



**FRANCESCO AREZZO**

President 2025-26

## Presidential Message December 2025

This month's special issue of Rotary magazine is all about happiness, that most elemental of human yearnings. More than a feeling, though, this state of positive well-being, and the conditions necessary to create and sustain it, should be considered a universal right. December also marks Rotary's Disease Prevention and Treatment Month when we highlight our members' work to promote health and

wellness, including mental wellness. Globally, nearly 1 in 7 people have a mental health disorder, according to a recent World Health Organization report. Yet only 9 percent of people with depression receive adequate treatment.

We are fortunate in Rotary to have a powerful way to support emotional well-being and happiness: friendship. The connections we build in Rotary can be a powerful force for change. I know this from personal experience.

When my fellow members first proposed that I become club president, I demurred. I had a stutter. I was terrified of speaking. But having club members who supported me and surrounded me with affection enabled me to face my fear, and I found a way to stand confidently before a crowd.

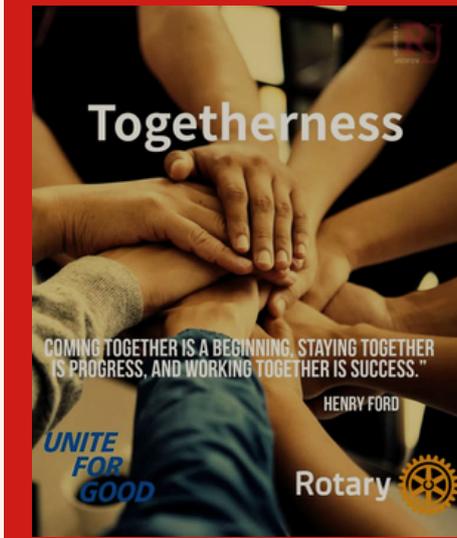
Today, I regularly address audiences — some numbering in the thousands — in a language that is not native to me. The Rotary members in my life helped me create lasting change within myself

That fellowship gives us the courage and means to create lasting change in the world as well, and mental health services are in desperate need of improvement. The WHO reports that governments on average devote only 2 percent of their health budgets to mental health, and only 11 percent of that funding reaches community-based services. In some countries, only one trained mental health professional is available for every 100,000 people. The WHO has called for strategic and urgent action to close the gap.

Rotary can answer that call by championing mental health awareness in our clubs, working with local health systems, funding training for community health workers, and supporting initiatives that bring care to places where none exists. Even small investments in mental health yield enormous returns in productivity, public health, and happiness.

While we are creating lasting change in the world, we cannot forget to take care of each other. Past RI President Gordon McNally wisely reminds us that we must go beyond asking, "How are you?" We owe it to each other to instead ask, "How are you really?"

As we transition to a new year filled with new possibilities, let us Unite for Good — for healing, friendship, and access to happiness.



**Contributions will support projects around the globe, including a robust recommitment to the fight to end polio**



Donors to The Rotary Foundation celebrated some big achievements in fundraising in the past year, showing their support for the wide array of programs the organization sponsors all over the world.

A multiyear campaign to increase the Endowment to US\$2.025 billion by 2025 exceeded its goal by US\$25 million. In 2024-25 alone, members and others contributed more than half a billion dollars to the Foundation.

“The goal was an inspiration, but the objective was to do good in the world,” says Mark Daniel Maloney, the 2024-25 Rotary Foundation trustee chair. “We are making sure that Rotary will always be able to carry out that mission.”

The Foundation raised more than US\$569 million in 2024-25 alone, exceeding its annual goal by almost US\$70 million. More than 478,000 individuals donated, along with over 31,000 Rotary clubs and nearly 1,900 Rotaract clubs.

Thanks to its donors, the Foundation was able to award 1,424 global grants, 468 district grants, and 74 disaster response grants in the past year. A US\$2 million Programs of Scale grant will help build peace and economic independence in Colombia. Rotary International also extended its long-standing partnership with the Gates Foundation, announcing a joint commitment of up to US\$450 million over three years to support global polio eradication efforts.

