

2nd mid-year meeting of OMAG: Minutes of meeting

The second mid-year meeting of organized medicine academic guild was held on 4th of August All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi under the chairmanship of President OMAG, Dr. Ramesh Bhatt. The meeting was attended by Founder members of the Guild and the Presidents/ presidential nominees of the following associations:

1. Indian Chest Society (ICS)
2. Commonwealth Association of Health and Disability (COMHAD)
3. Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL)
4. Academic College of Emergency Experts (ACEE)
5. Emergency Medicine Association (EMA)
6. Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP)
7. Association of Physicians Of India (API)
8. Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM)
9. All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS)

Besides these representatives from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Board of Examinations (NBE) and Indian Council of Medical Research were also present.

This was followed by the presidential talk by Dr. Ramesh Bhatt, who highlighted on the different aspects of OMAG and the need for the associations to come together for building a healthier India which was followed by a small presentation by Dr. Sunil Raina on the history and future vision of the (OM). He stated that OM needs to move from a single agenda driven body (read health security) to a more broad based agenda focusing on medical education, training, patient care and research. The idea is to deliver on our vision of developing quality health care deliverable to all members of the society.

Since, Dr. Ishwar Gilada could not attend the meeting; the issue on registration and annual dues was taken up with permission from the chair. The association representatives took up the discussion. The representatives were of the opinion that the annual fee (as per the number of members) could be levied at the time of entry into the guild only. This was to be followed by a fixed yearly payment as annual dues. The executive committee needs to deliberate on this and decide accordingly.

Deliberations on NHFD were led by Dr. Sagar Galwankar. It was decided that the documents from each associations should reach Dr. Sunil Raina within a period of 3 months, who in turn

will compile the same. The compiled document will be sent to Dr. Ashoo Grover, ICMR and Dr. AK Dhariwal, advisor NVBDCP for review before submission to the ministry of health and family welfare. There was a request for template by Dr. Sudhir Chaudhary, President ICS, which was directed to Dr. Sunil Raina for necessary action.

The debate on National education policy and NMC was led by Dr. Ramesh Bhat. Dr. Vijay Shah, Pradan Bharti elaborated on the National Medical Commission which was followed by discussion. Dr. Anupam Prakash representing API was of the opinion that an opposition needs to be mounted on the NMC. However, the house was of the opinion that OMAG needs to play a constructive role in helping Government formulate various components of NMC. Both Dr. Vijay Shah and Dr. AK Dhariwal gave some examples wherein OMAG can come up with suggestions. The house decided that a formal document in this regard under Dr. Vijay Shah will be developed.

Dr. Abhijat Seth, President, NBE in his address delved on the future goals which included, developing Effective Student Loan System to address Medical Education Cost, Review DNB/FNB Pay structure across the board, Encourage DNB Emergency Medicine and DNB Family Medicine Career prospects to increase take up in these specialties, Increased focus on skill development programme, NRHM involvement in developing infrastructure for Specialists to deliver health care

Dr. AK Dhariwal, advisor NVBDCP spoke on the urgent need to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The issue has been a focus area for the guild since its inception.

Dr. S. Venkat from IIM spoke of the involvement of IIM in strengthening research in healthcare management and special issues in IIM L, NABH and other journals.

Dr. Sagar spoke about Wigyan Central and explored the possibilities of its use by the post graduates across the country.

Dr. S Natarajan, the president elect of OMAG highlighted on the various initiatives being taken up by AIOS in the field of patient care, public health research. He also assured of full logistic support for the annual meeting of OMAG to be held on 20th February at Gurugram.

Dr. Ramesh Bhat, President, Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists (IADVL), elaborated on the issue of fake drugs and fake degrees inundating India markets and medical education. He also acknowledged the role of the guild in helping

address long pending issues of the Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists (IADV) at the international level.

The talks were followed by discussion with active participation of the members. Discussion focused on development of national research protocol, standardization of medical education and quality of care.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair and participants.

Recommendations:

1. Building the agenda for Annual meeting at Gurugram (Action: core committee comprising of Dr. S. Natrajan, Dr. Ramesh Bhatt, Dr. Santosh Soans, Dr. Praveen Agarwal, Dr. Sagar, Dr. Sunil Raina and Mr. Vidyashankar).
2. Completion of registration process (Action: Dr. I Gilada)
3. Development of a National Health Framework Document (Dr. Sunil Raina, all associations)
4. National Medical Commission document (Dr. Ramesh Bhatt & Dr. Vijay Shah)

Presentations by representatives of individual associations were taken up after that, wherein individual association reflected on their roles in OMAG and the expectations of the individual associations from OMAG. An open house discussion was taken up after the presentations.