



HEALERS COLLECTIVE

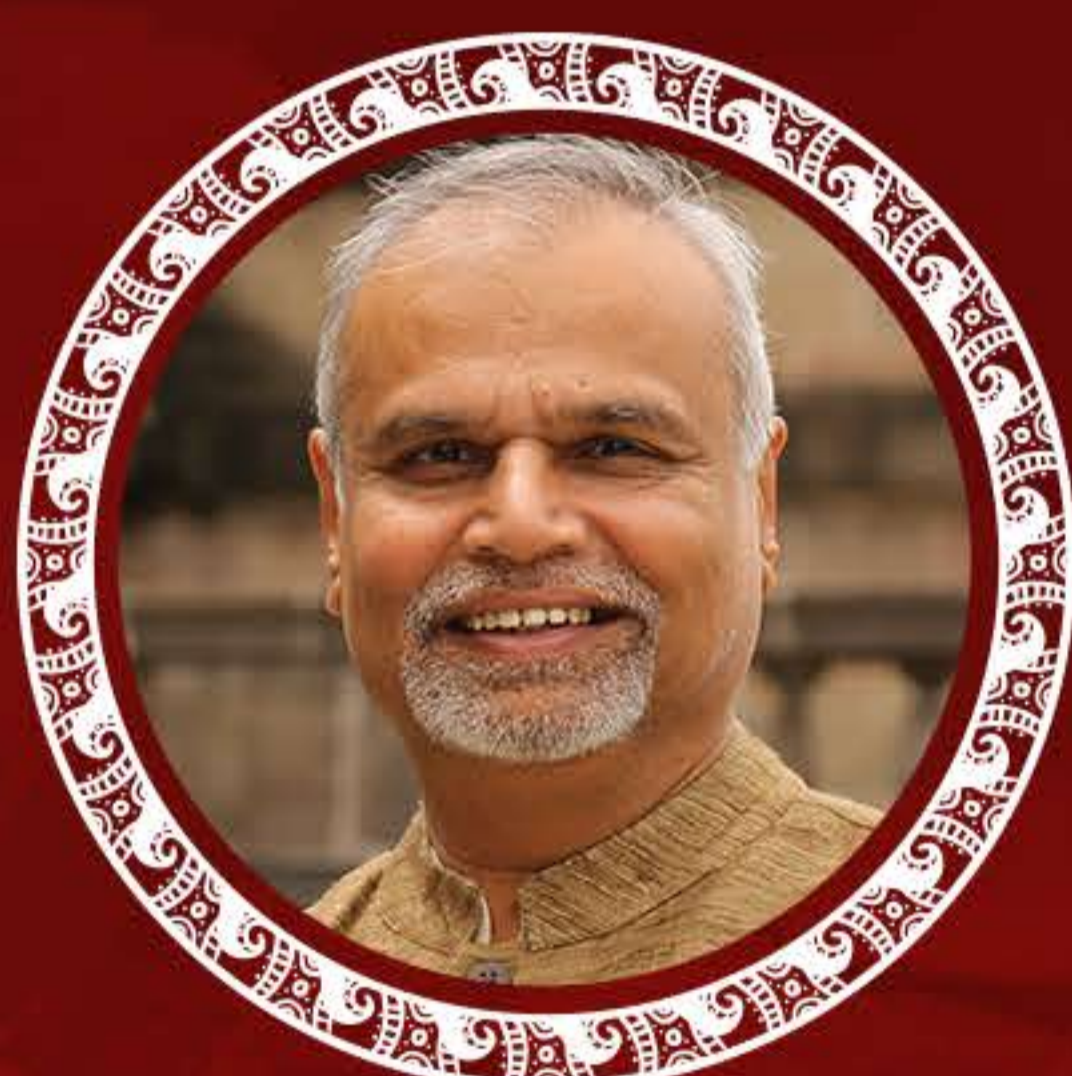
Revisiting the wisdom in tribal medicine to explore and promote traditional ways of healing

The 2016 edition of Samvaad was designed around the central theme Traditional healing practices- relevance and opportunities in the forms of medicine and thereafter at each subsequent edition of Samvaad, dedicated workshops on the subject have been held to support health practitioners in preservation of tribal healthcare knowledge, equipping them to get due certifications and recognition in the hope of encouraging the next generation to take up traditional healthcare which has proved a viable option for the rural masses.

