

TELEMEDICON 2024

(Conference Report)

- Title and Date of the Conference:** 20th International Conference of Telemedicine Society of India (TSI) TELEMEDICON 2024. (28th to 30th November 2024), Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh
- Introduction and Objectives:** TELEMEDICON, 2024 the premier conference was dedicated to advancing telemedicine and digital health innovations. In a world where technology is transforming healthcare delivery, TELEMEDICON served as a vital platform to bring together visionaries, healthcare professionals, technologists, policymakers, and innovators. The event was designed to explore cutting-edge advancements, foster collaborations, and discuss challenges and opportunities shaping the future of telemedicine. The theme of the conference was "**Virtual Healthcare and the Role of AI.**

The comprehensive scientific program featured an array of sessions and workshops designed to equip professionals across industries and students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the evolving landscape of virtual healthcare. From setting up virtual practices and leveraging AI to navigating the legal and ethical complexities of telemedicine, the carefully curated topics delivered insightful, cutting-edge content. Through inspiring keynote addresses, thought-provoking panel discussions, and hands-on workshops, TELEMEDICON provided an unparalleled opportunity to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and network with global leaders in telehealth with an aim to drive forward sustainable, accessible, and efficient healthcare solutions for all.

- Venue, Chief Guest and Organizing committees:**

The TELEMEDICON conference was held at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. The sessions took place across three key venues: Bhargava Auditorium (Hall A), Lecture Theatre 1 (Hall B), and Lecture Theatre 2 (Hall C).

The **Chief Guest** and **Guest of honour** for the inaugural function of Telemedicon 2024 were:

- Chief Guest:** Shri Madhukar Kumar Bhagat, Joint Secretary, e-Health Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India.
- Guest of Honour:** Dr KK Talwar, Ex Director PGI Chandigarh and Chairman PSRI Hospital, New Delhi

The event was organized under the esteemed leadership of:

Chairperson: Prof. Biman Saikia

Organizing Secretary: Prof. Uma Nahar Saikia

Co-organizing Secretary cum Treasurer: Dr. Amit Agarwal

Their dedication and expertise ensure a well-curated platform to explore and advance the frontiers of telemedicine and digital health.

Scientific Committee:

- **Dr Sunil Shroff**

Chairman & Vice-President TSI

- **Dr B S Ratta**

- **Dr Biman Saikia**

Professor & HoD Dept of Immunopathology, PGIMER & Organizing Chairman

- **Dr Uma Nahar Saikia**

Professor Histopathology, PGIMER & Organizing Secretary

- **Dr Thanga Prabhu**

- **Dr Uma Shankar**

Honorary Secretary, TSI

- **Dr Nusrat Shafiq**

Professor Pharmacology, PGIMER & Co-organizing Chairperson

- **Dr Anish Bhattacharya**

Professor Nuclear Medicine, PGIMER

- **Dr Mahesh Devnani**

Professor & HoD Dept of Hospital Administration, AIIMS, Jodhpur

- **Dr Amit Agarwal**

Project Lead, RRC, Dept of Telemedicine

- **Dr Liza Das**

Consultant Internal Medicine (Endocrinology)

- **Dr Atul Arora**

Consultant Ophthalmology (Vitreo-Retina)

- **Dr Jerin k Shekhar**

Consultant Paediatrics (Intensive Care Unit)

- **Dr Anil E**

Consultant Obstetrics & Gynaecology

- **Dr Arun Prabhahar**
Consultant Internal Medicine (Nephrology)
- **Dr Sanjay Sood**
Associate Director & Project Director e-Sanjeevani
GOI, C-DAC Mohali
- **Dr Ravi Modali**

Local Organizing Committee:

- Prof. Biman Saikia (Chairperson)
- Prof. Uma Nahar Saikia (Organizing Secretary)
- Dr. Amit Agarwal (Co-organizing Secretary cum Treasurer)
- Dr. Anil Chauhan (Co-treasurer)