“Rotary members demonstrated their commitment to these efforts with their support of the 2.025 by 2025 campaign,” Maloney says. In particular, he notes the large number of fundraising events around the world that Rotary’s district governors organized.

“I am just amazed at the generosity of Rotary members,” he says. “They came together to make it happen.”

*By Etelka Lehoczky :: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) :: November 13, 2025*

## *Happy Birthday*

**Rtn. (Dr.) Asim Sil** *falling on December 11*

**Rtn. (Dr.) Dipankar Chakraborti** *falling on December 12*

**Rtn. (Dr.) Emili B. Bhattacharyya** *falling on December 14*

**Ms. Sanchari Chowdhury spouse of Rtn. Sourav Ghoshal**  
*falling on December 16*



## *Happy Anniversary*

**Rtn. Manasij Bandopadhyay and Rtn. Amrita Bhattacharya**  
*falling on December 06*

**Rtn. (Dr.) Kunal and Rtn. (Dr.) Jharna Ray**  
*falling on December 07*

**Honorary Member Rtn. (Dr.) Arup Ratan and Dr. Soma Dutta**  
*falling on December 08*

**PP Rtn. Gautam & Ms. Debi Chakravarty**  
*falling on December 12*

*Wish you many more year of martial bliss*



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# Kolkata born IITian invents an injectable chip that can treat diseases without surgery: Who is MIT researcher Deblina Sarkar

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A Kolkata born scientist who once studied electronics in Dhanbad is now at the centre of a medical breakthrough that could redefine brain treatment worldwide. Deblina Sarkar, an IIT graduate and assistant professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has unveiled a technology that can slip through the bloodstream, find diseased spots in the brain, and implant itself without a single surgical cut.

Her invention, described in Nature Biotechnology and first reported in detail by New Atlas, opens the door to treating some of the most challenging neurological illnesses using nothing more than an injection in the arm.



*A Kolkata born MIT scientist, Deblina Sarkar, has developed Circulatronics, a breakthrough injectable chip system that can travel through the bloodstream, locate diseased brain regions, and self implant without surgery*

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## A new medical frontier built on a tiny chip

The platform is called Circulatronics. It uses swarms of sub cellular electronic chips known as SWEDs, small enough to sit on a blood cell. New Atlas notes that they are roughly one billionth the length of a grain of rice, yet powerful enough to deliver targeted electrical stimulation deep inside the brain.

These SWEDs are fused with immune cells called monocytes. Once inside the bloodstream, the hybrid cell electronics follow the body's natural immune traffic, crossing the blood brain barrier to reach inflamed or diseased regions.

## Why Circulatronics could change everything

For decades, deep brain stimulation has been seen as a powerful alternative for disorders such as depression, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, chronic pain, and brain tumors. The challenge has always been the same: electrodes need to be surgically inserted into the brain.

In her presentation at the MIT Media Lab, Sarkar explains why this is inaccessible for most of the world. "Existing technologies require creating a hole in the skull and putting a centimeter scale probe in," she said, noting risks of infection and high costs. "Because of this invasiveness and the hundred thousand dollars of brain surgery, these technologies are limited to less than one percent of patients."

Circulatronics aims to remove that barrier entirely. Sarkar told the lab's audience that the chip can "travel seamlessly through the body fluids without being attacked by the immune

and “self implant in a precise diseased location in the brain with just a simple injection in the arm.”

New Atlas reports that the team is now refining the technology to treat brain cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and chronic pain, and is studying how future chips might even sense activity or act as synthetic electronic neurons.

## **Tested on mice, built for humans**

The research team from MIT, Wellesley College, and Harvard University first created a tiny inflamed region inside a mouse brain to mimic human neurological disease. Within days, the SWED monocyte hybrids had travelled to the exact site.

