

Report on CAN KERALA AROICON 2026

To

Dr V Srinivasan

Secretary General, Association of Radiation Oncologists of India

Sir

Subject: Brief Report on the Successful Conduct of CAN KERALA AROICON 2026 for Inclusion in the Upcoming AROI National Newsletter – reg.

The Kerala Chapter of the Association of Radiation Oncologists of India is pleased to submit this brief report on the successful conduct of **CAN KERALA AROICON 2026**, held from 20th to 22nd February 2026 at Casino Hotels Ltd., Thrissur. The conference was organised as the Annual Conference of the Kerala Chapter and was held in the distinguished setting of the Golden Jubilee year commemorating **50 years of AROI in India**.

The meeting brought together radiation oncologists, clinical oncologists, postgraduate trainees, and a wide spectrum of allied specialists involved in cancer care, including colleagues from medical oncology, surgical oncology, gynaecologic oncology, pathology, palliative care, public health, and related disciplines. Participation was drawn from academic institutions, government medical colleges, cancer centres, general hospitals and private hospitals across Kerala and beyond. A total of **267 registrations** were recorded, reflecting the wide interest and strong professional engagement the conference generated.

The scientific programme was extensive, well curated, and contemporary in content. It addressed major disease sites and practice domains in oncology through lectures, panel discussions, paper presentations, poster sessions, quizzes, and interactive forums. The sessions were academically rich and clinically relevant, with a notable emphasis on practical decision-making, multidisciplinary care, evolving technologies, quality standards, training, survivorship, and communication. The overall tenor of the programme was one of seriousness of purpose, intellectual openness, and lively participation.

A particularly important feature of this conference was the conduct of the scientific programme in **two parallel halls**, a first for the Kerala Chapter at the state conference level. This format enabled broader academic coverage and better time utilisation, while accommodating parallel streams of subspecialty discussions, trainee sessions, policy-oriented deliberations, and scientific presentations. In many ways, this appeared to be a pioneering format not only within the state chapter, but possibly among state-level oncology meetings in the country, and it added both scale and depth to the conference.

Special mention must be made of the memorial orations, which gave the conference a sense of dignity and academic distinction. The **Prof. R. Mahadevan Memorial Oration**, delivered by **Dr Dinesh M**, reflected on the progress of precision radiation therapy and its contribution to quality cancer care and outcomes over the past two decades. The **Prof. A. Sudhakaran Memorial**

Oration, delivered by **Dr Pushpaja K U**, addressed survivorship in head and neck cancer and thoughtfully highlighted the importance of care beyond cure. These orations were among the defining features of the conference and were received with deep appreciation.

Another major strength of CAN KERALA AROICON 2026 was its deliberate and meaningful focus on **cancer policy**, an area that often remains underrepresented in state-level scientific meetings. The sessions on cancer policy moved beyond routine academic discussion and addressed broader questions of access, accountability, ethics, planning, delivery models, and the future direction of cancer care in Kerala. The discussions on whether investments and decisions are being made rightly, and on how cancer care may be reimaged from centralised treatment to networked care, gave the meeting a wider public health relevance. This policy emphasis was one of the most significant and distinctive achievements of the conference, and may well be regarded as one of the first efforts of its kind at this level in the state, and perhaps even nationally.

The inaugural session was conducted with dignity and warmth. The **Welcome Address** was delivered by **Dr Prema K R**, Chairperson of the Organising Committee. The **Presidential Address** was delivered by **Dr K L Jayakumar**, President, Kerala AROI. The conference was formally inaugurated by **Dr C S Madhu**, President-Elect. The **Keynote Address** was delivered by **Dr V Srinivasan**, Secretary General, AROI, as Guest of Honour. The **Report and Felicitations** were presented by **Dr Sabarinath P S**, Secretary, Kerala AROI. **Felicitations** were offered by **Dr Arun Shanker S**, Editor, and the **Vote of Thanks** was delivered by **Dr Ajithkumar V R**, Organising Secretary.

The General Body Meeting of the Kerala Chapter was also held during the conference and was marked by active participation and constructive deliberation. A range of organisational, academic, administrative, and policy matters came up for discussion, reflecting the seriousness with which the chapter continues to engage with its responsibilities and future direction.

Taken as a whole, CAN KERALA AROICON 2026 was not merely a successful annual meeting, but a conference of substance, maturity, and vision. It combined scientific merit, organisational strength, historical significance, and professional fellowship in a manner worthy of the Golden Jubilee year of AROI in India. The conference strengthened academic exchange within the oncology community, encouraged younger colleagues, and reaffirmed the Kerala Chapter's commitment to the larger mission of AROI. The chapter also looks forward to its next annual conference, which is scheduled to be held at Kozhikode.

With regards



Dr Sabarinath P S

Secretary, AROI Kerala Chapter