To,
Dr. Harshavardhanji,
Honourable union minister, health and family welfare,
Government of India,

Sub: Concern about gazette notification of CCIM that allows AYUSH doctors to perform operations.

Respected Sir,

The Indian association of aesthetic plastic surgeons is the national body of qualified plastic surgeons with special interest in aesthetic surgery. We complete 51/2 yrs of MBBS, 3 years for postgraduate program in general surgery and then 2 to 3 yrs of sub speciality training in plastic surgery. Many of us do fellowships after that. We would humbly like to register our opinion against the gazette notification that allows performance of certain surgeries by Ayurvedic stream of doctors.

1. Violation of patient's right to safety — A solid background of comprehensive and structured training enables us to tackle complications even from seemingly small operations. This safety margin will be severely compromised in case of surgeries offered by the AYUSH stream graduates.
ii. The safety of modern surgery is totally dependent on advances in modern medicine like diagnostic investigations (Ultrasound, CT, MRI, and pathology), anaesthesia, antibiotics, ICU care, technology like cautery and lasers etc. There is nothing in AYUSH about this nor does legitimate Ayurvedic syllabus include these. If they do — they should be called modern medicine.

2. Misleading Terminology

We fail to understand why degrees sounding like modern medicine are planned? The patient should clearly know which stream treatment he is seeking. The degree should clearly be identifiable and separable from modern medicine degrees.
3. Violations of patient’s right to informed choice

Ayurveda is an ancient science and mixing of two conceptually different streams of medicine is not scientific at all. An extensive research must be carried out before safely combining them. We would respectfully refer a patient to an AYUSH doctor if we think that would add benefit. They should do the same. In short every one must practice what they are trained in with full transparency to the patient. It is the patients choice which pathy treatment to take. Sir, we fully support effort by IMA to bring this to the notice of the government officials, NITI aayog and the most important stakeholders— our countrymen.

We take strong objection to unscientifically mixing the two pathies and thus potentially misleading the patients.

It is our earnest request to you to withdraw the notification as soon as possible in the interest of the population at large.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Rakesh Kalra

Hon. President

Dr. Medha Bhave

Hon. Secretary