

Pharmacy Council of India

National Seminar on “Recent Trends in Pharmacy Education and Practice”

To commemorate six decades of service in pharmacy education and practice, the Pharmacy Council of India organized a “National Seminar on Recent Trends in Pharmacy Education and Practice” on 9th and 10th July, 2010 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi which was inaugurated by Her Excellency, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Hon’ble President of India. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon’ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Prof. B.Suresh, President, Pharmacy Council of India gave the key note address. The seminar provided a good platform to the exchange of ideas amongst the various stakeholders from pharmacy profession involving academicians, regulators, hospital/community pharmacists, students, professionals from diverse practice areas of pharmacy profession, different associations of pharmacists with a view to defining path for the future growth of healthcare and the role of pharmacists in the healthcare value chain. Scientific programmes were conducted on the following themes –

1. Emerging areas in Pharmaceutical Sciences – Paradigm shift in pharmacy curriculum.
 - Topic-1 : Emerging areas in pharmaceutical sciences.
 - Topic-2 : Industry expectations.
 - Topic-3 : PCI initiatives to meet the changing scenario in pharmacy education.
 - Topic-4 : B.Pharm regulations and curriculum.
2. Pharmacy Practice Education – Emergence of Pharm.D. as the flagship course.
 - Topic-1 : Pharmacy Practice – A Global Perspective.
 - Topic-2 : Understanding Pharm.D. Education – Need & Challenges.
 - Topic-3 : Pharm.D. Professionals : Think globally and act locally.
 - Topic-4 : Pharm.D. – Clerkship and internship.
 - Topic-5 : Pharm.D. Education – Outcomes and skill sets defined.
3. Reinvigorating practicing pharmacists by updating knowledge and skills.
 - Topic-1 : Need for upgradation of knowledge and skills in the current scenario.
 - Topic-2 : PCI initiative – B.Pharm Practice (Bridge course) programme.
4. Pharmaceutical Research : Expectations and delivery.
 - Topic-1 : Recent trends in pharmaceutical sciences and research.
 - Topic-2 : Higher Education & Research – current scenario.
 - Topic-3 : Making the case for M.Pharm Regulations.
5. Quality Assurance in Pharma Education.
 - Topic-1 : Accreditation process to achieve quality parameters in pharmacy education.
 - Topic-2 : PCI initiatives for Quality Assurance in Pharma Education.
6. Emerging role of pharmacists in health care delivery.
 - Topic-1 : Global health issues (economics and migration).
 - Topic-2 : Pharmacy practice future direction (fellowships and residencies).

7. M.Pharm & Practice Regulations.

- Topic-1 : Draft M.Pharm Regulations.
 Topic-2 : Concept & Necessity for Pharmacy Practice Regulations.
 Topic-3 : Draft Pharmacy Practice Regulations.

The above scientific sessions were conducted and addressed by eminent Indian and Foreign experts actively engaged in the various fields of pharmacy education and profession and attended by the various stakeholders. Panel discussions were also held with the various stakeholders on the themes of 'Pharmacists Human Resource – Need, Competency and Expectations' and 'Role of PCI in leading the profession of pharmacy and education – Challenges and Directions. The panelists were chosen from the members from professional organizations/associations including IPA, IHPA, APTI, IGPA, AIOCD and IDMA and the President, Vice-President, EC members, Chairpersons of various committees and the Secretary of the Pharmacy Council of India.

Speech of Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Hon'ble President of India

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to inaugurate the National Seminar on "Recent Trends in Pharmacy Education and Practice." As a regulator of pharmacy education and practice, the Pharmacy Council of India will have an important role in shaping the growth of the pharmacy profession in the country.

The dictionary meaning of pharmacy is the science or practice of preparing and dispensing medical drugs. Ancient Indian texts such as the Atharva Veda as well as the Sushruta Samhita and the Charak Samhita, contain invaluable information on both these aspects. They include details about medicinal plants, preparation of medicines from these, as also from mineral sources and how to administer them. Knowledge about the properties of medicine is therefore, not new to India, though earlier there were no separate professions of a doctor and a pharmacist. The introduction of complex compounds into medicines, particularly in the last two Centuries, resulted in pharmacy becoming a specialized work. The 21st Century with rapid advances in medicines, makes the management of medicines of a patient a far more complex task.

