

## OPPI hosts its 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

- Office bearers announced
- Lifetime Achievement recognition for Nihchal H. Israni, Chairman, Blue Cross Laboratories Ltd
- Patients share their stories

**Mumbai, September 27, 2014:** The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) hosted its 48th Annual General Meeting in Mumbai today. OPPI highlighted its focus on access to quality healthcare and continued advocacy for an environment that allows innovation in medicine. The emphasis remained on collaboration within industry, with Government and with all relevant stakeholders.

“We now have a Government with a decisive mandate to fulfill its promises of good governance, transparency in policy making and a corruption-free pro-growth agenda. The pharmaceutical industry is ready and eager to join hands with the new Government to address the complex challenge of access to quality and affordable healthcare for all the people of our country”, **said Dr. Shailesh Ayyangar, President OPPI.**

Present at the AGM were Prof Ashish Nanda, Director, IIM, Ahmedabad as Chief Guest; Dr N. K. Ganguly, Former Director General, ICMR as a special guest; top executives of pharmaceutical companies; key opinion leaders; and media persons.

The first ever OPPI Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Nihchal H Israni, Chairman, Blue Cross Laboratories Ltd, recognising his contribution to the Indian pharmaceutical industry for over six decades.

**Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, OPPI** announced the Office Bearers for the year and pointed out, “India needs a supportive ecosystem that balances the need for innovation with the necessity for more accessible medicines. OPPI remains committed to partnering with Government to help fulfil the dream of quality healthcare for all.”

A patient group discussion was moderated by Dr Hemant Thacker and this stressed the importance of innovative treatments. Patients shared experiences of their battle with life threatening diseases. Their struggles highlighted the need for new medicines that help combat diseases, which affect the common man.

The Annual Awards for original research and innovation in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences in India were presented to:

- Scientist Award: Prof Sandeep Verma, Department of Chemistry, IIT Kanpur
- Young Scientists Award: Prof Rohit Srivastava, Department of Biosciences & Bioengineering, IIT Bombay & Dr Abhishek Sen, Co- founder, Biosense Technologies Pvt Ltd
- Woman Scientist Award: Dr (Mrs) Roshan Behram Colah, National Institute of Immunohaematology (NIIH), ICMR

**About OPPI**

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) was established in 1965. OPPI represents the research-driven pharmaceutical companies in India and remains committed to supporting the nation’s healthcare objectives, collaborating with the Indian Government and other stakeholders to find sustainable solutions; solutions that balance the need for innovation with the necessity for more accessible medicines, within a robust IP environment. A holistic approach is needed to expand healthcare in India and OPPI believes the pharmaceutical industry can form part of the solution. OPPI supports the Indian government’s quest for more accessible and affordable medicines and welcomes a more comprehensive dialogue between private and government stakeholders.

For more information, please visit [www.indiaoppi.com](http://www.indiaoppi.com)

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**For further information, please contact:**

Sunandita Roy/ Manva Hunswadkar Edelman India T: 77381 42011 / 9167148657 E: <a href="mailto:sunandita.roy@edelman.com">sunandita.roy@edelman.com</a> <a href="mailto:Manva.hunswadkar@edelman.com">Manva.hunswadkar@edelman.com</a>	Bhavna Singh OPPI T: 022 – 2491 8123 E: <a href="mailto:bhavna.singh@indiaoppi.com">bhavna.singh@indiaoppi.com</a>
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