

Anjani Mashelkar Inclusive Innovation Awards

Press Release 2021

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OralScan, a breakthrough high tech device that provides an early, accurate and cost effective detection of pre-cancerous lesions, was announced the winner of the Anjani Mashelkar Inclusive Innovation Award 2021.

This annual award of ₹100,000 has been so far given to 13 game changing innovations that have addressed the problems faced by the disadvantaged resource-poor people in India and offers original and implementable solutions. The award was instituted by Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar in 2011 in the memory of his late mother, who raised him while facing many hardships as a poor, barely literate widow.

Every year, more than 1 million cases of cancer are reported in India. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) predicts that there will be an estimated 12% increase in cancer cases over the next five years.

India has one-third of global oral cancer cases, accounting for 30% of all cancers in the country. What's worse, out of nearly 90,000 cases of oral cancer detected each year in the country, more than half die the same year due to late stage detection.

Dr. Subhash Narayanan, Founder and CEO of Sascan Meditech, took up this challenge and with his team, created OralScan – an optical imaging multimodal device for the early detection of pre-cancerous lesions in the mouth. This high technology device provides patients access to diagnosis locally and saves them cost and pain of multiple biopsies, while ensuring early detection. So far, OralScan has reached 8 states in India and touched the lives of more than 1,000 people.

A true inclusive innovator, Subhash has dedicated the last 35 years of his life to the application of spectroscopy and imaging techniques on vegetation stress, remote sensing of corals and plants, biomedical instrumentation, and in developing innovative technologies based on biophotonics for early detection of oral and cervical cancers.

The **Anjani Mashelkar Foundation** has been humbly contributing to an Inclusive Innovation movement in India for over a decade. To know more, visit mashelkarfoundation.org