

Quality Improvement Programme at MCOPS

A 12-day AICTE-sponsored Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) was held in Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences between 5th and 17th January 2015. Dr. K Ramnarayan, Vice Chancellor Manipal University inaugurated the QIP in the presence of Dr. N Udupa (Director, Research Manipal University) and Dr. C Mallikarjuna Rao (Principal MCOPS). The theme of the QIP was: Frontiers in Pharmacology of Drug Research and Recent Trends in Pharmacy Practice.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ramnarayan said that quality has six aspects to it. These are: credibility, comprehensiveness, reliability, objectivity, relevance and feasibility. He urged the participants and organisers to try and realise these six aspects of quality in any programme that is initiated. Dr. C Mallikarjuna Rao welcomed the gathering and Dr. J Venkata Rao proposed the vote of thanks. Ms Ameena Naaz, a postgraduate student conducted the inaugural function as the host.

The 12-day programme was coordinated and conducted by the departments of pharmacology and pharmacy practice, with each department accounting for six days' activities.

Events under the auspices of Department of Pharmacology (from 5/1/'15 to 10/1/'15)

Day 1 (5 January 2015)

Three lectures were held on the first day. Dr. C Mallikarjuna Rao (Principal and Professor of Pharmacology) was the first speaker. His talk was titled, "Major targets for the drugs to influence wound healing". Dr. Rekha R Shenoy (Associate Professor) spoke on "Role of cytokines in wound healing." The third speaker, Dr. Jayesh Mudgal delivered a talk on "Frontiers in pharmacology of inflammation." The afternoon session was devoted to demonstration of anti-inflammatory and wound healing experiments. Research scholars and postgraduate students took part in the demonstrations.

Day 2 (6 January 2015)

The day began with a talk from Dr. K Sreedhara R Pai (Professor and Head Pharmacology Department). He gave a detailed account of the screening methods for anticancer drugs. Following his talk, there was a lecture from Dr. Srinath Baliga (Father Muller Medical College, Mangaluru). He spoke on the "Targets for anticancer drugs." Flow cytometry is an effective research technique in many biological sciences. Dr. K Nandakumar (Associate Professor) dealt with the basics of flow cytometry and its applications in oncology. The research scholars and postgraduate students conducted MTT and other cell viability assays in the afternoon session.

Day 3 (7 January 2015)

“Out of Sync” was the title of the talk by Dr. N Gopalan Kutty (Professor), who was the first speaker of day 3. He spoke on the adverse implications of disturbances in circadian rhythm on health, particularly on metabolism and obesity. Dr. Yogendra Nayak (Associate Professor), who spoke next, discussed the role of non-enzymatic reactions as drug targets in diabetes and metabolic disorders. The last talk of the morning came from Dr. Anoop Kishore (Assistant Professor). He talked on the “Implications of non-linear systems in drug discovery processes.” In the afternoon demonstrations in MTT and other cell viability assays were held with the help of research scholars and a faculty member.

Day 4 (8 January 2015)

Two of the lectures on the fourth day came from guest speakers. First lecture was from Dr. B Murali (Deputy Director, NUCARE, Division of NGSMIPS, Mangaluru), who dealt with the discovery and development of drugs, particularly for diabetes and metabolic diseases. Dr. Bharti Chogtu Magazine (Associate Professor, Pharmacology, KMC, Manipal) gave a talk on the risk of statins in type-2 diabetes. The other speaker of day was Dr. Nitesh Kumar (Assistant Professor). In his talk on “Non-alcoholic liver disease and metabolic syndrome”, he explained the features of the problem and how it could impact on the patient’s health. The use of autoanalyzer was demonstrated in the afternoon session.

Day 5 (9 January 2015)

Dr. Ashok Shenoy (Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology, KMC, Mangaluru) began the proceedings of the day with his talk on “Clinical drug development and approval process.” Following this, Dr. Piya Paul Mudgal (Research Associate, Manipal Centre for Virus Research) gave a talk on “Therapeutic approaches for Ebola.” Given the panic around the world regarding this deadly disease, Dr. Mudgal’s talk made a realistic assessment of the challenges in store to tackle this menace.