Samvaad 2019 witnessed the formation of the first-ever 'National Tribal Traditional Healers Association of India' a collective that believes in the power of tribal healing systems and a first step towards advocating for the cause. A core committee of this association is also in place.

At Samvaad 2020, the healers collective will focus on 3 broad outcomes – (a) reflecting on the altered circumstances for the last few months, in terms of COVID-19 as well as progress made by the pan-India healers' association, (b) revisiting the significance of indigenous healing systems in the emerging public health narrative and (c) curating the near and long-term strategies of the pan-India healers' association.

IN CONVERSATION WITH



Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan

Dr. Patwardhan, a biomedical scientist, is a Fellow of National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Medical Sciences, India. Currently, he is Chairman (Additional Charge) - Indian Council of Social Science Research, Vice Chairman - UGC, New Delhi and member - National Board of Examination. He has also contributed towards policy-making committees and taskforces of the National Knowledge Commission, Planning Commission, NITI Ayog, and Ministry of AYUSH. He has made original contributions in evidence-based Ayurveda especially in Ayurvedic biology, ethnopharmacology, natural product drug development and integrative approaches, to improve public health system. He is founder Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine published by Elsevier and is on the Editorial Boards of many reputed Journals. He is a recipient of many orations and awards. WHO, Geneva awarded him for a study on the role of traditional medicine in public health.

He has published two scholarly books 'Integrative Approaches for Health' and 'Innovative Approaches to Drug Discovery'. He holds 8 Indian Patents, 2 US Patents, with over 8,500 citations.



Dr. Unnikrishnan Payyappallimana

Dr. Unnikrishnan Payyappallimana completed his Ph.D. in International Development at the Yokohama National University, Japan. He has an undergraduate degree in medicine, specialising in Ayurveda and a master's degree in Medical Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He was a doctoral and postdoctoral fellow at the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). Currently, he is a Visiting Research Fellow at the United Nations University-International Institute of Global Health (UNU-IIGH) and holds a visiting Professorship at the University of Transdisciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bangalore, India.

His work focuses primarily on the research and application of traditional medicine to meet primary health care in local communities, and scoping out their relevance in public health policy. He has co-authored and edited several books, journal articles and book chapters in the field of traditional medicine, health system studies, traditional knowledge, biodiversity and sustainable development. His main research interests include traditional medicine in health systems, public health, medical pluralism, traditional knowledge epistemology, science-policy interface and sustainable development.



Professor G. Hariramamurthi

Professor G. Hariramamurthi holds a Bachelors of Arts (Honours) from School of Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has undergone Management Development Programmes in HMT Limited, Bengaluru and Institute of Rural Management, Anand. He heads the Centre for Local Health Traditions and Policy at the University of Trans Disciplinary Health Sciences, in Bengaluru. He is the Advisor to the National Federation of Traditional Healers Associations of India.

