Brainstorming Follow-up Meeting of ICMR Workshop Series on Physiology Education Techniques 2018: IUPS Initiative

Meeting was held on January 20, 2019 at the Faculty Club of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) attended by the National level Resource Faculty: R. Sharma and M. Bhattacharjee from the Department of Physiology, VMMC & SJH, B. Bhandari, Department of Physiology, Greater Noida Institute of Medical Sciences, Uttar Pradesh, S. Das, SHKM Medical College, Haryana, D. Chandran and S. Prakash from the Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi, P. Nayak, Organizing Secretary - AIIMS Jodhpur and K.P. Kalyanikutty - Organizing Secretary, GMC, Kozhikode. The Meeting was attended by representative Delegates from each zone: S. Srivastava from the Northern zone, R. Dey and J. Deka from the Eastern zone, and C. Suryavanshi, G. Pandiyan and C. Bodhe from the Southern zone. The meeting was coordinated by J. Sengupta, Chair of the BGA-IUPS and D. Ghosh, Chairperson and National Convener of the Workshop Series.

The meeting conducted in three sessions in which the first session chaired by J. Sengupta reviewed and discussed from the perspective of desirable outcomes of the workshops held in AIIMS-Jodhpur, NEIGRIHMS-Shillong and GMC-Kozhikode by R. Sharma, M. Bhattacharya and K.P. Kalyanikutty. The second interactive session chaired by R. Sharma in which delegates from the three zones presented their ideas on how such teaching tools will be useful for competency based learning for medical graduates and the need for vertical integration with clinical faculty. Each delegate also presented their own data on the use of CBL/PBL/FCR as teaching tools within and outside their own institutions after attendance of the ICMR Workshop Series on Physiology Education Techniques 2018: IUPS Initiative. The overall conclusion was that such tools offered greater interaction between students and faculty, helped to establish robust communication skills and increased observation and analytical skills. The final session, chaired by D. Ghosh, was an open interaction in which future course of action and various aspects of the Competency-based UG Curriculum introduced by the Medical Council of India were discussed. Many ideas emerged throughout the day as there was a high degree of co-ordination among all participants. The salient points that emerged during the course of the meeting are briefed below.

- Regarding Future workshops various proposals that were forwarded included:
  (1) Longer duration of the workshops to about five days primarily to ensure more interaction among delegates and resource faculty, and more hands-on sessions.
  (2) Content development for PBL, CBL and FCR for future workshops.
(3) Organizing Basic and Advanced versions of Workshops to serve differential needs of teachers. Interested participants from the Advanced Workshops could be further trained to become resource persons in their respective zones.

(4) A dialogue to be initiated with the organizers of APPICON 2019 scheduled to be held in Guwahati, Assam for a Pre-conference Workshop and/or Symposium on Physiology Education Techniques. Workshops to create awareness about the teaching tools as a part of the South Asia Association of Physiologists (SAAP) meeting scheduled to be held in Lucknow in 2020.

(5) A network of concurring trained faculty may be developed to disseminate Techniques in Physiology Education for basic and medical/veterinary/nursing/para-medical training.

- Need for creation of a Resource National Network via web-based forum/platform, involving resource members, regional members and international faculty: It was felt that this forum should be created under the aegis of the BGA-IUPS to lend authenticity and to involve teachers of Physiological Sciences as a whole. The forum would be involved in the creation of a repository for PBL, CBL and FCR under the tutelage of international faculty from the BGA-IUPS. It would provide an academic platform for discussions and guidance of specific problems or queries.

- Analysis and publication of pre and post session questionnaires: It was decided that the COC members would look into the pre and post session questionnaires collected from the series of workshops and analyze the same for the purpose of publication.

- Competency-based Curriculum (CBC) introduced for the Indian Medical Graduates by the Medical Council of India (MCI): It was mooted that members may publish popular articles in leading newspapers to apprise general public, stake holders and policy makers about the CBC. A national conference involving students and faculty to debate on various aspects of the CBC could be organized. There was a need to chalk out a means of its implementation, ease out resentment from various quarters and collaborate with clinical colleagues for vertical integration.

- Need to design a framework of assessment tools and methods: The need to design a framework of assessment tools and methods to evaluate various competencies was registered, since the MCI document provides little cues on assessment tools and methods complementary to CBC.