Executive Members

- Prof. Savita Malhotra
- Prof. Anish Bhattacharya
- Dr. Mahesh Devnani
- Dr. Richa Gupta
- Dr. Brijdeep Singh
- Mr. Pankaj Pant
- Mrs. Maanvi Saikia
- Dr. Liza Das
- Dr. Arun Prabhahar
- Dr. Atul Arora
- Dr. Anil E

4. Conference Agenda

- **Keynote Speeches:**
 - a) Dr Meenu Singh: Evolution of telemedicine (International & India)
 - b) Dr Alok Modi: Steps involved in design and development including ethical issues in AI
 - c) Dr Kim R: Presidential oration (Evolution of Telemedicine)
- **Panel Discussions:**

- a) Tele-pathology Unplugged: Next Gen Diagnostics and AI Convergence
- b) Tele-Technology in Facilitating Organ Transplant
- c) AI for Diabetic Retinopathy

- **Workshops:**

- A) Wadhwani AI: AI readiness
- B) Telemedicine & Digital Health for AYUSH doctors
- C) Tele-ICU
- D) Digital Data & technology in Nursing

5. **Oral/Poster Sessions:** The event featured a total of **12 award papers, 11 free papers, and 27 posters**, showcasing significant advancements and research. There were **three Best Oral Paper Awards and three Best Poster Awards**.

Titles and awardees:

A) Best Poster Presentations:

Dr. Brijdeep Singh (Department of Telepathology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. brijdeep@gmail.com) - **Tele-Ocular Pathology: Evaluating Remote Diagnostic Accuracy through Email Submissions**

Gaurang Baxi (Game Designer Volunteer, Friends N Smile Foundation baxigaurang@outlook.com)- **Serious Games in Healthcare: A New Frontier for Indian Healthcare Innovation**

Dr. K Hima Bindu (Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad himabindukotamarthy@gmail.com) - **The first survey on nurses' knowledge attitude and practice on connected care monitoring in wards**

B) Best Oral Presentations:

Dr. Brijdeep Singh (Department of Telepathology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. brijdeep@gmail.com) - **Advancing Telepathology: Experience from a Tertiary care centre of Excellence**

Ankita Kumar (Director - Mocxa Health Private Limited ankita.kumar@gmail.com) -

Revolutionizing Home Healthcare: Smartphone- based video-electroencephalography for neurological disorders

Dr. Jatinder Kumar (PGIMER, Chandigarh. kumar.jatinder@pgimer.edu.in)- **Improving thyroid Nodule Evaluation using deep Learning and Ultrasound Imaging**

6. Credit Hours Announcement for TELEMEDICON 2024:

TELEMEDICON 2024 was accredited with **11 CME Credit Hours** by **Punjab Medical Council** for participating medical professionals. Additionally, nursing students attending the conference workshop on “Digital Data & technology in Nursing” earned **5 Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) hours**, with each hour equivalent to **1 CNE credit**.

7. Key Topics Covered:

TELEMEDICON 2024 showcased an array of thought-provoking sessions and plenary discussions, highlighting the latest advancements and trends in telemedicine and digital health. Key topics included:

- Trajectory of Telemedicine: Evolution of Telemedicine (International and India).**

Dr. Meenu Singh (Executive Director, AIIMS Rishikesh) provided an insightful overview of the global and Indian journey of telemedicine, examining its growth, impact, and future directions.

- Tele Education & AR/VR for Health Education**

Moderated by **Prof. Sunil Shroff** (Vice President, TSI), this session explored the transformative potential of augmented and virtual reality in enhancing health education and telelearning, bridging the gap between traditional and digital methodologies.

- Space Medicine: From Theory to Practice**

Moderated by **Dr. Murthy Remilla, (Scientist, UR Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO)** this plenary session delved into the fascinating realm of space medicine, discussing its theoretical foundations and practical applications for human health in extraterrestrial environments.

- Technology as a Disruptor in Critical Care**

Dr. Mandar Vaidya (CEO Cloud physician) shed light on how innovative technologies are

reshaping critical care, emphasizing the role of telemedicine in improving patient outcomes and redefining healthcare delivery.

These sessions underscored the dynamic intersections of technology, education, and specialized medical fields, paving the way for transformative innovations in healthcare.

