

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in Genetics and Molecular Biology

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Genetics and Molecular Biology are newly emerging branch of Biomedicine having lot of potentials for diagnosing and managing not only Genetic Disorders but array of medical conditions. Indian scientists are working full throttle to exploit the potentials of the Molecular technology. It becomes imperative to share one's experience with people in other fields. It is also vital for these professionals to be involved in Continuing Professional Development activities. Publishing in peer reviewed journals is one of the avenues to share with wider community. The journals evolve to a higher level with contribution of high order and authentic research. For having impact, the research by scientists needs to be peer-reviewed by experts in the field. Research as a poster and oral presentation open up an avenue which is amenable to the wider review by experts. In fact meeting and conferences provide a perfect milieu for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) also. CPD mainly implies self-directed and practice-based learning activities rather than supervised training. As well as promoting personal professional development, CPD aims to maintain and develop competencies (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of the individual doctor, essential for meeting the changing needs of patients and the health care delivery system, responding to the new challenges from the scientific development in medicine, and meeting the evolving requirements of licensing bodies and society (1).

There are few meetings taking place in Genetics and Molecular Medicine in India. However they are few and highly focused. The chapters of genetics of many societies and association provide great impetus in CPD. Indian Academy of Pediatrics chapter on Genetics is devoted for sharing research and cases with Pediatricians. Similarly, Indian Society of Human Genetics (ISHG) is devoted to the growth and

dissemination of knowledge of human genetics and its related fields in India. The Society conducts annual meetings, symposia and workshops to promote awareness of the current developments in the field. Indian Academy of Medical Genetics formally formed in 2012 with The main objectives to improve the quality and accessibility of clinical genetics services in the country, to promote medical genetics education and research, to help integrate medical genetics research into patient care, and thereby to promote the overall advancement of this medical discipline in India. The IAMG serves as a forum of interaction for medical genetics centres across the country to enable coordinated patient care, research and teaching in the field of medical genetics. This expert group is also meant to act as an advisory body to the government and the society in matters pertaining to medical genetics.

These associations and academy may prove a boon to the budding professionals in field of Medical Genetics. However, the meetings are annual, highly focused and often has limited access to resource once meeting is over. Young promising scientists need time for comprehension of new concepts and newer development. Feedback obtained from the participants addressed the need for resources from these experts even after the conference. It has been proved by many scientists in their study that CPD in form of CD or web-based educational activity is as effective as a live CME or conference (2, 3, 4). It is desirable that these highly focused conferences and meeting often delivered by experts from abroad should have avenue in form of post event digitalization and online module to help the younger community to keep them updated. A web-based module in Medical genetics was found feasible by scientists from Sri-Lanka (5)

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The 2nd Annual conference of Indian Academy of Medical Genetics, IAMGCON 2015 is scheduled to be held at Jodhpur at All India Institute of Medical Sciences Jodhpur and Dr S N Medical College, Jodhpur from 11-13 December 2015. The organizing Committee is making an effort to use the resources thus obtained through the meeting for Continuing Professional Development with permission from Experts. If this can be done, it will be a milestone for future activities in this area of Biomedical Sciences.

The current issues also addressed different areas of the ever growing field of Medical Genetics. This issue also highlights importance of retrospective analysis of case records which sometime shed light on conditions reported lately but existing in our country. It is thus desirable to have documentation of each and every suspected case with genetic condition even if diagnosis is not possible with our current workup or literature review.

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