

Greetings from SAATA President!

On New Year's Eve, as I settled down to pen (yes, I still prefer pen and paper!) this message, I received on WhatsApp, a poem 'Drinking from the Saucer' by John Paul Moore. My thought, this is exactly how I feel when I look back on 2017 personally, professionally and as SAATA President. I quote a couple of stanzas to communicate this experience:

As I go along my journey
I am reaping better than I sowed
I'm drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed

I thank God for the blessings
That his mercy has bestowed
I'm drinking from the saucer
'Cause my cup has overflowed

My experience comes from the fact that as a community we are achieving and moving onward to fulfill the mission that SAATA was founded for.

Professional Growth

I congratulate Ragini Rao and Sailaja Manacha who were certified as TSTA (psychotherapy) and Prathitha Gangadharan as CTA(psychotherapy) at Berlin in August 2017. I am also proud to acknowledge the role of their primary supervisor, P.K.Saru and the many others who supported them on their journey. At the same venue, Sudha successfully completed her TEW and I wish her well as she moves on to be a trainer. Congratulations to Raguraman, Haseena, Aruna and Anisha, for being endorsed as PTSTAs in the TEW that was conducted in Banaglore.

We are also introducing the title SAATA trainer, with the view to harness the potential available in the region and also ensure professional and ethical practice, including continuing education.

The growth of TA training in the region is reflected by the fact that this year, we have nineteen Diplomas and Deepak Dhananjaya has cleared the Advanced Diploma. I wish Deepak a meaningful and enjoyable oral exam and completion of CTA too. I would love to see more of you receiving your Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas at the conference in Kochi. Another indicator of the growth of the professional community is that we are having two TEWs in India this year.

Networking and Learning

The Multilevel Learning (MLL) and the SAATA conference provide settings for different types of learning and connecting. Acknowledgement to the Coimbatore team for hosting both events successfully in 2017 and also the workshops by Sue Eusden and Graeme Summers.

The theme for MLL 2017 – **Roles and Relationships** provided for a lot of learning. As a follow up the theme for MLL 2018 was **Walls and Bridges – Exploring boundaries and relationships**. Thank you Chitra for coordinating the event and all those who supported her, particularly Rema.

The ITAA – SAATA conference at Kochi, from 16th to 19th August 2018, is shaping up beautifully due to the proactive work of the many volunteers and committees with Chitra being the conference convener. The Theme is, 'The Dance of Culture'. Registration and call for proposals are both open. Do spread the word and also volunteer to be on various committees. Let's together make this event a great success.

Research and Publications

These are areas where we have made baby steps and need to invest our energies both for our individual and collective growth and also to showcase TA to the wider community and build credibility. I invite all of you to research in small ways and big and contribute to our journal, SAJTA.

Rema and Srinath, thank you for ensuring regular release of the SAATA Newsletter with interesting information. Appreciation to all those who have contributed to it. Request each and every one of you to send in your experiences and information of what is happening in your areas.

Administration

Mohan as Secretary and Rema as Joint Secretary have done a humungous job of streamlining the administration. The new website is one of the aspects. I hope all of you are experiencing the ease of using it. Request you to let us know what you find useful and do give suggestions of what can be added, deleted or changed. The facebook page is another aspect we as a community need to use for the spread of TA.

Ragu, our treasurer has taken good care of our monies and we will soon have an online payment portal on our website.

Awards

SAATA has instituted guidelines for two awards to recognize the contributions of the membership. Thanks to Suriyaprakash for authoring the guidelines

They are:

- SAATA Professional Excellence Award
- SAATA Service Award

I close with another stanza from the poem

May we never be too busy
To bear another's load
Then we'll all be drinking from the saucer
When our cups have overflowed.

In 2018, may each and every one of us individually and collectively be open to experience the
Abundance of the Universe!
My cup runneth over.

Susan George

President, SAATA