8. Major Highlights and Press Release.

Advancing Virtual Healthcare and AI at PGIMER, Chandigarh (28th & 29th November 2024)

TELEMEDICON 2024, hosted by the Department of Telemedicine, PGIMER, Chandigarh, in collaboration with the Telemedicine Society of India, Chandigarh Chapter, commenced on November 28, 2024. With the theme "Virtual Healthcare and the Role of AI," the conference has garnered attention from healthcare and technology experts across India.

Dr. Biman Saikia, chairperson, inaugurated the first session on AI in Healthcare. Renowned urologist Dr. Sunil Shroff delivered an enlightening talk on intelligent medicine: how AI is shaping the future of healthcare, followed by Dr. Alok Modi, who discussed the ethical dimensions and challenges posed by AI in healthcare, and Dr. Kim R., who elaborated on AI applications in ophthalmology, especially in diabetic retinopathy.

A plenary session on the trajectory of telemedicine by Dr. Meenu Singh emphasized the rapid evolution of telemedicine, chaired by Dr. K. K. Talwar, Ex-Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh, and Dr. Prem Nair, Director, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences. Further sessions explored telemedicine in health promotion, prevention, and lifestyle management. Dr. Shriram V. Kulkarni from Mumbai shared insights into leveraging AI accessibility in underserved regions.

The Tele-Ophthalmology Society of India (TOSI) session included talks by Dr. T. Senthil on business models for tele-ophthalmology and innovative methods for early detection of diseases by Dr. B. N. R. Subudhi. The day also featured a session on telemedicine for elder care by Dr. Rajeev Agarwal and Dr. Thanga Prabhu. Parallel sessions on tele-dermatopathology and tele-yoga provided further depth, along with a dedicated workshop on AI readiness by Wadhwani AI.

The inaugural ceremony, held in the evening, was presided over by Shri Madhukar Kumar Bhagat, Joint Secretary, E-Health Section, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with Prof. K. K. Talwar and Prof. R. K. Ratho, Dean of Academics, PGIMER, Chandigarh, as Guests of Honour.

The second day commenced with a workshop on setting up a virtual practice, and sessions addressing legal, ethical, and regulatory considerations in telemedicine, use of personal data in healthcare, data

privacy and ethics in healthcare, and an assessment of Telemedicine Practice Guidelines (TPG) by Dr. Ashvini Goel.

A presidential oration by Dr. Kim R. and a session on tele-education and AR/VR in health education, highlighted the role of technology in medical learning. The plenary session on space medicine showcased presentations by **Dr. D. K. Singh, Jayakumar Venkateshan and Dr. Murthy Remilla from ISRO**, emphasizing importance of healthcare in space. Afternoon sessions focused on telemedicine's impact on rural health and tele-palliative care.

In addition, telemedicine in childhood health, AI in medical devices and AI applications in emergency care were discussed. Many free papers and award-winning papers were presented by young professionals. This was followed by a panel discussion on tele-pathology unplugged – NextGen diagnostics & AI convergence, brought together by an expert panel. The concluding session, tele-technology in facilitating organ transplant featured utility of telemedicine in donor/recipient coordination. A special workshop on telemedicine & digital health for AYUSH doctors was chaired by **Dr. Nipun Jindal, IAS**, sharing his expertise.

The 20th International Conference of TSI, TELEMEDICON 2024, continues to serve a collaborative platform for healthcare and IT professionals, emphasizing the transformative role of AI and telemedicine in global healthcare. The event concluded on November 30, 2024.

Concluding day of Telemedicon 2024: Showcasing Innovation and Technology in Telemedicine (30th November, 2024)

The final day of Telemedicon 2024 held at PGIMER, Chandigarh concluded on a high note, showcasing the transformative potential of technology in healthcare. The highlights ranged from thought-provoking sessions to workshops addressing innovations in telemedicine, AI and digital health. The day began with an engaging session on **Technology as a Disruptor in Critical Care** by **Dr. Mandar Vaidya**. A dedicated session on **Tele-ICU** systems was held, with focus on adoption of tele-ICU technologies to address challenges in resource-constrained environments. Sessions on **AI Literacy for Clinicians and Inclusive and Responsible AI for Mental Health** were also held.

