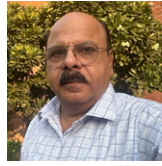


## MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

As one of the Trustees and reflecting on our journey from our founding in 2003 to where we stand today in 2025, I have this to say that our Leadership Summit 2025 was a powerful reminder of how far we have come and the potential that lies ahead.



Anil Nagpal  
Trustee, FOM

This important meeting aptly titled 'The Resurgence' featured interactive workshops, group discussions and presentations that addressed key goals such as the need to increase FOM membership, improve fundraising strategies and the sustaining of long-term involvement of stakeholders. Participants worked together to identify practical strategies and innovative approaches to achieve these objectives and overcome hurdles in the way. Medical sessions conducted by experts addressed frequently asked questions from CML and GIST patients, offering clarity, guidance, and the latest updates on treatment and care.

The 2025 Leadership Summit was a resounding success, marked by meaningful exchanges, strong participation, and a renewed collective vision. Held at the Tata Medical Center, the event was greatly enhanced by the seamless support of The Max Foundation team in India and the warm hospitality extended by the City Chapter Leaders of Kolkata. Their combined efforts ensured that the summit was not only well-organized but also truly impactful—a celebration of resilience, a reaffirmation of purpose, and a strong foundation for the journey ahead.

## The Resurgence: Reconnect & Recharge

Spotlight on The Leadership Summit 2025  
8-9 MARCH 2025 AT TATA MEDICAL CENTER, KOLKATA



When a dedicated team of long standing patient advocates (and by now the closest of friends) bound together by their common health condition and the desire to make things better for one another come together it is nothing short of a festival!

The full report on the Leadership Summit on Page 2

### Message from Pat Garcia-Gonzalez

#### DARE TO DREAM: THE FUTURE OF FRIENDS OF MAX



"Hello my dear Friends from Friends of Max,

Though I cannot be with you in person, I am always inspired by your energy and dedication for the organisation over the years. Congratulations—your commitment has shaped FOM into a large and well run organisation. You should be proud.

As you gather for this Summit, I encourage you to Dare to Dream about the future of FOM. What will it look like in 5, 10, or 20 years? Who will you be serving? Will it continue as a volunteer-driven organisation, or will it evolve with a dedicated team? Envision the opportunities ahead, then map out the steps to get there—1 year, 5 years, and beyond.

I deeply value this partnership and can't wait to hear your plans. Wishing you a Summit filled with laughter, love, music, and great food, as is always the case!

Good luck and looking forward to connecting soon."

— Pat Garcia-Gonzalez  
CEO of The Max Foundation



CELEBRATING WITH CAMARADERIE

"It was not really such a coincidence that the Summit concluded on this day - Max's Remembrance Day. It is Max's guiding spirit that suffuses all of us with such positive energies."

-Viji Venkatesh, Managing Trustee FOM & Member-Board of Directors, The Max Foundation



[Click here for more](#)

## AMMA SPEAKS

The Friends of Max Leadership Summit is back. And with renewed vigour and purpose.

The Resurgence: Yes, that's what we named the FOM 2025 Leadership Summit that was held in Kolkata recently.

Hand picked for their sustained commitment and relentless advocacy over the years, almost a 100 City Chapter Leaders from all over the country came together in Kolkata over the weekend - the 8th and 9th of March. The goal was to reconnect, recharge and forge ahead with a blueprint for the next couple of decades. Yes, we're very ambitious but we remember where we were two decades ago; from our inception in 2003 to today in 2025.

And what brought us where we are today, multiplied manifold will take us to newer heights.

Interactive workshops, presentations showcasing our projects as well as our community interventions and the Medical Sessions with experts in the field - the weekend looked very promising and it indeed fulfilled the promise.

