

社長文告

Septhi Bergerson



各位親愛的改變者：

由於目前全球疫情仍威脅我們及我們關愛的人之安全，公共衛生成為眾人關注的焦點。就某種意義上來說，新冠疫情讓我們比在必須戴口罩及保持社交距離之前，更深刻意識到醫療專業人員的角色及責任。此外，在渡過這場疫情的同時，我們也必須瞭解我們在保持他人安全所扮演的角色。

12月是扶輪的疾病預防與治療月。這次的全球疫情讓大多數人深刻瞭解到疾病對我們社區所造成的嚴重傷害。可是對抗疾病是扶輪社員數十年來都在做的事。事實上，它是扶輪的七大焦點領域之一。

身為扶輪社員，我們相信健康及幸福是人類的基本權利——即使全球各地4,000萬人無法取得基本醫療服務。我們開設診所、眼科醫院，及捐血庫，並為醫療資源不足之社區的醫療設施打造基礎建設，這些工作都回歸到一個中心理念——要遏止致命疫情傷害最容易受傷的人，取得服務、預防，及教育乃是主要關鍵。

我接觸醫療工作是從我的扶輪社——加爾各答-馬哈納哥 (Calcutta-Mahanagar) 扶輪社開始。在那裡，我的工作之一是協助開辦一項叫做「拯救小小心臟」(Saving Little Hearts) 的計畫。這些年來該計畫已經提供超過2,500次的免費心臟手術給來自印度、巴基斯坦、孟加拉、尼泊爾，及非洲的兒童。在該計畫擴大至國際之前，它是從

地方開始，目標只是提供6項手術給社區。今天，我們的目標是在接下來5年之內再完成2萬次手術。

世界仰賴扶輪來面對像這樣的挑戰，並為他人樹立典範。過去10年來，在扶輪於世界各地主辦的家庭健康日中，醫療專業人員及政府提供免費的醫療服務給10個國家的250萬人。印度類似的保健營也提供數千次手術給貧苦者。印度每年的非洲醫療團就是透過親手服務來預防及治療疾病的絕佳範例。扶輪社員也參與地方層次的服務；舉例來說，美國及墨西哥的扶輪社資助墨西哥小鎮奎瑞羅 (Querero) 的免費健康診所。

當然，我們根除小兒麻痺的努力顯然是民間社會推動醫療保健的佳話。

這個月，請思考貴社要如何著重預防及對抗疾病。這個時機正適合採取更大、更好、更大膽的策略，透過扶輪社及地區的計畫來影響更多人。訂定可以讓改變維持很多年——而非幾個月——的策略。

每個人都值得長壽、健康的人生。當你以服務改善人生，你今日的行動便可以協助延長他人的生命。

Shekhar Mehra

梅塔

國際扶輪社長

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



GREETINGS, DEAR CHANGEMAKERS OF ROTARY,

Public health is on everyone's mind due to the global pandemic that still threatens the safety of ourselves and our loved ones. In a sense, COVID-19 has made all of us much more aware of the roles and responsibilities of medical professionals than we were before we had to wear masks and maintain social distance. In addition, while moving through this pandemic, we have also learned about the role we can play in keeping others safe.

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month in Rotary. The pandemic unfortunately has schooled most people on the toll that disease takes on our communities. But fighting disease is something that Rotarians around the world have been doing for decades. In fact, it is one of Rotary's seven areas of focus.

As Rotarians, we believe that good health and well-being is a human right — even though 400 million people across the globe do not have access to essential health services. The work we do in establishing clinics, eye hospitals, and blood banks, as well as in building infrastructure for medical facilities in underserved communities, all returns to a central belief that access, prevention, and education are the keys to stopping deadly outbreaks that harm the most vulnerable.

My exposure to health work began with my Rotary club, Calcutta-Mahanagar. There, among other things, I helped pioneer a program called Saving Little Hearts that over the years has provided more than 2,500 free heart surgeries for children from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Africa. Before the program went international, it started locally with the goal of perform-

ing just six surgeries within our community. Today, our goal is to complete another 20,000 surgeries over the next five years.

The world relies on Rotary to tackle challenges like these and to set an example for others. Over the past decade, medical professionals and government workers have provided free health services to 2.5 million people in 10 countries during Family Health Days, which are organized by Rotarians around the world. Similar health camps in India also provide thousands of surgeries to those in need. Medical missions from India to Africa each year are an excellent example of hands-on service in disease prevention and treatment. Rotary members can also get involved at a local level; clubs in the United States and Mexico, for example, fund a free health clinic in Guerrero, a small town in Mexico.

And of course, our effort to eradicate polio is by far the best story in civil-society health care.

This month, think about how your club can focus on preventing and fighting disease. This is the time to take a bigger, better, bolder approach through both club and district projects that can impact more people. Re-evaluate where you are with your goals. Create strategies that can sustain change over years, not months.

Everyone deserves a long, healthy life. When you *Serve to Change Lives*, your actions today can help extend the lives of others.

Shekhar Mehta

President, Rotary International