Ritanya Sanstha

A decade-old effort connecting India's alumni and professional communities

ritanyasanstha.in alumbond.in openear.in

Subject: An invitation to build a volunteer-run community for your doctors, residents and medical alumni

Dear Sir / Madam,

Every doctor already belongs to something on paper. A medical college alumni body. A state chapter of the IMA. Perhaps a resident doctors' association. Each keeps a directory, elects office bearers who wear the title with pride, and organises an annual reunion or two that feels closer to a residents' welfare meeting than to family. None of this is dishonest, and none of it is enough. What is missing is a community that behaves like family: one a young doctor can turn to at two in the morning for a second opinion, one that stands beside them the day they are wronged, and one that stays exactly as warm and responsive the day after office bearers change as it was the day before.

I write to you as the founder of Ritanya Sanstha, and as someone who has become a passionate advocate for the dignity India's doctors deserve over the past year. **My published paper on this subject** sets out that argument at length, and its conclusion is one I believe matters as much for the future of medical services in India as for doctors themselves. The deeper problem I have come to believe in is structural: unlike the Bar or the police, doctors have never had one unified, non-partisan community, only a patchwork of bodies that speaks loudest right after a tragedy and falls quiet soon after.

That gap, a community and not another association, is exactly what we have already closed once, for a different profession. AlumBond, Ritanya Sanstha's flagship community, connects over 10,000 IIT Roorkee alumni today as one thickly engaged family: a verified directory, mentorship, peer support, referrals, and a think tank, entirely free and volunteer run, and unaffected by who currently holds office. DocConnect brings that same platform, and that same family feeling, to doctors. You can view the **AlumBond brochure here**.

> **OUR OFFER TO YOU**
>
> If your resident doctors and medical alumni carry the same volunteer energy, we will provide our entire platform to your institution, white labelled, private and closed, completely free of cost.
>
> If a purely volunteer model does not look sustainable for your community, we are also open to a membership supported model, on terms suited to your institution.

We ask only this: allow us to introduce this to your resident doctors and medical alumni, and let those who are interested come find us independently. The enclosed note explains what this has proven, why it matters, and how it could work here.

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Enclosed: a four page note on why this cannot wait, what this has proven at IIT Roorkee, why a unified community matters for doctors, and how this could work for your institution.

A Founder's Note: Why Doctors Need This Now

I am not a doctor. But over the past year I have become a passionate advocate for the dignity India's doctors deserve, and I want to set out here, in more detail than a cover letter allows, exactly why.

3 in 4
Indian doctors report facing violence in their careers

~10%
of registered cases reach court after a charge sheet

0
convictions in Maharashtra under its doctor protection law since 2010

358
suicides in India's medical community, 2010 to 2019

Twenty six of twenty eight states criminalise violence against healthcare workers, yet enforcement is close to nonexistent, unlike the Bar Council of India, which can move every advocate in the country in unison within a day of one attack. Doctors have no equivalent: representation splits across FORDA, FAIMA, state associations, and the IMA, producing outrage after each tragedy and little that is sustained.

The damage is not only external. Nearly one in four residents feels overwhelmed most days, often citing sixteen to eighteen hour shifts, and ragging continues to surface despite being banned. The exit is already visible: nearly 100,000 India born doctors now work abroad, up seventy six percent since 2000, as India runs short by an estimated 500,000 doctors.

I do not believe this is deliberate persecution. It is fragmentation: a profession without the unity that gives the Bar and police their leverage, and without the support that keeps people from breaking. I believe doctors can build what every cohesive profession already has and doctors do not: a connected, non-partisan community that outlasts any office bearer or news cycle. That is what Ritanya Sanstha exists to build, and why I have put my own name behind DocConnect.

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

I set this argument out formally, with full sourcing, in *"Who Bats for the Doctor? Violence, Broken Protections, and Internal Fracture in India's Medical Profession"* (Vishnu Kant, 2026), at **doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21279826**. I have argued this case publicly elsewhere too; the conclusion has stayed the same.