The pharmacist in the contemporary template is one who provides a vital connect between the health sciences and the pharmaceutical world. Their work in the medical field has become multifaceted, extending from the manufacturing of quality medicines, to the delivery of pharmaceutical care to patients. Hence, a pharmacist's work is linked with the pharmaceutical and the health sectors - both these in India are fast growing.

The Indian pharmaceutical industry has a wide range of capabilities and is ranked amongst one of the foremost industries of the country. It has grown from a meager turnover of US \$ 0.32 billion in 1980 to about US \$ 21.3 billion in 2009-10 and it is poised to grow at compounded annual growth rate of 19 percent. India globally ranks 3rd in terms of volume of production and 13th by value of production. Our pharma companies meet a large part of the domestic requirements of medicine, which by 2020 are expected to rise to approximately US \$50 billion. It is also noteworthy that Indian companies are amongst the world leaders in the production of generics. Future opportunities are numerous. Price Water House Coopers in its recent report has estimated that around US \$70 billion worth of drugs are expected to go off patent in the United States, over the next three years. India is capable of taking a substantial share of the resulting generics opportunities.

The pharma industry also has to respond to the emerging patterns of diseases and to growing concerns about disease causing agents becoming resistant to existing drugs. This necessitates new drugs, requiring increased focus on research and development including in the newer frontiers of medicine like bio-technology. Clinical trials to establish the safety and effectiveness of drugs constitute an important part of R&D work. India has a pool of skilled workforce of high managerial and technical competence, and several MNC pharma companies are increasingly making India their R&D and Clinical Research hub on account of our skilled manpower and competitive costs. I also believe that, we should draw on the rich resource of our indigenous knowledge of medicine and bring these into broader usage. India has much to offer the world in terms of alternative medicine and its potential must be tapped. Greater focus is required in this regard to propagate its efficacy.

In the wake of an expanding pharma industry, demand for pharmacists will also increase. They would be required in larger numbers for work related to the discovery, design, development and manufacture of medicines to ensure the quality, safety and efficiency of medicinal products and even their cost effectiveness, so as to achieve optimal therapeutic outcomes and quality of life for patients.

The pharmacist, as I had mentioned earlier, is very closely aligned with the health sector. Pharmaceutical care entails the work of addressing a patient's medication related needs. The involvement of the pharmacist in India in this regard has been somewhat restricted, contrary to trends in developed countries. While seeking medical help, we think of a doctor or a nurse or a medical technician, but seldom does a pharmacist come to mind. This needs correction. The Pharmacy Council should work towards creating awareness about the very important role of a pharmacist in the well being and health of an individual.

Now a days for example, medicine options have multiplied manifold thus raising the complexity of therapies. Pharmacists have a unique role to play in evaluating these options. Within the team of healthcare professionals, trained pharmacists would have the knowledge and skills to prevent, detect, monitor, and resolve medicine related problems. As the public demands more information on medicines and their effects, to make more informed decisions, pharmacists take on a more active role in patient counselling. Moreover, it is estimated that by 2015, speciality and super-speciality therapies will account for 45 percent of the pharmacy market. There will be growing lifestyle disorders that will gain considerable significance. Role for specialized pharmacy knowledge in areas such as oncology, infectious diseases and critical care will become more important.

The Pharmacy Council should plan for future requirements of pharmacists in the country, taking into consideration the demands of the healthcare landscape in the future. Pharmacy education should be constantly revised and updated to meet tomorrow's challenges. With growing inter-linkages in the world, international standards must be maintained and the curriculum should include a section on global trends and best practices. Educators will also need to develop a culture conducive to inquiry and research, because so much in medicine and pharmacy is yet to be discovered. To create well-rounded pharmacists who are knowledgeable it is necessary that there is constant interaction between pharmacy institutions, educational institutions and various stakeholders - healthcare practitioners, academic centres and pharmaceutical companies. This will give students the required exposure. Professional ethics, values and code of conduct are key factors to be taught. Due emphasis must be given to these aspects.

