

MCOPS DJC's Fourth Distinguished Lecture by Dr Deepak Mundkinajeddu



10 June 2023: Department of Pharmacognosy organized the fourth MCOPS DJC Distinguished Lecture on 10 June 2023 at 10.30 am in Dr PGR hall MCOPS. Dr Deepak Mundkinajeddu, Associate Vice

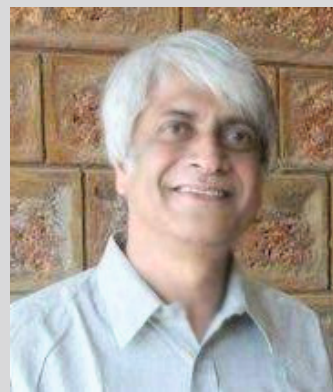
President (R&D), Natural Remedies Private Limited, Bangalore was the resource person who spoke on "Indian Botanicals in Global Market - Current Trends". Dr Richard Lobo, Head, Department of Pharmacognosy, welcomed the participants and the speaker and introduced the speaker to the audience. Dr Deepak, an eminent scientist and phytochemist, deliberated on Indian Botanicals in Global Market and the annual turnover of crude drugs in different segments. In his lecture he stressed that the crude drugs are not only used as medicine but are also in various fields such as food supplements, cosmetics, biopesticides and in veterinary practice. He also spoke how the quality of the botanicals / raw materials affect the quality of the drugs in industry perspective. He emphasized on how the substituents and adulterants affect the quality of the drugs. Dr Deepak narrated how the negative reports of well-known crude drugs in scientific journals affect their demand, sale and effect on consumers. He gave the example of Ashwagandha a well-known drug used as medicine and supplements since many centuries as immune booster, is banned in Denmark, following a research claim that it causes liver damage. Likewise, turmeric in Italy is another example that created negative impact on people and global market. He explained the need of using proper analytical tools for estimation and standardization of phytoconstituents to avoid false claims by the suppliers. Dr Deepak also narrated how the geographical variation will affect the production of secondary metabolites of therapeutic importance in the plant, which has to be considered while selecting the raw materials for production of the herbal dosage form. In the last part of his lecture, he explained the regulatory norms to be followed by the manufacturer while producing the dosage forms as per the guidelines, to maintain the quality and efficacy of the herbal drugs. He also raised concern over heavy metal and pesticide residues in crude drugs which can be overcome by organic farming of the medicinal plants.

The lecture was very informative and well appreciated by the participants. After the lecture Dr Deepak interacted with participants and answered

all the quarries raised by them. The lecture was attended by more than 70 participants. Dr C Mallikarjuna Rao, Principal and Dr Krishnamurthy Bhat, Vice -Principal MCOPS, felicitated Dr Deepak. Dr Richard Lobo proposed the vote of thanks.



From Dr MKU's Desk...



Dr M K Unnikrishnan,

MCOPS Alumnus,
Former Prof & Head, Dept of Pharmacy Practice, MCOPS,
Professor of Pharmacology, NGSMPIS, NITTE University

Examining the Examination System

Everything has changed in the process of creation, acquisition, documentation, dissemination and archival of knowledge. Explosive growth in information technology has hastened the fragmentation of knowledge, its division into multiple sub-specialties, emergence of flexible learning programmes, and innovations in online instructional practices. However, the practices in evaluation have not kept pace with these developments. Even Manipal can do better.

Until quite recently, 70 to 80 % of the evaluation, by way of 'final examination', occurred in a single session lasting three hours. A whole year's learning must find expression in three hours!! This is mostly true, even today, in many reputed universities. On the other hand, in the IITs, 70 to 80% evaluation would be already over before the final examination. Manipal has done well to improve, but not yet optimally.

Good universities practice continuous evaluation. And they never employ a Controller of Examinations. (How many of you have heard of a Controller of Examinations in the Harvard university?) Good universities allow teachers to conduct the evaluation with considerable autonomy. Thanks to recent reforms, Manipal no longer needs an external examiner to set the question papers in the 'prescribed pattern', send it by 'registered post', 'in duly signed, sealed envelopes' marked 'CONFIDENTIAL'..... etc.

