

HISTORY

It all began with a Delhi family's desperation in getting help for one of their family members suffering from severe memory loss. Shri K C Khanna was keen to look for such help for his wife suffering from this problem and for others who may have similar affliction. It was clear to him that to provide physical, emotional and scientific help there must be a support group locally. He contacted Prof. Vinod Kumar, Vice-President of the Alzheimer's & Related Disorders of Society of India (ARDSI) and who at that time was working as Professor of Medicine and was Chief of Geriatric Clinic at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Subsequent efforts resulted in the formation of the Delhi Chapter of ARDSI which was inaugurated by Shri S S Verma, the then Former Secretary, Ministry of Welfare, Government of India with a Keynote address by Prof. Jim Edwardson, Vice-President, Alzheimer's Disease Society, U.K. and an expert in the field of Alzheimer's Disease from New Castle upon Tyne, United Kingdom at India International Centre on 8th March, 1994. Shri M M Sabharwal was the Chief Guest at this function. Prof. Vinod Kumar took over as the President and Shri K C Khanna as the General Secretary of the Chapter with its office at N-6, Panchshila Park, New Delhi-110017.

Shri Khanna's personal devotion and keen interest saw a steady progress of this Chapter's activities for several years in the initial period. An impressive First Anniversary Meeting was held in 1995. Subsequent Presidents, namely Dr. Kalyan Bagchi, Mrs. Nirmala M. Narula and Dr. Manjari Tripathy continued to extend their guidance for the cause of this Society. In response to growing public need, a Helpline was subsequently started. A panel of Consultants including doctors and neurologists was formed to advise, counsel and provide relevant information to callers on-line. A memory clinic was established simultaneously, within the department of Neurology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) where patients were referred by ARDSI for memory testing and treatment.

Initially we were funded by HelpAge India and still receive substantial funding and support.

Today we have over 757 families with an elderly member suffering from memory loss and many diagnosed cases of Alzheimer's disease on our register.

The 6th National Conference was organized by the Alzheimer's Society, Delhi Chapter in November, 2000 and 12th National Conference in November, 2006 at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. National Consultative Meeting of Experts on "National Dementia Strategy" was held on 30-31 January, 2009 at Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi. The final consultative meeting and release of Dementia India Strategy Commemorating World Alzheimer's Day on 21st September 2010 was held at Delhi by the National Office enabled by Delhi Chapter.

ARDSI Delhi Chapter has a proud distinction of its two past Presidents being conferred the prestigious award titled "Vayoshrestha Samman" on Prof. Vinod Kumar and Mrs. Nirmala Narula. They both are at present Emeritus President of the National Office of ARDSI.

ARDSI is the first Afro-Asian National Dementia Organization to get full membership in Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), London (U.K.). The past National Chairman Dr. K. Jacob Roy, was elected to the coveted position of Chairman of ADI in the year 2012 for three years, a rare feat achieved by a first AFRO-ASIAN.