The common goal of the health sector, pharmaceutical industries and the pharmaceutical profession, should be to protect the well-being of patients in all parts of the world. This is the motto of the Pharmacy Council:

कामये दुःखतप्तानां
प्राणिनाम् आर्ति नाशनम्।

meaning, I only desire relief from pain for those who are suffering.

I wish the Pharmacy Council and all those associated with it the very best for the future. I also wish the Seminar all success.

Thank you.

Jai Hind!

Speech of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare

The President of India, Her Excellency Smt Pratibha Devisingh Patil ji

Ms. Sujatha Rao, Secretary Health

Dr. B Suresh, President, Pharmacy Council of India,

Mr. Surinder Singh, Drug Controller General of India

Shri P D Seth, Vice President, International Pharmaceutical Federation,

Smt. Archana Mudgal, Registrar, Pharmacy Council of India,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

We are all privileged to have amongst us, Her Excellency the President of India for inaugurating the national seminar on recent trends in pharmacy education and practice.

This National Seminar has been organized by the Pharmacy Council of India as part of its golden jubilee celebrations.

I am, therefore, extremely thankful to Her Excellency the President of India, for having spared her valuable time to inaugurate this seminar.

I congratulate Dr Suresh and his colleagues for having organized the seminar befitting the current situation in the country.

I feel privileged to be a part of this occasion of national significance in the history of the profession of pharmacy.

Pharmacy education in India is being imparted through government and private pharmacy colleges including deemed universities and departments of pharmacy.

During the last few years there has been phenomenal growth in the number of institutions imparting pharmaceutical education and combined admission capacity of the courses is about 61,000 seats.

We may, therefore, feel that we are producing pharmacy professionals in far excess of our needs.

There are several countries overseas which are short of trained pharmacy professionals.

However, Pharmacy courses in India are, run in diverse settings and backgrounds at state/ central universities.

Consequently, there is significant variation in the outcome of these institutions i.e. the quality of education and training provided to the students.

Hence the need for quality assurance in pharmacy education becomes all the more essential.

In this background, the Pharmacy Council of India with the support of the Health Ministry, has been making continuous efforts to improve quality of pharmacy education in the country.

This is done through introduction of new courses, drafting new regulations for undergraduate and postgraduate courses, revising course curriculum with emphasis on practice aspects of pharmaceutical sciences, conducting continuing education programmes for registered pharmacists, conducting training for inspectors as well as devising training module for pharmacy teachers.

In countries such as USA, UK, Australia, and certain European countries the pharmacy profession and pharmacy education is practice oriented while in India the same is industry oriented.

I am given to understand, that the Pharmacy Council of India has addressed this issue through the introduction of an integrated course of 6 years.

The course besides providing quality education has an orientation for clinical aspects of medicines in terms of patient safety.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great satisfaction, that the Indian pharma sector has witnessed phenomenal growth in the recent years and is now worldwide considered as the source of good quality low cost generic drugs.

Globally, this industry is ranked 3rd in terms of volume and 14th in terms of value.

The total turnover of the sector is over one lakh crores of which 40% is exported. We export our drugs and vaccines to practically all countries of the world.

While we pride ourselves in being a country producing low cost drugs, yet for many especially the weaker sections of the society, even these low cost drugs at times are unaffordable.

I believe that this issue can be addressed by providing generic drugs as compared to branded drugs that are usually prescribed.

I see a big role for the pharmacists in this area as they are the interface between the manufacturers and the buying public.

They can not only act as dispensers of good quality and cheap drugs but also act as watchdogs against spurious and adulterated drugs.

You would be aware; we have taken several path breaking steps to counter the menace of spurious drugs in the country.

The Drugs & Cosmetics Act has been amended to provide for stringent punishments including life imprisonment for manufacturing and storing spurious drugs.

We have also launched a whistle blower scheme to help the govt. in tracking down manufacturers of spurious drugs.

The identity of the informer is kept secret and there is also a financial incentive paid to the informer.

I call upon you to be our torchbearers and also our whistle blowers. You can be the link which makes available the strength of our pharma sector to the common man.

In India those most needing health care live predominantly in rural areas. In most rural communities, the primary issues are common – availability of drugs, doctors.

Generally, there is a mismatch between prevalence of disease and facilities for care between drugs availability and doctors.

In this scenario, pharmacists often can substitute the gap as a first port of call and create the window of connectivity in drug supply, advice on its proper use and become a link between the community and health care.

In view of the great strides that have been made under the National Rural Health Mission which not only aims at providing accessible and affordable health services to the common man but has also opened opportunities for the health providers from specialist and doctors to other equally important, health professionals like nurses, pharmacists and other paramedics.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

As everyone else, I also recognise that the pharmacy profession serves the humanity when it is needed the most. Pharmacists are the most accessible health professionals who maintain the respect of their communities through provision of confidential and equitable service and care.

Globally, pharmacy education and profession are undergoing unprecedented changes as the role of pharmacists as a provider of health care services is increasingly recognised, valued and expanded.

In this background; PCI has arranged this National seminar to interact with the stakeholders like pharmacy institutions, teachers, regulators, hospitals and community pharmacists, students and others at a common platform to apprise them with the action and implementation plan of the PCI.

I take this opportunity to appeal to all present here to take this message among the colleagues to encourage the pharmacist personnel to join the team working in rural areas, where the real India lives, as was said by the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi ji.

I hope that this seminar will help in developing a national consensus over the next steps required, for sustaining our quest of continuously improving standards for the pharmacy sector.

I would once again like to thank Her Excellency for gracing this occasion.

We look forward to her guidance and blessings to sustain our efforts in strengthening pharmacy education and practice in our country.

I would also like to congratulate the Pharmacy Council of India for organising this seminar.

I must also thank all the participants and look forward to their proactive participation in the discussions today.

Thank you,

Key Note address of Prof.B.Suresh, President, PCI

Your Excellency, The President of India,

Honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare

Sri P D Sheth, Vice-President, International Pharmaceutical Federation,

Honourable Members of the Pharmacy Council of India,

Honourable Past President, Vice-Presidents and former members of Pharmacy Council of India,

Officers of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,

Presidents and Secretaries of the various pharmacy professional organizations,

Vice-Chancellors, Registrars and Principals of various universities and pharmacy colleges,

Presidents, Registrars and members of various State Pharmacy Councils,

Distinguished invitees / Staff Pharmacy Council of India / Speakers from India and abroad,

My teacher colleagues from various pharmacy colleges, fellow pharmacist,

Members of the electronic, visual and print media,

Last but not the least my dear, dear, dear students,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

*The Pharmacy Council of India, established in the year 1949, under the Pharmacy Act 1948 has successfully completed 60 years of service in pharmacy education and practice under the guidance and patronage of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. I would like to acknowledge and give tributes to all the past presidents and members of Pharmacy Council of India who nurtured the council in these 60 years. It is said that interaction and dialogue leads to confluence of various thoughts and opinions, thus leading to critical review. With this in mind, Pharmacy Council of India decided to commemorate this unique milestone of having completed its 60 years by organizing this National Seminar on “**Recent Trends in Pharmacy Education and Practice**”, involving participation of all stake holders from pharmacy profession be it academicians, regulators, students, various associations, hospital / community pharmacists and others.*

I am sure that this seminar will provide a good platform to exchange ideas thus reaching an appropriate conclusion for defining the future growth of healthcare and role of pharmacists in the health value chain.

In the history of the Pharmacy Council of India today we have the unique honour and privilege of Her Excellency Smt Prathiba Devising Patil, the President of India to be with us while we are crossing this milestone

This is the first time in the history of the Pharmacy Council of India we have the gracious presence of the President of India to extend the gesture of patronage and encouragement to our profession. While thanking Her Excellency for this gracious gesture with due reverence and respects I extend a warm welcome on behalf of one million pharmacists of this country.