What This Has Proven at IIT Roorkee

10,000+	Rs 0	100%	12 Houses
alumni connected on one deployment	cost to any member, ever	volunteer run, no paid staff	of activity, from 70 WhatsApp groups

Why WhatsApp alone was not enough

WhatsApp groups gave IIT Roorkee alumni instant conversation, but with real limits. Group size was capped. A few vocal, highly energetic members often crowded out quieter, more sincere ones. Heavy admin control sometimes meant a group simply reflected the personality of whoever ran it. And official forums, whether run by the institute or a formal alumni body, faced a familiar problem: much like a residents' welfare association, new initiatives tended to fade the moment office bearers changed.

The Virtual Family

After several years of experimenting with different models, a community of IIT Roorkee volunteers set out to build an unofficial "virtual family": a community ready for instant help, conducive to personal and professional support, and strong enough to enable real collective effort.

What began as a few WhatsApp groups soon grew into a dozen communities housing about 70 groups, covering both personal and professional needs. With loud, attention seeking posts brought under control, this became, by far, the community's most successful experience. Even so, WhatsApp remained a suboptimal home for work of this scale.

From WhatsApp to a platform, and now to doctors

That is how AlumBond was born. Built with sustained investment of time and effort by the volunteer community, it grew into a rules and algorithm based platform covering instant help, mentoring, jobs, start ups, think tanks and several other areas of mutual support, all running on one shared, purpose built technology. DocConnect is the same technology, built to do for doctors what AlumBond has already done for one institute's alumni.

Why a Unified Community Matters for Doctors

Not every professional community will have AlumBond's exact volunteer energy. But doctors carry something more urgent than most: a documented, structural gap between how this profession is protected and represented, and how comparable professions are. Lawyers speak through one statutory body. Police forces act as one command. Doctors speak through a patchwork that does not always agree with itself.

Official and political channels alone are not enough

Resident doctor associations, state bodies and the IMA each do real work, but each also carries a structural weakness: representation split across many bodies, priorities that shift with whoever is currently leading, and a tendency for sustained advocacy to lose out to the more urgent business of the news cycle. None of this is any one body's fault. It is what fragmentation does to any profession, over time.

> *A profession this essential to the country cannot keep depending on outrage alone to protect its own. What it needs is not another news cycle, it needs a community that is still there the day after.*

What a connected, non-partisan community offers

A community built by doctors themselves, for each other, without being bound to any single body's politics or any single office bearer's tenure, is free to focus purely on what doctors actually need: instant peer support when someone asks for it, mentoring across generations and specialities, warm referrals in place of cold applications, confidential support for the burnout the data makes undeniable, and a think tank capable of sustained, non-partisan advocacy. This is precisely what AlumBond proved is possible at IIT Roorkee, and it is what we believe DocConnect can build for doctors trained at your institution, and in time, for doctors trained anywhere in India.

How This Could Work for Your Institution

Two paths, your leaders' choice

Free, volunteer run

If your resident doctors and medical alumni are willing to run the community purely as a voluntary service, we provide the entire technology platform, white labelled and private, exclusively for your community, at no cost.

Membership supported

If a purely volunteer model does not look sustainable for your community, and some hired support is needed, we can discuss a membership contribution based model, on terms suited to your institution.

Our commitment to your institution

100% private, always

Your doctors' data stays within your own community, never shared without consent.

White label, private

This becomes your institution's own community, under your own name, not a smaller version of AlumBond.

Any bridge stays optional

Any future cross institution connection is your community's choice alone.

Governance stays with you

Your community runs independently, never dictated by Ritanya Sanstha or any outside body.

Getting started

1. Interested residents and alumni can **register here**, choosing DocConnect and your institution from the list.
2. They simultaneously join a WhatsApp community created specifically for your institution.
3. Everything that follows is shaped together with interested doctors and alumni from your institution.

We would be glad to speak with your resident doctors or medical alumni at any time. Write to **admin@ritanyasanstha.in**.