

# Advancing Rational Allergy Care in India: Leadership from a WAO Centre of Excellence

The Department of Pediatrics at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, a World Allergy Organization (WAO) Centre of Excellence (Fig. 1), is at the forefront of advancing allergy care in India through strategic leadership in guideline development, capacity building, and global collaboration.

A landmark national initiative has been the development of the “**Rational Allergy Practice Guidelines**” under the leadership of Dr. Neeraj Gupta, Chairperson (2025), IAP Allergy and Applied Immunology Chapter. These guidelines represent a pioneering effort to standardize allergy diagnostics and therapeutics in India, addressing region-specific challenges and setting a benchmark for evidence-based, context-relevant care in resource-variable settings.

Strengthening workforce capacity has been a parallel priority. The **Diploma in Pediatric Allergy and Asthma (DPAA)** program (Fig. 2)—India’s first structured hybrid training initiative in pediatric allergy—has trained over 250 physicians nationwide, creating a new generation of clinicians equipped to deliver specialized allergy care.

Under the leadership of Dr Neeraj Gupta, the Centre has emerged as a national and emerging global hub for integrated academic, research, and community-driven allergy initiatives. The Centre has contributed significantly to global literature, including the recent **Food Allergy Delphi Consensus** and **India’s Allergy Renaissance: A Blueprint for Global Capacity Building** published in *Clinical & Experimental Allergy*. Collaborative platforms such as the **Initiative for Sleep, Asthma and Allergy Sciences (ISAAS)** and the **Allergy School** have further expanded interdisciplinary training and community outreach, while **PedAllercon 2025** (Fig. 3) continues to evolve as a major global academic summit in allergy. These efforts are complemented by large-scale community outreach initiatives (Fig. 4), including structured school-based programs such as the ‘**Allergy Smart School**’ initiative, public health campaigns, and mass awareness activities through media and health camps, aimed at improving early recognition, prevention, and management of allergic diseases at the community level.

In addition, his academic vision has led to the development of key educational resources, including the *Comprehensive Textbook of Allergy (2024)*, *A Handbook of Allergic Rhinitis (2024)*, *Allergopedia (2025)*, *IAP Textbook of Pediatric Allergy (2026)*, and the upcoming *Allergy Blueprint (2026)* and *Food Allergy: Clinical Principles and Practical Pathways (2026)*, contributing to standardization of allergy education and clinical practice.

Recognizing the importance of global integration, Dr. Gupta has actively facilitated international engagement of Indian allergists, including enabling access to **EAACI–National Allergy Society (NAIS) dual membership** opportunities, thereby strengthening academic exchange and collaboration with the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

Dr. Gupta's contributions have been acknowledged through several prestigious recognitions, including *Fellowship of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (FAAAAI)*, *Fellowship of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (FRCPCH)*, *Special Recognition Award by IAS (USA)*, *the NextGen Allergy Leadership Award by CFAAR (USA)*, and *Fellowship of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (FIAP)*.

Through visionary leadership, innovation, and global engagement, the Centre continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of allergy care in India and contributing to the global allergy community while creating scalable models for allergy care in low- and middle-income countries.

**Figure 1 – Leadership (Core Team)**



Core leadership team at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital driving clinical excellence, academic innovation, and global collaborations in allergy and pediatric care. (From Right to Left) Dr Neeraj Gupta, Dr Anil Sachdev, Dr Ajay Swaroop, Dr Dhiren Gupta, Dr Suresh Gupta.

**Figure 2 – Capacity Building Impact**



The Diploma in Pediatric Allergy and Asthma (DPAA) program demonstrating structured training through hands-on skill development (a), interactive learning (b), assessment (c), and the creation of a nationwide network of trained allergy specialists (d).

**Figure 3 – Global Academic Leadership**



PedAllercon (Global Allergy Summit) showcasing international collaboration, large-scale academic engagement, and leadership in advancing allergy science with participation from multiple countries and a diverse faculty.

**Figure 4 – Community (Outreach) Impact**



Comprehensive community outreach initiatives including health camps (a, b), mass media engagement (c) and the launch of 'Allergy Smart School' program (d) aimed at improving awareness, early diagnosis, and prevention of allergic diseases at the population level.

Figure 5 – Academic work and Recognition



Academic contributions through textbooks and publications, alongside national and international recognitions reflecting leadership and impact in advancing allergy education and clinical practice.