

27<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE

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News Letter

**Higher Education Skill Development and Research Center**

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### 1. FDP on PBL at Amrita School of Pharmacy, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kochi, Kerala, India 5 to 8 June 2024

**Brief Report**

A Faculty Development Programme (FDP) was organized at Amrita School of Pharmacy from June 5th to 8th June 2024. The four-day event featured various sessions conducted by eminent educationists in the field of Pharmacy education. Dr. Bahubali G. Nagavi, Founder and CEO of HESDARC, Mysuru, led the FDP. Other prominent speakers included Dr. R. N.Saha, Chief Scientific Advisor at Biophore Group of Companies; Dr. P. Jayasekhar, President, Indian Pharmaceutical Association, Kerala State Branch; Mr. Kalpesh V. Mehta, Co-founder and Senior Consultant at HESDARC; and Dr. Satish B. Bhise, Former Principal of Government College of Pharmacy, Karad, Maharashtra. The event was packed with sessions and activity sheets, fostering an engaging and inspiring learning environment for all participants.

**Day 1:** During the inaugural ceremony, the welcome address and introductory remarks were delivered by Dr. Sabitha M., Principal of Amrita School of Pharmacy. This was followed by the lighting of the inaugural lamp and the release of the FDP booklet by Prof. MVG Thampi, Additional Controller of Examinations ECD Unit II. He also delivered a keynote address. Dr. P. Jayasekhar provided insight into the workshop's objectives, and Dr. Nagavi

explained the importance of problem-based learning (PBL). After a brief tea break, Dr. Nagavi conducted a session on 'PBL: The Fundamentals and Learning Outcomes.' Dr. Jayasekhar followed with a session on PBL: Process, Sessions, Dos and Don'ts. In the afternoon, Dr. Nagavi led a session on PBL: The Problem, Create and Generate LOs. Participants were grouped into teams of six for activities based on problem creation and generation of learning outcomes (LOs). The day concluded with puzzles, a post-learning check, and a feedback survey.

**Day 2:** Morning sessions on the PBL process and assessment were conducted by Dr. Nagavi, followed by a session on Open Book Assessment by Dr. R.N. Saha. After lunch, Dr. Nagavi led a session on 'PBL Pre and Post Evaluation of Students,' followed by Mr. Kalpesh V. Mehta discussing about PBL – Student Copy and Facilitator's Guide and Assessment. The day ended with related activities, a post-learning check, and a feedback survey.

**Day 3:** The programme began with a pre-learning check. Dr. Nagavi discussed details of PBL assessment in students, followed by a PBL demo for second-semester B.Pharm students. Dr. S.K.Kanthlal, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacology; Dr. Lakshmi P.K., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacognosy; Dr. Saiprabha V. N., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Dr. Sreeja C. Nair talked on PBL process and assessment, fundamentals of PBL, PBL – group and



role. Students were grouped into teams of six, each assigned with a facilitator and a problem (scenario) was given to students. Students discussed the problem, selected a leader and a scribe. The leader of each PBL group presented their learning outcomes. Meanwhile, Dr. Bhise gave an online session to students on the roles of the leader, scribe, participants, and facilitator. Dr. R. N. Saha then gave a talk on industrial collaborations to the faculty members. The afternoon session covered topics such as processes, sessions, SCLOs, PBL, assessments, and grading.

**Day 4:** The fourth day started with a Open Book test for all participants. Questions were distributed randomly. Participants prepared assignments, presentations and videos and submitted them to Google Classroom. The FDP concluded with a valedictory function, ending at 1:20 PM. We thank all the well-wishers, resource persons, faculties and others who helped directly or indirectly for conducting the PBL workshop successfully.