When researchers activated the chips with a laser, the mice recorded a surge in c Fos protein, a marker used to verify new neuronal activity.

This level of precision is rarely possible even with surgical implants. Sarkar says their devices “can co live and coexist with the brain cells without causing any damage or toxic effects,” an advantage that could make them safer for long term use.

## **Beyond the brain: a universal bio electronic courier**

Circulatronics also has ambitions outside neurology. Sarkar told viewers in the MIT Media Lab video that the technology “is not just confined to the brain” and could one day deliver wireless pacemakers or treat cancers in other organs.

She even points to long term non medical uses. Healthy individuals could use future versions for cognitive enhancement or electronic neural augmentation, creating what she calls “implantables for healthy.”

## **The scientist behind the breakthrough**

Deblina Sarkar’s journey began in Kolkata, followed by an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering at IIT Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. Her early work in nanoscale electronics gained international attention, paving the way for a PhD at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she worked on ultra efficient transistors and biosensors.

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Her list of accolades includes the NIH Director’s New Innovator Award, selection among Science News’ “10 Scientists to Watch,” and numerous recognitions in nanotechnology and neuroscience.



*An End Polio Now benefit concert held at the concert hall in Lucerne, Switzerland, on October 27, 2025, organised by Rotary clubs in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.*

## **#EndPolio took center stage in Switzerland**

On World Polio Day, Rotary members from across Europe gathered in Lucerne, Switzerland, for a fundraising concert at KKL Luzern. The event combined orchestral music with immersive visuals to support the fight to end polio. Their collective efforts helped raise enough to protect more than 100,000 children from polio.

A powerful reminder that when we unite across borders with purpose and creativity, we bring the world closer to ending polio for good.

**Minutes of the 2161<sup>st</sup> RCM of RC Calcutta Jadavpur held on November 19, 2025, Wednesday at Casa Broadway, Kolkata at 6.30 PM.**

- President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests and the members present.
  - National Anthem was led by PP Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta and joined by all.
  - President Rtn. Sudipta welcomed Rtn. Archana Choraria, President, Rotary Club of Millennium City, RI District- 3142, Mumbai.

- He also welcomed the LBC team members PP Rtn. Rina Sinha Roy, PP Rtn. Nilanjan Mitra and Ms. Bhawana Jain.
- President Rtn. Sudipta briefly talked about the projects, that have been carried out, in between:

- On October 30, 2025, RC Calcutta Jadavpur organised a Thalassemia Awareness Campaign at Baruipur High School where nearly 75 students from different classes, in the age group of 8-11 years, alongwith a few teachers who participated in the program. PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal delivered a beautiful presentation and students were very interactive throughout the seminar. This was followed by a Slogan Writing Competition on “Save Nature Save Earth” among the students. Thereafter top three slogans of the event were selected, and the respective students were presented with a book each, as a token of encouragement. Apart from PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal, Rtn. (Dr.) Saiful Anam Mir, Rtn. Manas Kumar Ghosh & himself attended the event.

- On October 31, 2025, the club took part in a whole day program at Santospur Rishi Arobindo Balika Vidyapith, where club members acted as judges for different events like- cooking competition, Shobdojobdo, Nutrition Awareness Campaign and different cultural programs. On the same day, RCCJ team inaugurated the bags made of old clothes by trainees (parents of the students) of tailoring training program at the school. The events were participated by PP Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee, PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal, PP Rtn. Sanjay Ray, PP Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta, PP Rtn. Pausali Paul, IPP Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta, Rtn. Koyeli Dutt, Rtn. Manas Kumar Ghosh, Rtn. Subrata Kundu, Rtn. (Dr.) SitaramPal & himself.

