

8th Krishna Raj Memorial Lecture on Contemporary Issues in Health and Social Sciences

Anusandhan Trust has instituted the annual *Krishna Raj Memorial Lecture Series* to honour the intellectual and academic traditions that Krishna Raj, the visionary editor of the Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) established.



THE GOLDEN RULE: A REMEDY FOR DECADENCE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Lecture will be delivered by

Dr. Eric Suba MD



Director of Clinical Laboratories, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
San Francisco, California, USA

Thursday, 4th February 2016 (2.00 pm to 4:00 pm)
Venue: Sen Kinare Hall, 3rd Floor, CVTS Building,
KEM hospital, Parel, Mumbai 400012.



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THE GOLDEN RULE: A REMEDY FOR DECADENCE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Since 1997, three separate randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of cervical screening have been conducted in India by Tata Memorial Hospital and by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer. These RCTs have been funded by the US National Cancer Institute and by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Taken together, these RCTs have compared cervical cancer death rates among 224,929 low-income women allegedly offered cervical screening to cervical cancer death rates among 138,624 low-income women offered no screening whatsoever. These RCTs deliberately allowed human beings to die merely to contemplate questions that should not have been asked. These RCTs demonstrate that global health leaders have embraced pointless, premeditated, preventable death as a clinical research tool. Although it is difficult to envision more egregious betrayals of basic scientific and ethical principles, results from these decadent RCTs have been published in the world's most prestigious medical journals. Lessons learned from rapid, effective cervical cancer prevention in Vietnam suggest that decadence in global health will be remedied if leaders embrace a commitment to the Golden Rule of "improving health outcomes as rapidly as possible among as many people as possible," and then assimilate the policy implications of that commitment.

Dr. Eric Suba MD

Dr. Suba is trained as a pathologist and is currently the director of Clinical Laboratories at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Francisco, California. He also leads Viet/American Cervical Cancer Prevention Project, an all-volunteer non-profit organization founded by him in 1996. The subsequent implementation of Papanicolaou cytology screening services in Southern Vietnam led to 50% reductions in cervical cancer rates, making Vietnam one of the world's first to achieve decisive success in the global struggle against cervical cancer. His commitment to rapid, effective cervical cancer prevention is inseparable from his role as a leading critic of decadent US taxpayer-supported studies of cervical screening in India. Dr. Suba has also been appointed as a Visiting Scholar at the National Center for Bioethics at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama.