

**Task Group on Health and Medical Education
Proceedings of the 4th Meeting**

The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Prof. K. K. Talwar, in the Committee Room of Punjab Governance Reforms Commission from 4 PM to 6 PM on 24th November, 2012.

Following members were present at the meeting:

1. Ms. Vini Mahajan, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab and Member Secretary Task Group on Health & Medical Education
2. Ms. Anjali Bhawra, IAS, Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Medical Education and Research.
3. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Prof & Head, School of Public Health, PGIMER, Chandigarh
4. Dr. Meenu Singh, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, PGIMER, Chandigarh
5. Dr. Deepak Bhasin, Professor, Department of Gastroenterology, PGIMER, Chandigarh
6. Dr. Ajit Avasthi, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, PGIMER, Chandigarh
7. Dr. S. K. Jindal, Prof & Head, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, PGIMER, Chandigarh.
8. Dr. S. S. Shergill, Govt. Medical College Amritsar.
9. Dr. Ashok Nayyar, Director, Health Services, Punjab
10. Dr. A. S. Thind, Director, Medical Education and Research, Punjab.
11. Dr. V. K. Sharda, Professor, Govt. Medical College, Patiala.
12. Dr. Anita Gupta, Vice principal, Govt. Medical College, Amritsar.
13. Dr. Navpreet, Consultant, PGRC Chandigarh
14. Mr. Jaspal Singh Kapil, Research Officer, PGRC, Chandigarh
15. Mr. Madhresh Kumar, Research Associate, PGRC Chandigarh

1. Ms. Vini Mahajan welcomed Prof. K.K. Talwar and the members. Prof. Talwar informed that in the 2nd Task group meeting two groups were formed comprising Dr. Deepak Bhasin, Dr. Ajit Avasthi and Dr. Ravi Gupta to visit Govt. Medical College, Amritsar; and Dr. S.K. Jindal and Dr. Meenu Singh to visit Govt. Medical College, Patiala for taking stock of the condition in these medical colleges in terms of the personnel and facilities etc. He invited Dr. Ajit Avasthi to share findings of the visit on this issue with the members.
2. Dr. Ajit Avasthi informed that a meeting of the newly formed Academic Committee of Govt. Medical College, Amritsar was held on 9th November 2012 and the group also had discussions with a cross section of faculty members and students of Govt. Medical College, Amritsar. It is the felt need of the faculty that professional development programmes should be conducted for them to improve their skills in the research methodology, writing research papers, teaching skills, etc. by ICMR, PGIMER, AIIMS etc. The group suggested that it should be made compulsory to prepare formal teaching programme in advance for every six months. Most of the departments are HoD centric. There is a need for regular departmental faculty meetings for development and appraisal of department. There should be evening rounds/discussion to improve knowledge of students. Postgraduate students in medicine and surgery etc. need to be rotated in super specialty departments. There should be list of facilities and equipments critically required for optimum functioning of the departments. Faculty in-charge/coordinator should be appointed separately for under graduate, post graduate and paramedical training.

As per discussion with students, they felt that lectures are didactic, boring and continuous without any break. The group discussed it with the Principal who assured to implement changes as per students' need. The group suggested that for making lectures interactive, it requires skills and capacity building of the faculty at GMC Amritsar. On this, Prof K. K. Talwar informed members that CMC Vellore holds workshops for capacity building of medical faculty in teaching skills. MCI has designated 17 such centres across India. These workshops could be arranged for medical faculty in Punjab. CMC Ludhiana is the designated centre for the State of Punjab.

Dr. Avasthi highlighted the issue of shortage of Senior Residents at GMC Amritsar since the practice to recruit Senior Residents from the PCMS cadre had created its own set of difficulties. Ms Vini Mahajan suggested the waiving of condition that after completion of MD/MS, a PCMS doctor needs to serve for a year in parent department before becoming eligible to join SR. Ms Anjali Bhawra informed that they had asked for N.O.C. from Department of Health that if there are no more doctors from their

cadre for Senior residency, eligible fresh candidates shall be allowed to apply for Senior residency. Prof. S. K. Jindal suggested to change share of PCMS in Senior Residency to 60:40, similar to postgraduate seats in Punjab medical colleges. Consensus was made that for time being, vacant SR vacancies may be filled with eligible fresh candidates; and quota of 60:40 should be applied to fill SR posts.