A parallel workshop on **Digital Data and Technology in Nursing** was organized by the **National Institute of Nursing Education (NINE), PGIMER, Chandigarh** under the leadership of principal **Dr. Sukhpal Kaur**, which was attended by more than 200 delegates. The session began with inauguration by the medical superintendent **Dr. Vipin Kaushal**, with **Lt. Col. Dr. Sarabjeet Kaur** from **Indian Nursing Council** as guest of honour, awarding 5 credit hours for the workshop. Integration of digital tools in nursing, importance of documentation and potential of mobile health applications and AI for patient care were discussed.

The event culminated in the valedictory session, graced by esteemed chief guest **Shri Hanumanta Rayappa, Director, ISRO**. He emphasized the synergy between space technology and telemedicine, highlighting ISRO's pivotal contributions to expanding healthcare access in India. The session was followed by the award ceremony, recognizing 3 best oral and poster presentations by **Gaurang Baxi, Dr. Hima K Bindu, Dr. Brijdeep Singh, Dr. Jatinder Kumar** and **Ankita Kumar**. The chairperson of Telemedicon 2024 **Dr. Biman Saikia**, presented the conference report, consisting of more than 500 registrations including conference and workshops, 38 sessions with 5 dedicated workshops, and the award of 11 CME credit hours by **Punjab Medical Council**. The medallion between outgoing TSI president **Dr. Kim R** and incoming president **Dr. Prem Nair** were exchanged. The Secretary TSI announced Bangalore as next year's venue for the conference, and concluding remarks were given by organizing secretaries **Dr. Uma Nahar** and **Dr. Amit Agarwal**, extending thanks to everyone, including the organizing team, especially **Dr. Richa, Mrs. Maanvi, Dr. Arun** and **Mr. Nainesh** for their support in conducting a successful conference.

Telemedicon 2024, through its diverse sessions and expert-led discussions, has reaffirmed its position as a leading platform for fostering innovation in telemedicine. By bridging the gap between technology and healthcare, the conference sets the stage for a future where healthcare is not only accessible but also equitable for all.

Media Coverage-Some key news coverage links and pictures:

1. <https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/health-it/chandigarhtelemedicon-2024-launches-with-focus-on-ai-and-virtual-healthcare/115831701>
2. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/revolutionizing-healthcare-ai-and-technology-take-center-stage-at-pgi-telemedicon-2024/articleshow/115823321.cms>
3. <https://www.dainiktribuneonline.com/news/chandigarh/telemedicon-2024-a-strong-alliance-of-ai-and-telemedicine-is-coming-to-change-the-world-of-healthcare/>
4. https://www.linkedin.com/posts/telemedicon-chandigarh-803774328_telemedicon2024-digitalhealthcare-ehealth-activity-7269604801519259648-gfLD?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

YUGMARG

CHANDIGARH TIMES

Tech, AI in healthcare dominate PGI conference

9. Speakers, Chairpersons and Participants:

TELEMEDICON 2024 brought together a vibrant community of **466 participants**, reflecting the diverse interests in telemedicine and digital health. This included **179 conference participants**, along with specialized workshops that attracted **35 participants for AI**, **40 for AYUSH**, and **212 for Nursing**.

The conference featured an impressive lineup of **65 distinguished speakers**, who shared their expertise and insights across various sessions. Additionally, **74 chairpersons** skillfully moderated discussions, ensuring an engaging and thought-provoking exchange of ideas.

Sponsors: This conference has been supported by prominent agencies and organizations. The details of the sponsors are listed in **Annexure 1**.

Stalls: The exhibition stall displayed the upcoming and new technologies in the field of digital health. The size of the stall varies according to the category of sponsorship. The details of the stalls are listed in **Annexure 2**

Together, this dynamic gathering of thought leaders, professionals, and learners created an enriching platform for collaboration and innovation in healthcare.

