

## **FICCI-NABL & IMA creates Awareness on Importance of Quality in Lab Practice**

*Emphasis on 'quality of report & services' which forms the backbone of clinical lab practices*

**Pune, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2012:** The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in partnership with The National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and the Indian Medical Association (IMA) organized a seminar on the "Importance of Quality in Lab Practice" at the IMA House, Pune. With the prime agenda for maximizing excellence in laboratory services, leading laboratories including Metropolis Healthcare Ltd., Dr Lal Pathlabs, and Oncquest Laboratories came at a common platform under the banner of FICCI Diagnostic Committee chaired by Ms. Ameera Shah, MD and CEO, Metropolis Healthcare Ltd. With a total of 50,000 pathology and diagnostic labs in India, only 300 laboratories are accredited by NABL or College of American Pathologists (CAP) which symbolize a benchmark for quality in laboratory medicine.

The panel discussion moderated by Dr Jatinder Bhatia, Chief of Lab Services North India, Metropolis Healthcare Ltd reiterated the need for customer satisfaction, quality, accreditation, regulations and standardization of lab services in India. Eminent panelists from medical and diagnostic field participated in this discussion. Dr. Bhatia said, "NABL accreditation for a laboratory is equivalent to an ISI mark on manufacturing goods. However with awareness on the importance of accreditations lacking amongst the users of lab services, government needs to take necessary steps to ensure that lab accreditation is made mandatory. With FICCI being the voice of the industry, this initiative serves as the best platform to spread the word of quality across the country through seminars and awareness campaigns.

The concepts of the NABL were elaborated on by speakers like Ms Devaki Devi, Accreditation Officer Gr.I, NABL and Dr Uttara Joshi, Consultant Pathologist, Golwilkar Metropolis Health Services (I) Pvt. Ltd. Key management from the leading labs and other health organizations like Ruby Hall Clinic, Prashanti Cancer Care Mission, affirmed the fact that National Accreditation Board Limited (NABL) is the highest quality standard in lab services available in the country today. They ensured that the tests done in Indian NABL labs are at par with the world's best labs.

FICCI announced that these seminars will be held in different cities of the country along with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and prominent Indian laboratories on regular basis to sensitize physicians who are the key stakeholders of these laboratory services for their patients. We will hold presentations on all aspects of NABL and have panel discussions on various angles of patient satisfaction, quality, accuracy and laboratory service"

The size of pathology industry in India is around 10,000 crores and out of this about 1000 crore is handled by organized sector comprising of handful of top laboratories. The remaining 90% of the work is handled by the unorganized fragmented sector. It is expected that such initiatives will certainly go a long way in ensuring that lab accreditation is made mandatory not only in the organized sector but in the unorganized fragmented sector as well.

MEDIA DIVISION