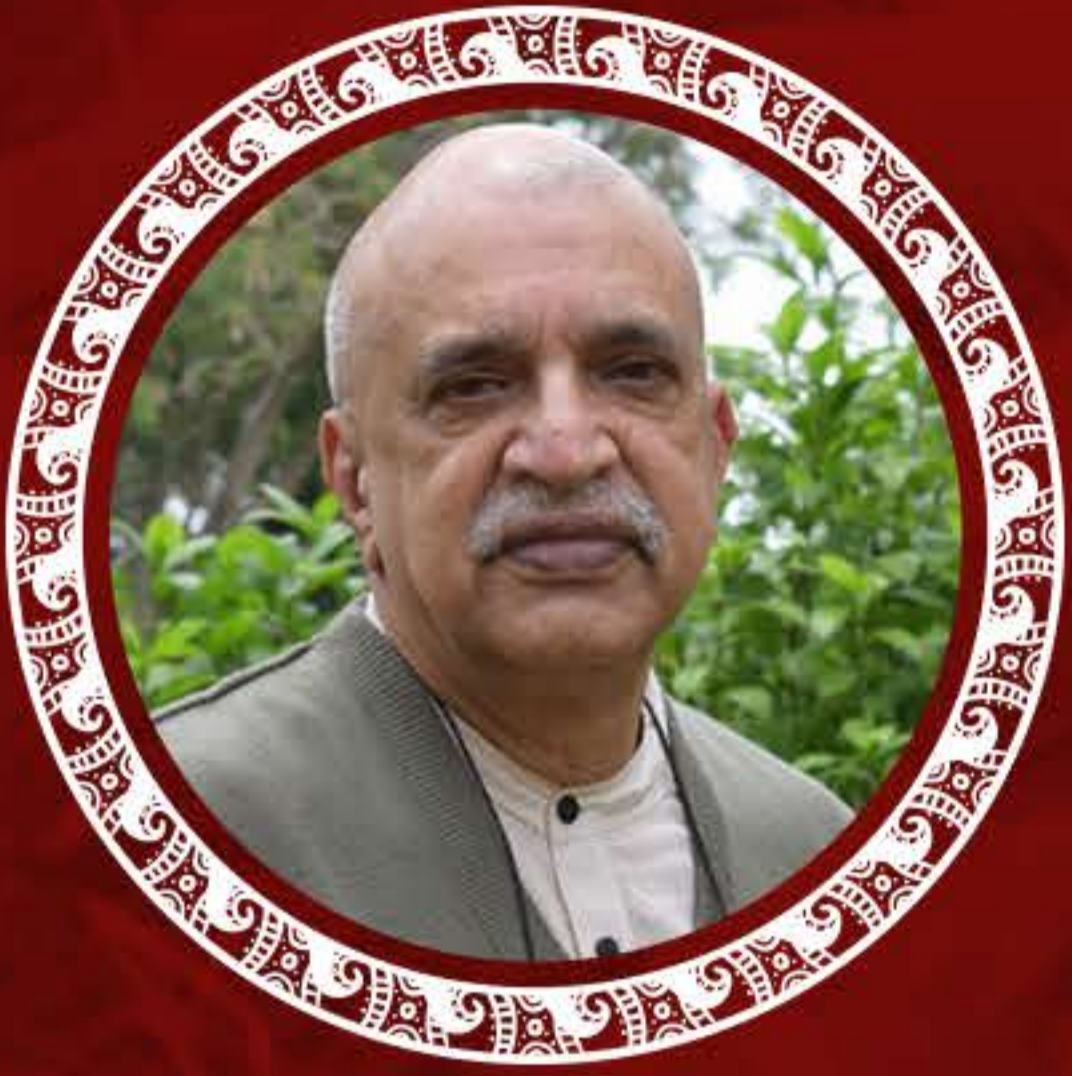
He collaborated with IGNOU to coordinate the implementation of the pilot scheme of accreditation and certification of prior knowledge of Traditional Community Healthcare Providers in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with Quality Council of India and the Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions. He has contributed towards the capacity building of NGOs, the Traditional Healer Associations and Women Self Help Groups in the documentation and assessment of Local Health Traditions in India, Kenya, Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand and Uganda. He has also supported with the capacity building of NGOs, the Traditional Healer Associations, women self-help groups, farmers and NTFP gatherers in the establishment of 15 community owned enterprises across 7 peninsular states of India. Professor Hari has contributed papers and chapters, in more than 14 peer reviewed international journals and books.