### HESDARC's Resource Faculty



**Dr. BG Nagavi,**  
Mysuru



**Dr. Satish B Bhise,**  
Pune



**Mr. Kalpesh V Mehta,**  
Mysuru



**Dr. RN Saha,**  
Kolkata



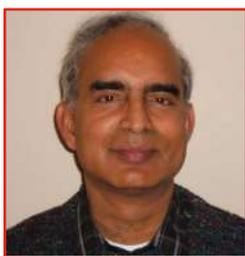
**Prof. P. Jayashekar,**  
Trivandrum



### Faculties of Amrita School of Pharmacy Presenting Discussing and Debating.

#### 2. Transforming the Pharm D program in India with University of Findlay, Ohio, USA mentorship initiative in collaboration with HESDARC Mysuru

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**Chandra Sekar**  
Findlay, Ohio, USA

During my first visit to Ras-al-Khaimah in 2010, Dr. Nagavi suggested a MOU between RAK and the University of Findlay to promote student/ faculty exchange. That was my first MOU, signed with RAK College of Pharmacy in 2012, which over the next few years provided enriched educational opportunities

for over a dozen students.

**Over the past dozen years, I have been able to**

expand the program to few colleges in India with fifty students from both India and US participating and creating a once in a life-time personal and professional memories. Each of those exchanges educated me on what is realistically feasible, and how to add value to the participants experience.

Now as I enter my post-retirement life, I wish to primarily focus my efforts on those initiatives that would add value to pharmacy profession in India and recognition of pharmacist as an integral part of healthcare team. I am pleased that under Dr. Nagavi's leadership HESDAR will be an integral part of those efforts.

**The Challenge facing the PharmD program** – PharmD program was started in India in 2008 and within a decade over 200 institutions – many of them of substandard quality, were awarding PharmD's, when at the same time there was not a single job that specifically specified PharmD

requirement. To further complicate the situation, everyone - D.Pharm, B.Pharm, M.Pharm and Pharm.D graduates were all awarded "registered pharmacist" license, result – no one really knew what is expected of a pharmacist!

**While India's pharmacy council copied the PharmD education from the West, we did not copy the requirement for licensure exams for pharmacist certification – prevalent in all developed countries, as that would have disqualified all D.Pharm and most B.Pharm/ M.Pharm graduates, with limited clinical practice experience from being licensed.**

**PharmD education is irrelevant and practice as clinical pharmacist is impossible**, if pharmacists' refuse to perform the basic functions expected of a pharmacist in the WHO guidelines – recording patient information, recording drug information, labelling the dispensed drug and counselling the patient on their prescription – then they are not pharmacists! With no accountability for their work – there is neither respect nor expectation of fair compensation.

During my annual visits over the past decade, I implored colleges I was visiting to demonstrate the value of pharmacists' services by conducting randomized control studies in the community setting. **I am sad to state that not a single college stepped forward to take up the challenge.**

Solution: Clearly disappointed by the status quo, I submitted a grant titled **"Improving Patient Care by Empowering Community Pharmacist in India"** for the Fulbright Award in Collaboration with Satheesh Gottipati of Vignan College of Pharmacy. Fulbright awards prior to being granted must be approved both by the Fulbright foundation as well as by the government of the country where the work has to be carried out. By granting this first ever award to pharmacy under the Fulbright grant by Government of India, it indicated to me that pharmacists can be recognized and could be part of healthcare team in India – if we can demonstrate our value.

In collaboration with Satheesh, Vignan Pharmacy

College, we have completed the first phase of our study on the impact of pharmacist on hypertension in the outpatient setting in India. Results of the pharmacist impact on patient hypertension management are impressive and the abstract is accepted for presentation at the 82nd FIP this September. This is the first step. Now, in collaboration with HESDAR we would like to replicate the study at other sites.

**HESDAR's mission is to train college faculty to be better teachers.** Best way to learn is by applying classroom knowledge to real life scenario. Most PharmD students currently have no awareness of how their classroom knowledge translates to reality. Very few of them are engaged or interested in managing chronic conditions for their own family members.