So grateful to The Max Foundation team in India for their support and to TATA MEDICAL CENTER for hosting this meeting in Kolkata

- Viji Venkatesh  
Managing Trustee, Friends of Max, Member, Board of Directors,  
The Max Foundation and Trustee, Being Human Salman Khan Foundation

# THE RESURGENCE: RECONNECT & RECHARGE

## FOM LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – KOLKATA, 2025

### AGENDA

#### Registration and Lunch

**DAY 01**

#### Welcome and Icebreaker

– Sunder Krishnan & Viji Venkatesh

#### Session One:

##### Recap & Reconnect – FOM 2003–2025

– Nimesh Prakash, Pramod George, Sunder Krishnan & Viji Venkatesh

##### (a) Our Footprint – From There to Here

– Pramod George

##### (b) Identifying Challenges, Gaps in Interventions and Unmet Needs

– Viji Venkatesh

##### (c) Roadmap 2025–26: Setting Measurable Goals

– Nimesh Prakash

##### (d) Discussion & Q&A Session

– Led by Sunder Krishnan

#### Group Photo

#### Chai for Cancer Adda

– Narendra Nath Saha, Santosh Kadam, Suresh Pawar

#### The Max Foundation and FOM – An Unbreakable Bond

– Beena Narayanan, Priyanka Kandalgaoakar

#### Workshop: Reconnect and Recharge

– Archana Arora, Urvashi Negi & Viji Venkatesh

#### Leadership Conference Dinner



#### The Yoga Hour – Rishi Ajatsatru

**DAY 02**

#### Breakfast & Checkout

#### Welcome, Video Address – Pat Garcia-Gonzalez, Vote of Thanks, Group Photo – Archana Arora

#### #LS25 Meet the Experts

– Dr. Jude Vaz & Dr. Raghu Krishnaswamy

#### Medical Session 1 – Panel Discussion:

- Best practices in managing patients for over two decades
- Managing side effects of prolonged treatment – physician & patient perspectives
- Journey from Imatinib to Asciminib and beyond
- Ensuring CML patients get their due
- TFR – Pros & Cons

**Panel:** Dr. Alok Shetty, Dr. Arijit Nag, Dr. Hemant Malhotra, Dr. Mohandas Mallath, Dr. Pankaj Malhotra, Dr. Shouryoo Ghosh

#### Medical Session 2 – Growing Old(er) with Cancer – Dr. Prem Narasimhan

#### Medical Session 3 – Partnering with the Patient Community, A Physician's Perspective – Dr. Reena Nair

#### Group Photo, CFC Adda, Poster Viewing

– Aditya Sharma, Manhar Kochhar, Nitesh Verma, Prashant Kumar, Vicky Vatnani, Vikram Jain

#### FOM Surveys – Impact Report

– Archana Arora & Nagendra Nagarajan

#### The Way Forward for FOM

– Group Leaders of the Workshop

**Lunch** – Till we meet again!

## Objective of the Summit

### Develop a Roadmap for 2025-26 and Beyond.

Being the largest support group for CML and GIST patients in the world is not an easy mantle to wear and comes with a lot of responsibilities.

Not only is FOM mentoring its own City Chapter Leaders but with a strong presence in the International CML & GIST community now needs to be a trailblazer to the many thousands in this community that look to us for direction.

We are rich in lessons learnt and have decades of experience to share with the world.

## Key Highlights Day 1



## VOICES



In this growing world and the many technological and cultural developments that we have observed, we still struggle to cope with the impact of Cancer in our lives. Every family is impacted with this disease and Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia has been a prominent form of this cancer. We understand that people diagnosed with this disease can fight back with a bit of support and it is the vision of 'Friends of Max' to support that.

While hosting this Leadership Summit, it was my opportunity to be a part of this lovely journey and in that capacity learn from all the Trustees, FOM City Chapter Leaders and The Max Foundation Team, about their knowledge and journey on this path. It is imperative that such a support system and the incredible work done by this group will aid many deserving members and advance our battle against the disease."

**Satadipa Das, CCL Kolkata**

## VOICES



The Max Foundation

The FOM Leadership Summit was a powerful gathering of advocates, from across India, united by a shared mission to strengthen the CML community. For us at The Max Foundation India, reconnecting once again with our patient leaders was truly heart-warming and inspiring.

