

HNCII FOUNDATION DAY BULLETIN

3 YEARS



AUGUST 1st | QUIETLY & CONSTANTLY DOING THE BEST

— PUNYASHLOK AHILYADEVI HOLKAR —
HEAD & NECK CANCER INSTITUTE
— OF INDIA —

In Action



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To My Staff, With Gratitude

DR. SULTAN PRADHAN · CHAIRMAN, HNCII

On the joyous occasion of completing 3 years of service in HNCII. I would like to share some thoughts with our readers.

Firstly, hospitals are not built of bricks and mortar only — nor sustained by doctors alone. An institute flourishes because of the collective dedication of every individual, including those who quietly labour in the background. So, this is my heartfelt tribute to that group of people who rarely find themselves in the spotlight — our quiet, dedicated staff members who work diligently behind the scenes.

They are the silent strength of our institution, carrying out their responsibilities with sincerity, humility, and unwavering commitment. They neither seek recognition nor crave applause, yet their contribution is indispensable.

Every doctor, surgeon, nurse, support staff, and patient has, in one way or another, benefited from their steadfast support. They perform countless essential tasks with efficiency, reliability, and grace — often unnoticed except when something goes wrong, which, thankfully, is rare because of their meticulous work.

On entering the occasion of our anniversary, I would like to bring these unsung stars into the sunlight — not merely to acknowledge their efforts, but to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude.

"This is my heartfelt tribute to those who quietly labour in the background — the silent strength of our institution."

To my shy but sincere colleagues — this is my sincere salute. There are many 'worthies' in our hospital. Collectively, all your work matters, your integrity inspires, and HNCII is stronger because of all of you.

I congratulate each staff member on this day and thank you all for standing with me, in good times and bad.



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE

Reflecting on Our Journey, Renewing Our Commitment

RESHMA NAIDU · EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE

As we mark the 3rd Foundation Day of HNCII, I do so with immense gratitude, pride and, moreover, a deep sense of responsibility.

Three years in the life of an institution are much like the first three years in the life of a child — years of learning, growth, resilience and discovery. It is a time when identity begins to take shape and potential starts to unfold. HNCII, too, is in that formative phase, rooted in its values, growing in confidence and capability, and steadily evolving into the institution we have always envisioned.

As we grow, however, one principle must always guide us: the institution should never become bigger than the individual it exists to serve. Hospitals may become larger, busier and more technologically advanced, but if we lose sight of the person behind the diagnosis, we lose the very essence of our purpose.

"Every policy, every process and every decision must answer one simple question: Does this serve the patient? If it does, we are moving in the right direction."

This philosophy has defined HNCII from the very beginning. Our mission is to ensure that every individual, irrespective of financial circumstances, has access to world-class cancer care delivered with compassion, dignity and integrity. **Equally important is our commitment to early detection and timely treatment.** Through preventive oncology, awareness, screening and community outreach, we strive to diagnose cancer when it is most treatable — preserving not only life but also function, dignity and hope.

Over the past three years, thousands of patients and caregivers have placed their trust in us. While our responsibility is to treat cancer, our purpose extends far beyond curing disease. Particularly in head and neck oncology, healing means restoring the person — rebuilding form, function, confidence and quality of life. It is this multidisciplinary approach that enables our patients not only to survive cancer but to live well beyond it.

This commitment belongs to every member of Team HNCII. While our clinicians are often the faces our patients know best, every successful treatment is made possible by an extraordinary team working seamlessly behind the scenes — our nurses, technicians, paramedical professionals, and colleagues across administration and support services. Though their contributions may not always be visible, they are integral to every patient journey and every life we touch.

My heartfelt gratitude also goes to our Board of Trustees, Advisory Committee, donors, corporate partners, government agencies and well-wishers. Your trust has enabled us to build an institution where excellence and affordability go hand in hand.

As we celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm the values that will shape our future. If we remain steadfast in our belief that the patient must always come before the institution, I have no doubt that HNCII will continue to detect cancer early, heal comprehensively, restore lives with dignity and offer hope to countless families for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

For Our Unsung Heroes

DR. ROSHAN F CHINYOY, HEAD OF HISTOPATHOLOGY

THOMAS GRAY · ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

*"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."*

Just as there are stunning flowers that bloom in remote deserts where no human will ever see or appreciate them, there are countless brilliant, talented workers who live in relative obscurity simply because they never had the opportunity, resources, or stage to shine on.



Success is often equated as the reward for talent, intelligence, and hard work. Society tends to admire those who rise to the top. Yet this view overlooks an uncomfortable truth: countless individuals possess remarkable gifts but remain unnoticed because life has denied them the opportunities or influential support needed to reveal their potential.

History itself reminds us that talent is universal, but opportunity is not. For every renowned scientist, artist, or leader whose name fills newspapers, there may have been hundreds of equally capable individuals whose restricted circumstances prevented them from rising to the top.

"There is quiet dignity in these unsung lives — their influence is profound in the lives they touch."

In hospital settings, we have our own special quota of unsung heroes. Nurses, technicians, and trained OT staff who prepare the background setting and keep autoclaved instruments for every surgery — they are indispensable, as the surgeons are helpless without their help and inputs.

