

Introduction:

I am Tanmoy Bhattacharya, a long-time friend of Rahul. Thank you all for joining us in this meeting remembering Rahul, a meeting that we wish we didn't have to hold; we are still not ready, and like many of you, not ready (or willing) to talk about our personal feelings of Rahul Balusu, who passed away – much too early -- in Hyderabad, India, on 20th July, 2020, leaving us all in shock followed by unbearable pain. It took us 10 days to come here and meet, the online format just about enough of a guard to save us from breaking down again. We apologise therefore in advance for keeping the format of the meeting more formal than we would have liked to.

We request the speakers mentioned on the screen to speak in the order listed, so that we don't have to come on screen every few minutes to make announcements. I request Prof. Veneeta Dayal to start the event.