Over two meaningful days, the advocates actively participated, sharing insights as change makers. Despite diverse backgrounds, they stood as one voice. The interactive workshop provided a platform to exchange ideas and enhance collective efforts. A key highlight was the Medical Session, where esteemed physicians shared their expertise, offering valuable insights. Held on Max's Remembrance Day, the Summit was truly befitting and a reminder to where this journey began and why we continue to move forward with hope and purpose, reinforcing our commitment to advancing Friends of Max's mission."

**The Max Foundation (India Team)**

## Key Highlights - Day 2



REMEMBERING MAX



MEDICAL SESSION 1 - PANEL DISCUSSION

[Click here for more](#)



MEDICAL SESSION 2 - GROWING OLDER WITH CANCER



MEDICAL SESSION 3 - PARTNERING WITH PATIENT COMMUNITY

## Poster Viewing

[Click here for more](#)

The Summit also showcased FOM's many impactful projects supporting the CML and GIST community with most patients on lifelong treatment. Through creatively designed posters the spotlight this year was on the **MPN Clinics** we co-host offering holistic care for patients with certain rare blood disorders; **Patient Support Group Meetings** offering a safe platform for sharing and learning; **Project Diagnostics** which offers at-no-cost home testing; **Project Shiksha** ensuring schooling for pediatric cancer patients; **Chai for Cancer** which raises funds and awareness and our annual participation (through our **We Run So They Can Read** campaign) in the Tata Mumbai Marathon. City Chapter Leaders involved in these projects guided all the participants through each poster, describing them in details and offering valuable insights.



## FOM Surveys

This Impact Report by Archana Arora our Project Head and Trustee Nagendran Nagarajan highlighted key findings from surveys conducted by FOM, showcasing how the patient group is playing a vital role in closing the care gap in cancer care and management. It is important to note the power of the voice of FOM which carries the collective experience of literally thousands of patients.

## VOICES



The "Leadership Summit" of Friends of Max concluded on 9th March 2025 at the Tata Medical Center, Kolkata. My team's responsibility was to facilitate this program aimed to connect City Chapter Leaders with their peers, experts and potential partners fostering collaborations and knowledge sharing. As the program unfolded we learnt about strategic planning, team management, fundraising, communications and advocacy. Watching this diverse group of men and women from across the country driven by one goal "to help patients" holistically changed our status from facilitators to learners.

Leadership in essence is the ability to influence and guide individuals

towards a common goal. It was inspiring to watch the FOM Trustees, Archana, Arindam, Cedric, Neel, Priyanka, Saby, Satadipa and Urvashi motivate one and all. The best way to predict the future is to create it! Viji Amma's ability to create and convey a clear vision, see past the obstacles they have faced, recognize opportunities for the future and establish long-term objectives to support the mission of complete care for our patients left us dumbfounded.

All the best FOM for all your endeavours and the Leadership Summit 2026! Arijit, Debranjani, Shouriyu and Reena, Team from TMC, Kolkata."

**Dr Reena Nair, Senior Consultant  
Department of Clinical Hematology, Tata Medical Center, Kolkata**



## Over 500 cups of chai raised by patients for patients!

At the Chai for Cancer Adda held during #LS25, over 500 cups of chai were raised towards the cause of supporting less fortunate peers. Who better than Patient Leaders themselves will understand the impact of every paisa raised- helping cover the cost of diagnostic tests, travel and lodging, schooling and other essential yet often unmet needs of those from financially weaker sections.

Over 100 City Chapter Leaders and Physician Partners joined hands to raise their cups in solidarity, bringing Hope and Dignity to patients living with CML and GIST.