- On November 07, 2025, the club co-hosted RYLA at Vivekananda Siksha Niketan High School at Puabagan, Bankura where two different sessions were conducted by the members present on Nutrition and Student Health Awareness and Cervical Cancer and Menstrual Health Awareness. The next day i.e. on November 08, 2025, a Cervical Cancer Awareness program, a Nutrition Awareness Campaign for Mother & Child, a Thalassemia Awareness Campaign Seminar, were held at Sarenga Village in Bankura. This was followed by assessment & distribution of certificates to 10 beneficiaries for beauty training. Further, assessment of tailoring training was conducted and certificates were distributed to 10 beneficiaries. Next, a water filter was donated to Mandira Foundation to provide safe drinking water for the beneficiaries at the precincts. Further, 2 goats were donated to each of 3 needy families at Sarenga village to help improve their financial condition in the long run. PP Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee, PP Rtn. Gautam Chakravarty, PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal, PP Rtn. Pausali Paul, Rtn. Subrata Kundu & himself participated in the events.

- Next, President Rtn. Sudipta announced a few upcoming projects and requested the members to make it convenient to participate.
  - The club plans to initiate a graphic design training program at Santospur Rishi Arobindo Balika Vidyapith very soon. Also, plans are afoot for a psychological counseling session at the school for the students here to help improve their mental health.
  - That the club would try and organise a general health camp at the street children home at Mukundapur. Members will be notified once the date is finalised.
- Regarding Election of Officers for Rotary Year 2026-27, President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu announced that PP Rtn. Gautam Chakravarty has been appointed as Presiding Officer for the election of the board of RC Calcutta Jadavpur for RY 2026 – 2027. Intending members are accordingly requested to file their nominations with the Presiding Officer at the earliest, so that the process can start and names of the elected board members for RY 2026-27 can be declared in course of the meeting scheduled on December 03, 2025.
- Upon request of President Rtn. Sudipta, PP Rtn. Gautam Chakravarty briefly described the projects carried out at Puabagan & Sarenga, Bankura, who shared his experiences with the members & guests present.
- Next, President Rtn. Sudipta invited President Rtn. Archana Choraria, guest for the evening to share her experience about her journey in Rotary & her club, it being a part of the LBC endeavour at Rajawadi Hospital, Mumbai. She elaborated her experience and thanked RC Calcutta Jadavpur for giving her club the opportunity to be part of the LBC journey. As a token of goodwill, President Rtn. Choraria was felicitated by the club followed by flag exchange between the two clubs.
- President Rtn. Sudipta informed that the annual picnic of the club would be arranged on February 01, 2026 and further details would be shared with the members in due course.
- President Rtn. Sudipta and PP Rtn. Partha S. Sarkar announced that the LBC Annual Fund Raiser event would be on February 15, 2026 and encouraged members to donate for the cause. Further, PP Rtn. Partha

S. Sarkar informed that on November 18, , 2025, LBC activity was featured through a 13 min long documentary film “Lighting the Void” which was shot at Institute of Child Health (ICH), where RC Calcutta Jadavpur was portrayed as a Lead Club for the cause.

- PP Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta shared her experience of being a part of a Thalassemia Awareness Quiz programme held on November 11 , 2025 at Indus Valley World School, organised by 4 different Rotary Clubs, where Rtn. (Dr.) Ramendu Homchaudhuri was present alongwith other dignitaries of RI District 3291. The school children laid out nice presentations through models and explained the aspects of Thalassemia with enthusiasm, which was very engrossing and praiseworthy. They also presented a bilingual song composed by themselves for the occasion.

Secretary Rtn. (Dr.) Saiful Anam Mir conducted the club business and extended birthday greetings to PP Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta falling on November 20, Rtn. Chandan Das falling on December 02 and Honorary Member Rtn. Samirendu Dutt falling on December 03. Further, he extended anniversary greetings to Rtn. Jayatee & Mr. Debanjan Biswas falling on November 21, President Rtn. Sudipta & Debjani Kundu falling on November 22.

Minutes of the 2160th meeting, was confirmed by the members present and the meeting was concluded with thanks to everyone present, with a special note of thanks to President Rtn. Choraria, the guest of the evening.