Mr. Madhavan Nampoothiri (Assistant Professor) was the next speaker of the morning. He spoke on “Insulin receptor signalling in neuronal circuit function.”

In the afternoon, there was an interaction with Dr. G. N Singh (Drugs Controller General of India). Dr. Singh, who is also the chairman of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, spoke about the pharmacy profession and the opportunities available for qualified people. He answered several queries from the students and faculty.

Day 6 (10 January 2015)

There was no lecture session on this day. In the morning the participants were taken to Manipal Animal Research Facility, a modern two-corridor animal house

of Manipal University. A few experiments in CNS pharmacology such as Water Maze were demonstrated at the animal facility itself.

In the afternoon there was a demonstration on Powerlab in the department premises.

Programme under pharmacy practice commenced on 12th January and went up to 17th January with faculty members sharing their experience and knowledge in the area of expertise.

Day 7 (12th January 2015)

The day started with a lecture from Dr. M.K. Unnikrishnan (Professor and Head of Department) on public health and pharmaceutical care, its importance in today's community welfare and how it is neglected in the curriculum in India. The next speaker, Dr. Arun Thirthahalli (Ecron Acunova), spoke on Quality Management System (QMS) implementation in clinical research. He also explained the various phases present in the cycle in a CRO. Medical writing has become a booming industry with a lot of job prospects. On the topic of medical writing Dr. Girish Thunga (Assistant Professor) delivered a lecture. In the afternoon the delegates visited Acunova.

Day 8 (13th January 2015)

The day began with a talk from Dr. Sreedharan Nair (Associate Professor) on bridging pharmaceutical education. Following his talk, Dr. M. Surulivel Rajan (Associate Professor), gave a lecture on pharmacometrics and its impact on clinical practice. Dr. Manu (Associate Professor, KMC, Manipal) was the next speaker. He spoke of the challenges and drugs used in treating TB patients. In the afternoon there was an interaction session held in pharmacy practice department.

Day 9 (14th January 2015)

The morning started with a talk from Dr. Leelavathi D Acharya (Associate Professor) on a pharmacists' role in drug safety in the hospital and hospital formulary. It was followed by a lecture by Mr. Suhaj A (Asst Professor) on outcomes of COPD and whether the quality of life mattered or the number of years lived. The last speaker of the day was Mr. John Preshanth (Asst Professor). He dealt with the subject of antimicrobial stewardship and the people who should be involved in this. It is important as the number of cases with drug resistance rises. The afternoon session was marked by a visit to hospital pharmacy.

Day 10 (15th January 2015)

A guest speaker, Mr. Raghavendra Kamath, gave the first lecture of the day. He shared his experience of working in a hospital pharmacy and its management. Dr. Rajesh V (Assistant Professor) spoke on the modern methods to ensure patient medication safety. "Role of a renal pharmacist", was the title on which Mr.

Prasanna Kumar (Assistant Professor) spoke. In the afternoon there was a demonstration of Winnolin held in the pharmacy practice department.

Day 11 (16th January 2015)

Mr. Sonal Sekhar (Asst Professor) delivered a talk on Drug Information Retrieval. He mentioned the various reliable sources from which drug information could be obtained. Another faculty member Dr. R Rajesh spoke on "Pharmacovigilance and its importance." Following that there was a talk on sponsor's role from an investigator's point of view by Mr. John Preshanth. He spoke about the current scenario in this field. In the afternoon, demonstration of answering a query was done.

Day 12 (17th January 2015)

The first lecture of the day was by Mr. Kanav Khera (Asst Professor) on ethical issues in biomedical research. He went into the history of ethical laws that were established. The next speaker, Dr Vijayanarayana K (Associate Professor), gave an extensive review on evidence-based clinical practice. The final lecture of the quality improvement came from Dr. R. Rajesh on ADR signalling.

The programme ended with a valedictory function.