## Upcoming...

**Chai for Cancer Season 12 Launch Adda at Sunday, May 11, 2025 at The Taj Mahal Tea House, Bandra, Mumbai**

## CHAI FOR CANCER LET'S MAKE IT BIGGER



### HOST AN ADDA & SPREAD THE WORD

- Choose a venue—home, office, or any preferred space
- Invite your friends, family, and colleagues
- Share a cup of chai- raise awareness and support the cause

### WHY IT MATTERS

- Chai for Cancer is an awareness and fundraising campaign that supports FOM's patient-focused activities. Every contribution provides:
  - \*Diagnostic and travel cost assistance
  - \*Educational support for children of patients/ pediatric patients
  - \*Help to cover the small and yet unmet needs
- Beyond funding, it creates a safe space for survivors to share their journeys, raise awareness, and build a community of support.

### NOW IN SEASON 11 - AND GROWING!

- 300+ Addas hosted across India, Singapore, Canada & USA
- Over 5 lakh cups of chai raised for the cause
- Addas from Kashmir to Kerala, Mumbai to Bhubaneswar
- Red FM 93.5 - Official Radio Partner



**JOIN THE MOVEMENT  
RAISE YOUR CUP-DRINK TO A CAUSE!**

## Other Highlights: January - March 2025

- Jan 19, 2025 • Our yearly participation in the Tata Mumbai Marathon for *We Run So They Can Read* campaign
- Feb 4, 2025 • Celebrating World Cancer Day
- Feb 8-9 2025 • AGM of FOM Trustees to review progress and Draw a Roadmap for 2025 and beyond
- Feb 15, 2025 • Celebrating International Childhood Cancer Day
- Feb 21, 2025 • Participating and representing the Patient's voice in the 1st Pharma Leadership Innovation Conclave 2025 by Express Pharma, organized by the Indian Express Healthcare division, in Mumbai.
- Feb 27, 2025 • Celebrating World NGO Day 2025
- Mar 20, 2025 • Highly valued honour for Viji Venkatesh, Managing Trustee, FOM by Grihshobha

## Patient Support Group Meetings

- Jan 18, 2025 • CML & GIST Patient Support Group Meeting at VPS Lakeshore Hospital, Kozhikode
- Feb 1, 2025 • CML & GIST Patient Support Group Meeting at Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, Pune

## VOICES



The 2025 Leadership Summit was a much-needed get together to rekindle camaraderie among the FOM core members. It provided an inspiring learning experience, reinforcing the passion and dedication required to continue the incredible work of the FOMs. A key highlight was the doctors' session which offered valuable insights into the latest advancements in medical care."

**Anshu Aggarwal, CCL Kolkata**

## VOICES



Emceeding the FOM Leadership Summit was indeed a big deal!! I had goosebumps when I found I was steering the All India FOM City Chapter Leaders, the Max Foundation team and the erudite panel of physicians through the group and panel discussions, presentations et al. It was such a pleasure to be part of a meeting where there's absolute discipline, involvement and joy amongst all. 8th and 9th February, 2025 will be etched in my mind for reasons more than one."

**Sabyasachi Bandyopadhyay, CCL Kolkata**

For private circulation only

Address : Friends of Max, Secom Business Centre, A Block Basement, Shiv Sagar Estate, Dr A B Road, Worli, Mumbai 400018

Website : [www.friendsofmax.info](http://www.friendsofmax.info)

Website : [www.chaiforcancer.org](http://www.chaiforcancer.org)

Email : [friendsofmax@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmax@gmail.com)

Facebook :

[www.facebook.com/CMLGISTsupportgroup/](https://www.facebook.com/CMLGISTsupportgroup/)  
[www.facebook.com/Chai-for-Cancer](https://www.facebook.com/Chai-for-Cancer)

LinkedIn : <https://in.linkedin.com/in/chai-for-cancer-70263017>

X : @Friends\_Of\_Max  
@chaiforcancer

To Donate:

Cheques should be drawn in favour of Friends of Max and couriered to our office in Worli (Mumbai)

To donate online visit [www.friendsofmax.info](http://www.friendsofmax.info)

Receipts u/s 80 G of Income Tax Act, 1961 will be issued.

Friends of Max is registered as a Public Charitable Trust: Regn No E-24284(B) Mumbai, dated 4-7-2007