A few of my colleagues and I conducted a study comparing the number of hours spent on evaluation vs teaching in the Kerala University of Health Sciences. We were not surprised to see that the evaluation process often consumed the bulk of the working hours of most teachers, especially those who handled the practical exams. Instead of facilitating the learning process, we found that exams actually hindered education.

The Kothari Commission, more than half a century ago, observed that examinations, especially the question papers, constitute the single greatest hazard in Indian education.

Why are such issues ignored? The problem lies with the Pharmacy Act that allows the PCI to exercise control of pharmacy education. We have inherited this system from the British, who wanted to control India's destiny to their advantage. Unfortunately, we still embrace this absurd system in the name of 'ensuring quality'. And we know what quality we have ensured. None of our pharmacy schools have made the mark internationally. If individuals excel, it is mostly in spite of their education. The most laughable innovation, nowhere to be seen, is the Gazetting of the Pharm D syllabus!!

In the West, universities, not statutory bodies, generate very dynamic curricula. The best Universities create new knowledge through research, adding whole chapters to the learning program. Statutory bodies only supervise the practice of the profession. They do not manage the syllabus.

The NEP has envisioned a revolution, but medical education is already outside its purview. So it seems with Pharmacy. It is time we fight for freedom from the clutches of bureaucratic tyranny. It is already late.

Another nagging problem is the quality of the examinations we conduct. Are the examinations really testing what is relevant and important? Is it being reduced to a memory drill?

Unfortunately, except in a few places, there is very little effort towards reforming the system.

Let me end with an anecdote that reflect our deep-seated attitude towards evaluation. It is about how a clever student answered a Physics question : "

How do you determine the height of a tall building with a barometer? "

The student had answered, "Take the barometer to the top of the building, attach a long rope to it, lower it to the street; length of the rope is the height of the building."

Because it was a physics exam, the student was asked to rewrite the answer reflecting some knowledge in physics.

He gave many alternatives..

"Drop the barometer from the top of the building, timing its fall with a stopwatch. The formula $x=0.5*a*t^2$, calculates the height of the building .. "

" Or measure the height of the barometer and the length of its shadow. From the length of the shadow of the building, one can determine the height of the building."

"Or swing The barometer as a pendulum, determine the value of g at the street level and at the top of the building; difference between the two values of g can be used to calculate the height of the building."

"Or attach a long rope to it, lower it to just above the street, and then swing it as a pendulum. You could calculate the height of the building by the period of the precession".

" Probably the best way would be to take the barometer to the superintendent and say: "Mr. Superintendent, here is a fine barometer. If you tell me the height of the building I will give you this barometer!"

When asked whether he really knew the conventional answer, the student replied that he was fed up with his teachers trying to teach him how to think!

The above anecdote exhorts today's pharmacy teachers to introspect on their question papers. We must not forget that the examinations define the *de facto* syllabus, influence the depth of study, and shape attitudes towards learning. Poor examinations promote mediocrity, subvert talent and derail the curriculum. Reforming the examination is fundamental to nation building.

Elite Alumni Column

UW's Sreejayan Nair Receives Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award



05 June 2023: Dr Sreejayan Nair, a professor in the School of Pharmacy, University of Wyoming, is one of three recipients of the 2023 John P Ellbogen Meritorious Classroom Teaching Award. The award was established in 1977 by businessman John P "Jack" Ellbogen to "foster, encourage and reward excellence in classroom teaching at UW."

"Dr. Nair is an outstanding teacher whose excellence in the classroom is driven by his passion for student learning. It would be challenging to identify a person who is more committed to student learning than Sree," says Kem Krueger, dean of the School of Pharmacy, who nominated Nair for the honor.

Over the past 14 years, Nair has been recognized 11 times with awards for his teaching in the pharmacy and WWAMI programs. He was named Teacher of the Year in the UW School of Pharmacy in both 2008 and 2019. As a principal investigator, he has received funding for 30 grants. He is currently chair of the Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences; director of the Biomedical Sciences Interdisciplinary Graduate Program; mentoring director of the Wyoming Sensory Biology Center of Biomedical Research Excellence; and a professor of pharmacology.