10. Networking Opportunities: The event fostered valuable networking opportunities with prominent agencies and organizations, emphasizing collaboration in healthcare and technology. Key participants included **C-DAC, CLARITY Medical Pvt Ltd, Granteq, HAMAMATSU, NMCN/LMIS, and**

AYUSYNK, showcasing advancements in digital healthcare. **Cloud Physician, SUQUINO, JANITRI Innovations Pvt Ltd**, and **TELEVITAL** highlighted cutting-edge telemedicine solutions. Renowned institutions like **Amrita Hospital**, the **National Health Authority**, and the **Telemedicine Society of India** contributed insights on policy and implementation. Industry leaders **GE Healthcare, PARLIAMENT HEALTH, A & T Technology** and **AUROLAB** displayed innovative products, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and partnerships.

11. **Technologies/Trends Highlighted:** Tech Eagle Innovations Pvt. Ltd. demonstrated cutting-edge drone technology, highlighting its potential in revolutionizing healthcare logistics. Their innovative solutions focus on enabling fast and efficient delivery of medical supplies, vaccines, and emergency equipment to remote and underserved areas. The showcase emphasized the role of drones in enhancing accessibility, reducing response times, and improving healthcare outcomes through advanced automation and precision.
12. **Recommendations and Next Steps:** With the conclusion of this year's **TELEMEDICON 2024**, recommendation was made in GBM to conduct **TELEMEDICON 2025** next year at **Bangalore** by TSI members. Voting was conducted in GBM by TSI members for electing vice president TSI **and Dr Murthy Remilla** was elected as **vice president** of TSI
13. **Few key resource persons who attended the TSI conference for the first time for future collaborations:**

a) Dr Siddiq Anwar (siddiqanwar80@gmail.com)

Dr Siddiq Anwar, a Consultant Nephrologist at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City and Khalifa University, delivered an insightful talk on "Redesigning Healthcare Delivery: Digital First and Tech Enabled." He explored the pivotal role of technology in revolutionizing healthcare delivery, emphasizing a shift towards digital-first approaches.

b) Amit Kumar Dey (dr.amitdey@hotmail.com)

Dr. Amit Kumar, a Consultant Physician specializing in Diabetology, Obesity, and Metabolic Disorders from Kolkata, West Bengal, India, delivered an engaging talk on "*The Changing Landscape of Digital Diabetology: From Tele-Health to AI.*" He highlighted how digital advancements are reshaping diabetes care, from telemedicine enabling remote consultations to AI-driven tools optimizing diagnosis, treatment, and personalized care plans.

Annexure 1 (Sponsor List)

Sr. No.	Sponsor Name
1	Mr. Ravi Amble (SQUININO)
2	Auro Lab
3	Clarity Medical
4	AYU Devices
5	Tele Vital
6	A & T Video network
7	Cloud Physician
8	C-DAC
9	NHA
10	GE HEALTH CARE
11	Mankind pharma
12	Grantque
13	Parliamentary Health
14	Amrita Hospital
15	Jainitri Innovation

Annexure 2 (Stall details)

Sr. No.	Company Name	Stall No.
1	C-DAC	1 4*2
2	SQUININO	2 3*2
3	GRANTAQUE	3 3*2
4	HAMAMATSU	4 3*2
5	NMCN/LMIS	5 2*2
6	GE HEALTH CARE	6 2*2
7	CLARITY	7 2*2
8	NHA	8 2*2
9	TELEVITAL	9 2*2
10	PHULKARI	10 2*2
11	VK	11 2*2
12	TELE ICU	12 2*2
13	AYSYNIC	13 2*2
14	PARLIAMENT HEALTH	14 2*2
15	TSI	15 2*2
16	A & T TECHNOLOGY	16 2*2
17	AUROLAB	17 2*2
18	AUROLAB	18 2*2

Conference photographs:



Inaugural Ceremony, TELEMEDICON 2024



Drone technology showcasing, TELEMEDICON 2024



Dr Prem Nair elected as National TSI president



Delegate Group Photograph, TELEMEDICON 2024