Proposal – We are interested in collaborating with organizations that would like to replicate our hypertension study in their community. We will provide the required training and it would be a commitment for six months. Faculty involved in the study would be invited to present their work at the American Pharmacist Association meeting that is held in Spring each year. Abstract submission deadline for the Spring meeting is the first week of October of the prior year. For faculty submitting a competitive abstract, Dr. Sekar would arrange for a 3-week invitation to visit the University of Findlay which also includes visits to various pharmacy practice sites for a nominal fee of \$500. This fee includes boarding, lodging and local transportation. For qualified candidates, Dr. Sekar would support application for funding from Pharmbridge [FIP] and Fulbright as well as other external agencies that visitor would like to apply. Important timelines below

1. Free webinar on zoom on July 7 and July 28, 2024
2. Time between 8:30-9:30 pm IST. Link to be forwarded later
3. Last date for receiving proposals: - September 15, 2024
4. Review of proposals and shortlisting: - October 1, 2024
5. Online training date/s - November 2024
6. Commencement of the project: February 1, 2025
7. Competitive abstract submission last date: Oct. 1, 2025

### 3. Dr BC Roy College of Pharmacy Durgapur, West Bengal

Dr. BG Nagavi was invited to speak to the faculties of BC Roy college of Pharmacy at Durgapur on 5 May 2024, on the topic "How to raise the quality of higher education (Pharmacy) & NIRF ranking". The presentation highlighted on the following and other parameters

Ways to improve NIRF ranking was discussed wrt. Teaching, Learning & Resources (TLR); Research Productivity, Impact, and IPR (RPII); Graduation Outcomes (GO): Outreach & Inclusivity (OI): Perception (PR).

Highlighted the following points with personal experiences of over 40 years



### Block the bad and bring in best practices

1. Malpractices and manipulations a big No No No and NO
2. Bring in best teachers and shunt out bad ones
3. Provide the facilities for students and faculties on priority, avoid fake facilities
4. Best examination practices are a must
5. Continuous training for faculties: Inhouse and External experts in Teaching and Learning and domain specific areas
6. Conferences: national and international to be organized
7. International training for faculties: Australia in 1992 and later
8. Accreditation in 1994-95 for M Pharm and B Pharm NBA, AICTE
9. Be the first to do few things: Clinical Pharmacy (1994-95); New building (1989) and faculties doing PhD in rotation in early 90's
10. Profession First, Institution next and I am last approach pays
11. Students first, Faculties next and I am last is the best policy. The presentation was followed by discussions. Prof.(Dr.) Samir Kumar Samanta Principal, BCRCP welcomed and thanked for the presentation

### 4. Pharmacy Education Day in memory of Prof. Mahadev Lal Schroff at Dayanand Sagar University, March 2024

Participated in the important event on 6 March 2024 as Guest of Honor. **Spoke about Prof Schroff – his Leadership and Risk-taking qualities**, Bold and Straight forward Speeches; Pioneering 4 institution's at BHU, Pilani, Sagar and Ahmedabad during his working career spanning about 40 years; multifarious activities in Associations, Book writing, initiating Scientific Journals. Prof Schroff was teacher par excellence with humility and cordiality. His exceptional concern for the profession and professionals is a great example for others to emulate.

**I mentioned that, in a way, I am professional grandson of Prof Schroff as my M Pharm and Ph D guide in Pilani Prof BM Mithal, studied his master's and PhD under Prof Schroff.** I am very proud about this and mentioned on many occasions during my working career of over 40 years.

**I also mentioned that the day should also be used to fact check academic status of Pharmacy in India and work hard to raise the standards and ethics.** We need to offer vibrant and need based curricula, implement NEP 2020 in an earnest spirit, revisit Pharm D curriculum and training. I added that national Pharmacy Commission which on the anvil offers much needed hope to realize some of our aspirations in education and practice.

**Gave few tips to students** and Faculty members to get best out of teaching and learning.



### 5. Editorial: Problem Based Learning is the only way forward

There is an urgent need for the widespread adoption of Problem-Based Learning (PBL) in pharmacy education, from undergraduate to postgraduate programs.

- **Problem:** Traditional education methods may not adequately prepare students for real-life challenges requiring critical thinking and problem-solving.
- **Solution:** PBL offers a student-centered approach where learners grapple with complex problems, fostering self-directed learning, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.
- **Evidence:** A 4-day workshop in Kochi demonstrated the effectiveness of PBL in developing these skills in pharmacy students.
- **Call to Action:** Readers are encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestions on PBL implementation.

### Quote of the Quarter



*Nobody is inferior, nobody is superior, nobody is equal either.  
We are all born Unique,  
Original and Incomparable.*

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