Dr Nair received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences(1991–1996), his Master's degree in Medicinal Chemistry (1989–1991), and his Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy (1985–1989), all from College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal which as then under Mangalore University, in India. Later he pursued Post Doctoral Fellowships twice, from Klinikum Großhadern, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, Germany and University of

Tennessee Health Sciences Center, Memphis, TN.

Courtesy:<https://www.uwyo.edu/news/2023/06/uws-sreejayan-nair-receives-ellbogen-meritorious-classroom-teaching-award.html>

MCOPS proudly congratulates Dr Nair for this remarkable achievement!!

Other Activities...

Career in Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs

03 June 2023: Mr Rajaneesh B R, Project Manager, Novartis Biome, Hyderabad interacted with the students of Department of Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs and Management, MCOPS on 03 June 2023. His session primarily focused on "Career in Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs". In his elaborate session, Mr Rajaneesh discussed about various departments under Regulatory Affairs. He extensively discussed the importance of labelling, submissions, Chemistry Manufacturing and Control (CMC) and Module 1 of CTD format. Furthermore, he highlighted cases on nuances required during regulatory submissions to national regulatory authorities and described the process of valuation of innovations. Mr Rajaneesh also touched upon various schemes of Government of India for establishing start-ups. He also responded to student queries and doubts.

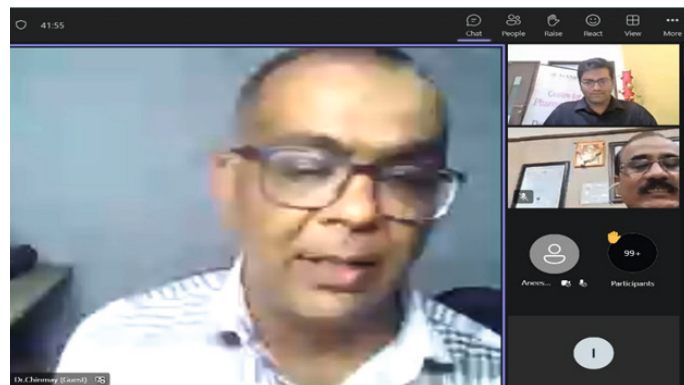
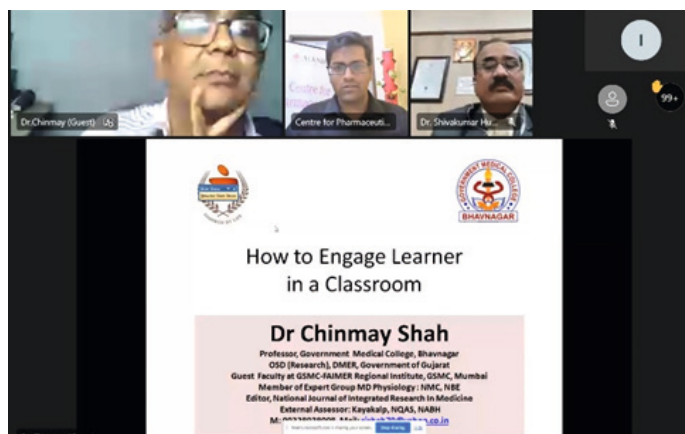


Teachers' Skill Empowerment Series (TEM-II)

22 June 2023 : As part of MCOPS Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Center for Pharmaceutical Skill Development (CPSD), MCOPS, MAHE, Manipal, in association with Life Science Skill Development Council (LSSDC), APTI-Karnataka, and APTI-Uttar Pradesh State Branch, organized the Teachers' Skill Empowerment Series-II, 2023 on the topic "How to Engage Learners in Classroom" on Thursday, 22 June 2023, in an online format. The event featured Dr Chinmay Shah, Professor and Head of the Physiology Department at Government Medical College Bhaavnagar, as the resource person. The program commenced at 3 pm, marking the beginning of an insightful session. Dr H Shivakumar, President of APTI Karnataka Branch and Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology at BLDEA's SSM College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, delivered a warm and inspiring welcome note. Dr Shivakumar expressed his gratitude towards the participants for their active involvement in the event and emphasized the importance of continuous professional development for teachers.