After a successful head and neck surgery, the patient needs to return to normality and rejoin the world. What would the patient do without the training and guidance of a qualified physiotherapist? These quiet background workers reverse submucous fibrosis, treat pain and teach patients to walk, talk and get back into the normal stride of life. These are amazing silent workers who deserve some of the blinding light that is shed on the glamour surgeons.

The world is filled with men and women whose gifts have gone largely unnoticed — not because they lacked brilliance, but because life never offered them a godfather or the stage upon which to perform. They are the unsung heroes of everyday life.

"In acknowledging them we acknowledge a profound truth. genius may be rare, but unrealised genius is a far more common than we care to admit"

CLINICAL SCIENCE · 2025-26

Recent Advances in Head & Neck and Breast Cancer: A Clinical Perspective

DR. SHARMILA AGARWAL, HEAD OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

ABSTRACT

The therapeutic landscape of both head and neck cancer and breast cancer has evolved rapidly over 2025–26, driven by advances in immunotherapy, antibody–drug conjugates (ADCs), molecular profiling, and personalised treatment approaches.

HEAD & NECK CANCER

The integration of immunotherapy into curative-intent treatment represents one of the most significant recent advances in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma. Two landmark phase III trials presented at ASCO 2025 may reshape treatment paradigms.

The **KEYNOTE-689** study evaluated perioperative pembrolizumab in resectable, locally advanced HNSCC, demonstrating a significant improvement in event-free survival compared with standard treatment alone.

The **NIVOPOSTOP** trial investigated nivolumab added to postoperative cisplatin-based chemoradiotherapy in high-risk resected disease, showing improved disease-free survival.

EMERGING AND TRANSLATIONAL STRATEGIES

Metronomic chemotherapy with ultra-low-dose immunotherapy, PROTACs, nanomedicine-based drug delivery, molecular tumour profiling, and circulating HPV biomarkers are advancing the field toward personalised care.

"Immunotherapy is moving beyond the recurrent/metastatic setting into earlier stages of disease where cure remains the primary objective."

BREAST CANCER

Datopotamab deruxtecan demonstrated superior progression-free survival in HR-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer. The **DESTINY-Breast** programme continues generating practice-changing evidence across the disease spectrum.

ADVANCES IN BREAST CANCER

Breast cancer management continues to be transformed by ADCs, targeted therapies and biomarker treatment selection. These advances are improving outcomes across the hormone receptor positive, HER2 positive and triple negative disease subtypes.

The MonarchE study has provided the first evidence of an overall survival benefit with adjuvant abemaciclib in high-risk early breast cancer, establishing it as the first CDK4/C inhibitor to achieve this milestone.

CONCLUSIONS

The overarching theme across both head and neck and breast oncology is the movement of immunotherapy into earlier potentially curative treatment settings accompanied by increasingly sophisticated biomarker guided patient selection. As these strategies mature, the oncology community can anticipate a continued shift towards more personalised treatment.

3
YEARS

Three Years of Impact

HNCII · CLINICAL MILESTONES · AUGUST 2023 – 2026

Since commencing operations in August 2023, HNCII has quietly and constantly served the community across every dimension of head and neck oncology care.

1,36,000+

OPD CONSULTATIONS

Expert evaluation, second opinions, and follow-up care — making HNCII one of India's most visited head and neck oncology centres.

~ 40% of consultations provided free of charge

10,000+

SURGERIES

Radical resections to complex reconstructive procedures, performed with precision and care by a dedicated surgical team.

including minor and day-care procedures

11,500+

CHEMOTHERAPY CYCLES

Each cycle meticulously monitored under specialist supervision — representing a patient's measured journey towards recovery.

50,000+

RADIATION FRACTIONS

State-of-the-art radiotherapy systems offering the full spectrum of oncology care — from conventional to precision techniques — under one roof.

Rs. 13.70 Crores+

PATIENT WELFARE DISBURSED

Covering treatment costs, travel support, and financial assistance for economically vulnerable patients — affirming that quality cancer care must never be a privilege.

Our Milestones, Our Pride

AUG 2026
CELEBRATING 3RD
FOUNDATION DAY

JUL 2026
COMPLETED 10,000
SURGERIES &
LAUNCHED FREE
CONSULTATIONS

MAY 2026
NEURO ONCOLOGY
SERVICES STARTED

APR 2026
COMPLETED 60
CAMPS SCREENING
3,500 INDIVIDUALS

MAR 2025
RECEIVED NABH
ACCREDITATION

DEC 2024
COMPLETED 10,000
RADIATION FRACTIONS

FEB 2025
COMPLETED 5,000
CHEMOTHERAPY CYCLES

AUG 2023
HOSPITAL
COMMISSIONED

DEC 2023
COMPLETED 1,000
SURGERIES

MAY 2015
PPP AGREEMENT
SIGNED WITH
MCGM

JAN 2018
HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
STONE LAID

1997
FOUNDED CANCARE
TRUST WITH A DONATION
OF RS. 25,000