In our weekly meeting on September 14, 2018 President Rtn Ashok Puri welcomed the chief guest Dr Navita Luthra Mallalieu from USA, Director Clinical Pharmacology, Roche Pharmaceuticals. She is daughter of Late Rtn Col Dr Jawahar Luhtra, and was accompanied in the meeting by her mother Rtn Indu Luthra and sister PP Rtn Kavita Vij of Rotary Club of Delhi South Metropolitan. Kavita is also Past Assistant Governor.

Dr Navita was formally introduced by Rtn Shuchi Thakur as a graduate of Carmel Convent High School, MCM DAV and Panjab University, Chandigarh. She got Bachelor’s Degree in Pharmacy before leaving for USA to pursue higher education. She earned a Ph.D. from Rutgers University in Pharmaceutical Sciences. After a brief stint in Procter and Gamble she joined a Swiss based multi-national company, Roche Pharmaceuticals, fifth largest pharmaceutical company in the world, employing 90,000 employees. Navita has over 20 years of experience in drug development. She has to her credit over a dozen publications in journals and published a chapter in a drug development book.

In her colourful presentation Dr Navita introduced herself as, “Product of India, mostly Chandigarh.” She gave an interesting outline on Drug Development, Autism and Fragile X. She explained that drug development is a long and expensive process. Developing a new medicine on average takes at least 10 years and costs $2.6 billion. She explained how these developments went through very costly large scale failures, before they achieve success.

Her experience on Autism, a serious developmental disability that impairs the ability to communicate, was quite practical as in her neighbourhood there were 5 year old twin boys of this disorder, and she was pleased to talk about her personal interaction with them, accepting them as her own! There are 70 million children worldwide with Autistic disorder, including 10 million in India. She explained how Fragile X is related to Autism. Prominent characteristic of this syndrome are elongated face, large or protruding ears and low muscle tone.

Dr Navita highlighted Rotary and Autism, describing Rotarians as People of Action, bringing hope to millions of patients, both in terms of financial and emotional support by helping people wherever they are. She said Rotarians take action to create lasting change, and provide supportive treatment.

On behalf of our Club, Rtn Dr Col VK Kapoor thanked Dr Navita Luthra Mallalieu for a very informative presentation and sharing her valuable experience in drug development research.
IPP Dr Rita and Rtn Dr Sanjay Kalra present a sapling to chief guest Dr Navita. Looking on is President Ashok Puri.

IPP Dr Rita Kalra presents awards of Rotary year 2017-18 to PP Rtn Amarjit Singh.

PP Rtn Dr Vanita Gupta presents PHF pins and certificates to Rtn Ravinder Jain and Rtn Shuchi Thakur. Looking on are President Rtn Ashok Puri and IPP Rtn Dr Rita Kalra.

Serving through Swatchta

Rotary Chandigarh Midtown in association with Panchkula administration and Civil Hospital, Sector 6, Panchkula performed the “Swatchta He Sewa” Project, which has been initiated by Govt of India under the Swatch Bharat Campaign and would continue from 15.09.2018 to 02.10.2018. The project was coordinated by IPP Dr Rita Kalra and was attended by Officers and senior Doctors from the Administration and the Hospital. Our Club was represented by President Ashok Puri, PDG Shaju Peter, PP BL Ramsiarla, PP Prem Anand, PP RK Luther, PP RTPS Tuls, PP Kanan Diwan, PP Deepak Sood, PE Salil Bali, Rtn Jeeten Bhambari, DCS Dr Sanjay Kalra, Rtn Ravinder Jain, Rtn Shashikant Adokar, Rtn Shuchi Thakur, First Lady R’ann Sudha Puri, R’ann Ranjana Tuls, Rtr Dr Ruchir Kalra, IPP Rtr Nandan and 7 other Rotaractors.

Tree plantation was also undertaken and Nukad Natak on Swachta was presented by School Children.