The objective of the talk was to equip teachers with practical tools and techniques to effectively engage learners in their classrooms. The session covered various topics such as gamification in education, inquiry-based learning, and the utilization of multimedia resources to enhance learner engagement. The event comprised interactive sessions where participants actively participated in activities and discussions.

The participation of 350 teachers from diverse educational institutions exemplifies the dedication and enthusiasm of the teaching



Workshop on 'Scientific Writing'

27 May 2023: The MCOPS Diamond Jubilee commemorative workshop on Scientific Writing was conducted on 27 May 2023, at Prof MNA Rao Lecture Hall, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MCOPS), MAHE, Manipal. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the participant's understanding and skills in scientific writing, emphasizing the importance of clear and effective communication in research and academia. The resource was Dr Aruna Theerthahalli, Freelance Auditor, Co-founder QDraft Services, Manipal. I2C President Ms Pragathi Bangera delivered a warm welcome speech, expressing gratitude to all the delegates and participants for their presence and highlighting the significance of the workshop. Following the welcome speech, Principal Dr. C Mallikarjuna Rao delivered inspiring opening remarks. He emphasized the importance of scientific writing in the academic and research domains.

The session began at 10 am by Dr Aruna with an overview of scientific writing, its significance, and its role in knowledge dissemination. Participants were divided into groups and given various exercises and provided individual feedback and facilitated group discussions to encourage active participation. The workshop focused on the importance of a well-structured document. Dr Aruna discussed the essential sections and modules of a scientific paper. Participants were taught techniques for achieving clarity and conciseness in protocol design in their third session. He also provided valuable tips on how to effectively organize information within each headline of a protocol. He emphasized the use of simple and precise language while writing an informed consent form through his set of exercises. The last exercise was the most important which helped the participants to improve their logical and scientific thinking when dealing with a write-up for

US FDA regulatory query. Strategies for improving sentence structure and additional insights to ensure a comprehensive understanding were also discussed.

The workshop was a valuable and informative one. Participants gained essential knowledge and skills to enhance their scientific writing abilities. The workshop emphasized the importance of clear and effective communication in the field of research and academia. A total of 55 participants from different colleges had registered for the event.



Dr Ruchi Verma Bags Prize in Yoga Poster Competition

21 June 2023: Dr Ruchi Verma, Assistant Professor-Selection Grade, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, MCOPS, MAHE, Manipal received second prize in "Yoga Poster Competition" on occasion of International Day of Yoga 2023, organized by Division of Yoga, Centre for Integrative Medicine and Research (ICMR), MAHE, Manipal.



Upcoming Events

01 July 2023 : MCOPS Diamond Jubilee Distinguished Lecture 5 organized by Dept of Pharmacy Practice

22 July 2023 : Global Symposium with Partner Universities - Virtual mode Student Exchange Council

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Newspill-July 2023 Editorial Team

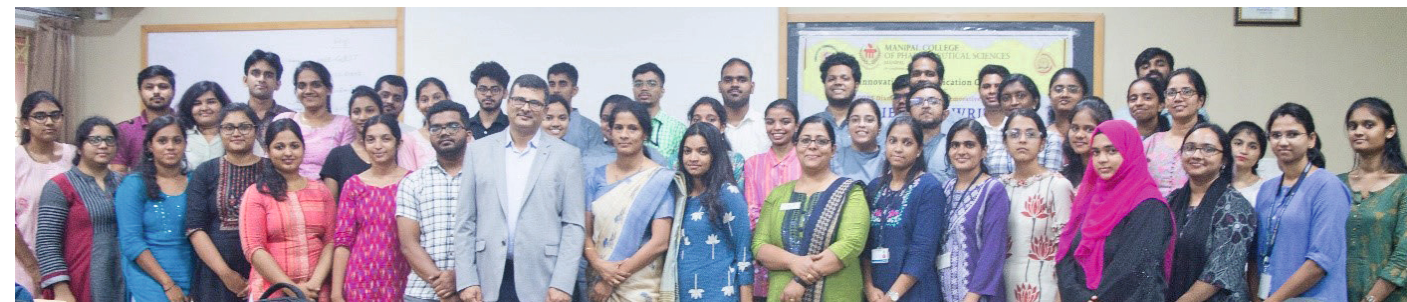
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