Your Excellency, your gracious presence today will further enthuse us in playing our role in healthcare delivery of our country.

We have with us today also the unique honour of having Honourable Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sri Gulam Nabi Azadji. I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge here the patronage extended by Honourable Minister and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to the pharmacy profession and the pharmacists. The pharmacists of this country grateful to you sir for considering their request of placing them in PB-2 from PB-4 in the 6th Pay Commission recommendation. This has not only benefitted more than one lakh Government Pharmacists across the country but also help them regain their self esteem.

I also know your goodself for humane approach to our problems and once again deem it privilege to extend you a warm welcome on behalf of all the pharmacists of the country.

I have great pleasure in welcoming Sri P D Sheth, Vice-President of International Pharmaceutical Federation, Mr Mike Rouse, Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE), USA, Chairpersons, dignitaries from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Presidents entourage, distinguished invitees, students, members of the media and last but not the least all my fellow pharmacists.

The vision of Pharmacy Council of India envisages that in the year 2020, pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists working within various disciplines of pharmacy will be recognized as the medicines expert and expert in health promotion and disease prevention.

Let us all work together to realize this vision.

I once again welcome one and all.

Speech of Mr. Mike Rouse, Assistant Executive Director, International & Professional Affairs, Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). ([Click here](#))

Presentation of [Dr. S. Sriram](#). Prof.& Head, Pharmacy Practice, College of Pharmacy SRIPMS, Coimbatore. ([Click here](#)).

Presentation of [Dr. N. Udupa](#). Principal, Manipal College of Pharm Sciences, Manipal. ([Click here](#)).

Vote of thanks by Smt.Archna Mudgal, Registrar-cum-Secretary, PCI

I feel honored and privileged to get an opportunity to propose a vote of thanks on this historic occasion.

July 9, 2010 is indeed a very memorable day in the history of the Pharmacy Council of India when Her Excellency is with us for the inauguration of National Seminar.

I on behalf of Pharmacy Council of India, entire fraternity of pharmacy profession, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and on my own behalf convey deep regards and hearty thanks to Her Excellency, the President of India for gracing the inaugural ceremony and sharing with us her vision of pharmacy education to match the best in the world.

We are greatly encouraged by her gracious presence and immensely benefited by her inspiring address.

We assure Her Excellency to continue to work in the direction of creating knowledgeable pharmacist for the society.

Dear Friends, we have today with us our most endearing Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Sri Ghulam Nabi Azadji who is known for his selfless commitment, mission of percolating health care to rural India and designing an architecture for health care delivery systems in the country.

I wish to express our profuse thanks for giving encouragement to pharmacy profession by his gracious presence.

We are extremely grateful to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for its support, encouragement and hour to hour guidance.

My thanks to Prof.B.Suresh, President, PCI who is known for his passion for pharmacy profession.

I thank him for his encouragement, guidance & providing a stimulating environment for such educational developments.

It is his vision and leadership that has brought revolutionary changes in the pharmacy profession.

My enormous respect to you sir.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to all Central Council members for their unlimited support and extending time for Council's activities.

The Council has always got enough latitude from you.

My deep regards and thanks to all Ex-Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Central Council members who are the foundation of today's Pharmacy Council.

I convey thanks to all distinguished participants who have come from distant places to attend the seminar.

This reflects their commitment to the profession.

The PCI hopes that this seminar will provide a platform to share knowledge and expertise and critical review of the issues leading to defined goal for our profession.

My sincere thanks to the Print and Electronic media for their presence and giving excellent coverage of the seminar.

My special thanks to Rashtrapati Bhawan, Vigyan Bhawan and Delhi Police for their immense support and co-operation.

Now the most important, my special and hearty thanks to PCI staff and Consultants for their support, dedication, team work and untiring efforts.

They all worked smilingly shoulder to shoulder to make this seminar successful.

At the end, I once again thank Her Excellency, President of India, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and the distinguished assemblage in this auditorium for their august presence amongst us on this historic occasion.

Thank you all very much.