Traffic Safety Awareness Drive – Helmets including for Women is Statutory requirement

Helmet distributed by Rotarians of Chandigarh Midtown in traffic awareness drive

Second Phase of Traffic Awareness and Helmet Distribution to the Women two wheeler riders and pillion on 13.09.2018 was carried out at the Press Chowk, Sector 18. SP Operations, Chandigarh Mr Ravi Kumar, IPS led the drive. It is a matter of great joy that due to such awareness drives, now more than 80 percent of women riders are using helmets, which is now a statutory requirement even for women riders, as per directions of Hon’ble Supreme Court.

Block the date - September 29, 2018 (Saturday) for ‘Lead to Inspire Summit’ – Chief Guest: RI President Barry Rassin

Venue: Chandigarh Judicial Academy
Sector 43, Chandigarh

Time: 4 pm

Registration: Contact Secretary Salil Chopra
Rs 700 (Single) – Rs 1300 (Couple)

Please note: There will be no meeting on September 28, 2018 (Friday)
Facilities provided under GG-Happy Schools at GSSS Saketri

On 10.09.2018 our club inaugurated facilities provided at Government Senior Sec. School, Saketri. President Ashok Puri briefed the students about Rotary’s service to community and its role in polio eradication. Principal Ms Shalini Kapur welcomed the Rotarians and lauded Rotary for its service to the community. One library cabinet was presented to the school.

PP Amarjit Singh gave background of this project and explained various features of the specially designed school bags, which were given to 13 meritorious students. On behalf of School Ms Meena, Hindi Lecturer proposed formal vote of thanks. IPP Dr. Ritu Kalra, PP Vinod Jawa, Rtn Prof Rana Nayar and Rtn Subhash Vats were also present to inspire the students.
Acknowledgement with thanks
Kerala Flood Relief Fund
Rtn Balraj Singh Rs 10000
Rtn Salil Chopra Rs 5000

Birthday of Spouses
R’ann Urmil Luther September 23
R’ann Amanpreet Kaur September 26

Birthday of Rotarians
Rtn Sujit Kumar September 21
Rtn Surjit Singh Mann September 22
PP Rtn Anil K Mehan September 22
PP Rtn Dr Vanita Gupta September 26

Wedding anniversary
R’ann Raj & Rtn Dr Col VK Kapoor September 23

Punctuality Award
Won by PP Rtn Kanan Diwan, presented by Chief Guest Dr Navita. Looking on is President Ashok Puri.

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Tally for GST
Authorized Partner
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Chandigarh-160017, INDIA
Phone: +91-172-5072562, 93553615
Mob : +91-804401760
E-mail : as@softgimndia.com
Web : www.softgimndia.com

PP Rtn. Er. R.K. Luther
Tally Power of Simplicity
GET THE GST EDGE FOR YOUR BUSINESS
Authorized Partner
C.O.O.- OS (3rd Floor), Sector 47-C
Chandigarh-160017, INDIA
Phone: +91-172-5072562, 93553615
Mob : +91-804401760
E-mail : as@softgimndia.com
Web : www.softgimndia.com

PP Rtn. Er. R. K. Luther

Atul Fasteners Ltd.
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G-45, Phase III, Industrial Area, Mohali, Dist: Mohali (Punjab) India 160068
Phone: (0172) 4250000, 2271042, Fax: (0172) 227133, Mobile: 9814929287

All correspondence to the Editor: PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra
Consultant & Certified Clinical Partner, Otto Bock Healthcare India
Sr. Consultant - Artificial Limbs & Orthotics, Nevedac Prosthetic Clinic
MediRehab Systems, 1134 Sector 44-B, Chandigarh-160047
Email: drvjsvohra@gmail.com | Mob: 9814068229 | www.nevedac.com

Design & Printed at:
Satyadeep Offset Printers (P) Ltd
292, Industrial Area, Phase II
Chandigarh. Ph.: 4624942
Email: salil.bindra@gmail.com