Dr. Ajit Avasthi pointed out anomaly that MD/MS were appointed as faculty in super-specialist department and they didn't receive three year training in super-specialty. He stressed that there is something urgently needed to be done on this issue. Dr. Ajit Avasthi highlighted poor record keeping of patients, no clinical photography department, no Urban Health & Training Centre under charge of GMC Amritsar. There is no regular post of Principal and Vice-Principal; and Principal has very limited financial powers. Library infrastructure and facility is found to be inadequate. The lack of provision of separate annual funds for library is cited as reason for the present condition. Telemedicine link of GMC Amritsar with PGIMER Chandigarh has been disconnected following non-payment of small amount. The infrastructure particularly of hostels and dissection hall require attention. However, there are good points also. There are very active and intelligent members in the faculty; students are bright; Lecture theatres are air-conditioned and well equipped with audio-visual aids. And he stressed that most of the good work that is being done is not projected properly.

The committee recommended that user charges generated in hospital should be utilized for GMC Amritsar itself rather than transfer to Central Treasury. Dr. Rajesh Kumar suggested that research cell should be created for private research grants. Dr. Meenu Singh informed that ICMR conducts workshop to strengthen capacity of medical faculty in research and provides research grants. The Principal of respective medical colleges only need to write letter to ICMR for same. Dr. Avasthi informed that minutes of the Academic Committee meeting have been circulated and all the relevant points that need attention have been flagged (**As highlighted at the end**).

3. Dr. S.K Jindal shared experience of group on visit to GMC Patiala. The situation is almost similar as in GMC Amritsar. The group recommends that number of SR per unit needs to be increased; provision of facilities for academic advancement of faculty like sanction of special leave to attend conferences etc.; Principal must have adequate financial powers; utilization of user charges for college itself.
4. Dr. Deepak Bhasin suggested recommendations should be made regarding need for intra-departmental interaction; building capacity of medical faculty in teaching and research; periodic monitoring by committee; make co-ordinator accountable. Dr. Shergill stressed that specialists are needed in the Emergency. The group suggested

that specialist cover should be provided from the unit especially SR.

5. Prof. K. K. Talwar opined that recommendations need to be defined regarding firstly things that can be done at local level e.g. placing a co-ordinator, formation of committees and council, increasing the timings of college; secondly quick measures like installation of MRI, making regular appointment of Principal, Vice-Principal & Deputy Medical Superintendent; and thirdly long term measures like improvement of infrastructure/building of colleges.

The meeting concluded with thanks to all present.

The following actions points were highlighted in the Meeting of Academic Committee of Govt. Medical College, Amritsar.

1. **To formulate a plan to designate the faculty in accordance with the MCI pattern, three tier system instead of the multiple tiers that are presently designated.**
2. **To constitute a College Council comprising HODs' and Senior Professors which should meet every two months?**
3. **To prepare a plan of teaching activities and methods for six months and to be appraised at three months interval.**
4. **To prepare a document showing department wise sanctioned faculty posts, existing vacancies and need for new posts with justification.**
5. **To plan professional development programs for the Faculty with the help of agencies like ICMR, DST and institutes like PGI/AIIMS emphasizing on teaching skills, research methodology etc.**
6. **To start regularly held faculty meetings in the Departments for the development and appraisal of the Departments.**
7. **To prepare a list of facilities/equipment that is critically required for the optimal functioning of various Departments and for academic training.**
8. **To start evening teaching rounds and classes for the students.**
9. **To encourage rotation of MD/MS students in various superspeciality departments.**
10. **To appoint Faculty In-charge/Faculty Coordinator for UG and PG studies.**
11. **To resolve the anomaly created because of the appointment of MD/MS specialists as Faculty Members in superspeciality departments.**
12. **To improve the library facility with provision of regular funding.**
13. **To resume telemedicine liaison with PGIMER, Chandigarh**
14. **Interactive teaching modules to be introduced rather than didactic lectures for UG students.**
15. **To resolve the issue of shortage of Senior Residents because of the quota for PCMS candidates for specialization courses.**
16. **To improve medical record keeping for educational and research purposes.**
17. **To provide critical facilities like clinical photography department, MRI etc.**

- 18. To have urban and rural field centers under the control of medical college for training of students in preventive medicine.**
- 19. Academic Committee to meet initially every two months.**
- 20. To revive the posts of Vice Principal and Deputy Medical Superintendent.**
- 21. Improvement in hostels for UG and PG students, dissection hall facility, lecture theatres etc.**
- 22. To have regular Principal and Medical Superintendent.**
- 23. User charges instead of being transferred in central treasury should be spent for improving facilities in the college.**
- 24. Expansion of UG seats should be done only after adequate infrastructure has been created.**