AIIMS Bhubaneswar a role model institution for others to emulate.

My sincere wishes to each and everyone of you who has contributed to making AIIMS Bhubaneswar the best public hospital in the Eastern Region and I look forward to working together with all of you in the next year with renewed vigour and vitality.

Wishing you all and your near and dear, a very happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year filled with joy, harmony, peace and good health.

Gitanjali Batmanabane

Director, AIIMS Bhubaneswar