



## Dr Duru Shah becomes India's first recipient of the FIGO merit award

October 18, 2012

Renowned City Gynaecologist, Dr Duru Shah was India's First Gynaecologist to receive the prestigious FIGO Distinguished Merit Award in Rome during the opening ceremony of the World Congress of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology on Sunday, October 7, 2012. FIGO is the International Federation Of Gynecology & Obstetrics and presents only 3 FIGO Distinguished Merit Awards to deserving candidates globally, once every 3 years.

Dr Duru Shah's contribution to improving women's health in the country for over three decades is well recognised and acknowledged not only in India but around the world. As President of the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), in 2006, she spearheaded some of the country's most successful women's health programmes especially those focusing on Women's Health mainly in the Rural Areas. She initiated programs related to Safe Motherhood, Adolescent Empowerment, Reproductive and Sexual Health, in the youth, Contraception, Menopause & Infertility. Dr. Shah's passion has always been to focus on preventive health, especially in the young girls and women as they are the mothers of tomorrow. Currently, she is focusing her attention on combating Sexual Abuse, especially in young girls.

Accepting the award from Prof Gamal Serour, the President of FIGO 2012 in Rome, Dr Duru Shah said, "I feel both honoured and blessed to be India's first recipient of the FIGO Distinguished Merit Award. Appreciation always feels good, especially when it comes from the globally renowned FIGO – It means a lot not only because it is a global award but more importantly because it recognizes all the work I have done and my initiatives here in India, in improving women's health especially in the preventive arena — building awareness and educating our women on reproductive and sexual health, the importance of planned pregnancies, care in the pre pregnancy stage, during and post pregnancy, prevention of HIV transmission to the new borns — all this adding up to my overall focus and ongoing efforts towards

empowering women in our country because as they say, you educate the woman and you are educating the entire family, the community and the nation. These are the mothers of tomorrow's children. And that really takes care of our future doesn't it?"

The other awardees this year included:

**FIGO Distinguished Merit Awards**

- o Ralph Hale
- o Sergio Pecorelli

<http://modernmedicare.co.in/news/dr-duru-shah-is-indias-first-recipient-of-the-figo-merit-award/>