

29 October, 2015

ACHS International Medal Winner 2015 Announced

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has awarded the **ACHS International Medal 2015** to Dr Mohammed Sahadulla from Kerala, India in recognition of his 'outstanding contribution at an international level to improving quality and safety in health services'. This is the second time ACHS has presented the award.

"Dr Sahadulla is highly respected in India as a leader in establishing and developing hospital quality standards and making a substantial difference at a local, regional and international level," said ACHS President, Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar.

"The ACHS International Medal acknowledges an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the area of quality and safety, and one that also furthers the work and profile of ACHS internationally. Through his commitment to quality improvement, Dr Sahadulla is a very worthy recipient of this award."

"He has been a strong driver of improvement in quality standards and as the owner of KIMS Group (which has six Indian hospitals, as well as three in the Middle East, and five polyclinics throughout the Gulf region) has had a major impact over the last decade.

"He has been a quality pioneer throughout India with a focus on good clinical practices to ensure patient safety. This includes prioritised access to care, and championing the development of Indian emergency medicine, a new and under-developed specialty. He regards the Emergency Department as the hospital's "welcome door" and focuses on ensuring that clinical staff properly triage and treat patients within international guidelines. A US-style residency program was initiated, providing academic support from a Level 1 trauma centre to ensure all ED residents experienced high quality academics.

Trained at Trivandrum in India, Dr Sahdulla migrated to the UK in the 1970s and obtained a MBM degree at Hull University.

ACHS President Linegar said in the citation for Dr Sahadulla, "His philosophy about quality is at the core of all KIMS decisions."

"All KIMS EM residents are required to work in the community and actively teach CPR and basic first aid to any organisation that asks. Furthermore, to ensure patient safety, all KIMS employees must attend mandatory orientation activities. Regular audits are performed on clinical outcomes and are published for staff. KIMS also publishes two internal academic journals to encourage academic and patient safety activities.

Dr Sahadulla has been a strong force for change in India, making KIMS a role model for other Indian hospitals. He encourages KIMS staff to exceed the minimum standards and treat patients as we ourselves would wish to be treated.

"Dr Sahadulla's has a strong record as an advocate for quality and safety and we are delighted to give him the ACHS International Medal 2015," Adj Assoc Prof Linegar said.

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