Nirmal Kumar Awasthi

Nirmal Kumar Awasthi, from Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, holds a Bachelors of Commerce degree and is a Traditional Physician & Village Botanist with over 28 years of experience and has been an adviser to the Herbal Health Magazine. He has helped in the financial development of tribal communities of traditional healers. He has formulated policies for Chhattisgarh State Medicinal Plant Sector in collaboration with a non-profit under UNDP project. He also provides support to the SHG - Sarojani Grahmin Vikas Mahila Sansthan, Korbases for procurement of herbal products.

Presently, he is the Secretary of Traditional Healers Association of Chhattisgarh and also the coordinator of Lok Swasthya Pramapara Samvardhan Abhiyan India. He is a member of the International Traditional Healing System of Development, under the Society for Ethnopharmacology, UK. He has received the Ayurveda Shiromani Award by Ayurveda Vishwa Parishad, New Delhi (2009), the Best Stall Award by the Governor of Chhattisgarh (2010) and the Equator Initiative Award from the Ex-Vice President of New York, by UNDP (2014). He has also been a part of several National and International Seminars, Conferences and Events.



Padma Shri Darshan Shankar

Padma Shri Darshan Shankar is the Founder Trustee of Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions and Vice Chancellor of the University of Trans Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology. His core contributions lie in the field of educational innovation. He started his career in 1973, at the University of Bombay, where he designed and implemented a post graduate 'experiential' learning program that won a Commonwealth Award in 1976, for being the best program in the Commonwealth, for linking University education to community needs.

Darshan worked as a young faculty at the University of Bombay from 1973 to 1980.

In 1993, he moved to Bengaluru, where along with Sam Pitroda, he founded the Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions, and later the Trans-Disciplinary University.

He has won several national and international awards viz. Commonwealth Award (1976), Norman Borlaug Award (1998) for contributions to conservation of wild populations of medicinal plants, Columbia University's International Award (2003) for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and in 2011, the Govt. of India conferred on him, the Padma Shri.

He has held several honorary positions including advisor (ISM), Planning Commission, Govt. of India, Member, National Biodiversity Authority, National Wildlife Board, Executive Board of Global Initiative for Traditional Systems, Oxford, UK, Academic Council, Rajasthan Ayurvedic University, Jodhpur, Convener, Working Group on Traditional Health Sciences of the National Knowledge Commission, among many other esteemed positions. He has written one book, chapters in several books, and peer reviewed articles in national and international publications



Sriparna Ganguly Choudhary

Sriparna Ganguly Choudhary is a gender and governance specialist. In her role as an independent development consultant, she advises non-profit and CSR organizations in strategic planning, program development & implementation, knowledge management and impact assessment. In her career spanning 30 years, she has held leadership roles in both non-profits and corporate FMCG companies. More recently, she built and led the Democracy and Governance Collaborative at Dasra. She has worked extensively with rural women; especially those elected to Gram Panchayats and has been instrumental in building a collective of 3,000 elected women in Karnataka. Sriparna is an alumnus of Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).



Bhanwar Dhabai

Bhanwar Dhabai is the founding member of the Rashtriya Guni Mission, Rajasthan, an organization working with the local traditional healers for revitalizing the traditional healing system. She has more than 30 years of experience in working with traditional healing system, conservation of medicinal herbs and medicine preparation. She has been part of many national & international conferences and has presented a paper on community health through traditional medicine expertise. She has been awarded with SEVA RATNA in 2004 by FICCI & VHERDS. She has been honored with Health Excellence Award in 2000 by International Institute of Health Sciences & Alternative Medicines, Calcutta, West Bengal, India. She also has other national and international awards and recognition to her name.



Dr. Sarin N S

Dr. Sarin spent the initial eight years of his career as an Ayurvedic Physician, employed in a full-time clinical role in a hospital setting at Coimbatore. He, thereafter, pursued his Masters in Public Health from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and has been working as a Public Health researcher since then. He considers himself to be 'a physician at heart with a research aptitude'. His broad area of interest in research is in Health Systems and Policy Research and of particular interest is the strengthening and mainstreaming of AYUSH streams of medicine. He is currently pursuing a Doctoral study in Public Health in relation to Health Systems Governance towards pluralistic and integrative healthcare.