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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

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I hope to find you all in great spirits even in these times of global COVID-19 pandemic. As we all know that with the advent of coronavirus pandemic our lives have changed overnight and for a long period of time, we have been homebound. However, being at home does not imply that we stop growing at both personal and professional fronts. The dental fraternity continued to hone their skills, from the comforts of their homes, through various webinars by eminent personalities. We have turned this calamity into an opportunity just by having our grit to learn and progress in place for self and the society.

The world is suffering from a lot of collateral damage due to COVID-19 crisis. Collateral pandemic of COVID-19 implies the suffering of the chronically ill patients, who are unable to receive necessary medical services due to lockdown or fear of getting infected. Thus, our efforts should be directed towards focusing our limited resources and manpower in managing high-risk patients like dental trauma and space infections. Guidelines-based recommendations should be followed to provide dental care to these patients. It's our duty to not to let suffer any child in our region due to dental pain and agony. Before scheduling appointments, we can identify patients with suspected COVID-19, through telescreening. Thereafter, we can do triage of patients and work for the ones requiring immediate care. Proper usage of PPE with regards to donning and doffing should be thoroughly learnt and practiced to minimize the risk of spread of infection.

As an extraordinary decision by the office bearers, we have planned to not to have Colombo conference in the year 2020. The main concern is the safety and wellbeing of all members of the South Asian Association of Pediatric Dentistry. We did a lot of knowledge exchanges by having web-based learning sessions for our members by best speakers from across the world during this period. We are hopeful to continue such actions in future till the time physical conferences are possible.

To summarize it all, I would request the dental fraternity in all the South Asian countries to maintain their calm and positivity while battling this pandemic. We should take care of ourselves and our family members and at the same time be a responsible citizen by following the rules as set by our respective governments. This quarantine period can be turned productive by channelizing our thoughts and acts in a positive frame of mind. I pray to the Almighty that soon the humankind successfully defeat this pandemic and also for the safety and welfare of all of you.

Thanking You!

Yours sincerely

**Gyanendra Kumar**  
Hon. Secretary General  
South Asian Association of Pediatric Dentistry