2nd Annual Emergency Sonography School

The emergency physician (EP) can diagnose life-threatening emergency medical problems such as ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, traumatic hemoperitoneum, peritonitis, effusion, and ectopic pregnancy in seconds. Most importantly, the EP can do the ultrasound without the reliance on other, (often reluctant) radiologists.

Ultrasound is the technology of choice for emergency physicians for a variety of medical conditions. Technological advances have allowed for better image resolution with basic operator skills, thus allowing the emergency physician the capability to use sonograms to help with patient management at the bedside.

The training Objectives were to Increase Knowledge of Critical Ultrasound in Emergency Medicine, Provide Basic & Advanced Skills to use Critical Ultrasound in Busy Medical College Emergency Departments (EDs) in India, Install and fortify confidence in faculty regarding diagnostic and therapeutic applications of Ultrasound in EM & Trauma and to promote ultrasound leadership in EDs in India.

Academic Faculty and Practitioners from Surgery, Orthopedics, Anesthesia, Internal Medicine, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Trauma and Urgent Care participated in this training program from institutions across India.

Dr. Jennifer Huang from the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, NY, USA was the course director. She was assisted by Drs Bonnie Arquilla, Nakita Chilnstrom, and Sagar Galwankar from SUNY Downstate and University of South Florida, USA. The trainers for the program were all residency trained Academic Emergency Medicine Faculty.

The theme of this education program was “Sonography Simulation and Shock”. The Academic promoters of this program were SUNY Downstate University, University of South Florida and All India Institute of Medical Sciences India. SONOSITE the world leader in handheld ultrasound provided the educational and technical support to make this workshop a grand success.

Over 30 Academic Faculty participated in our intensive hands on 24 hour training program over 3 days. They completed the course as confident experts who were returning to their academic emergency departments with a mission to establish a successful Emergency Sonography program.

SAGAR GALWANKAR, MBBS, MS, MD, MPh Chief Academic Office of the INDO-US Emergency & Trauma Collaborative Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases & Public Health
The inaugural meeting of ACET North Zone was held on 28th February and 1st March, 2009 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The meeting was supported by the INDO-US Emergency & Trauma Collaborative and promoted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences (New Delhi), the University of South Florida (Tampa), JIPNA Downstate University (New York), The following Academic Councilors, appointed by the heads of their respective MCI recognized medical colleges of North India (Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu- Kashmir) attended the meeting.

Dr. Abu Nadeem Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU, Aligarh
Dr. Aditya Agarwal University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi
Dr. Amit Gupta JIPNA Trauma Center, AIIMS, Delhi
Dr. Anita Sharma Himalayan Institute of Medical Sciences, Dehradun
Dr. Arun Gupta University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi
Dr. Ashish Bhalla Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh
Dr. Aaz Rather Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar
Dr. Kedar Singh Shahi Uttar Pradesh Heart Hospital Trust Medical College
Dr. L.R. Murmu All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
Dr. Medha Mohta University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi
Dr. Monica Gupta Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Srinagar
Dr. Nishat Ahmad All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar
Dr. Nishant Jawahar HANS Institute of Medical Sciences, Noida
Dr. Praveen Aggarwal All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
Dr. Prema Batra University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi
Dr. Praboj Neogi Moti Lal Nehru Medical College, Allahabad
Dr. R.K. Sharma Government Medical College, Amritsar
Dr. Rakesh Kumar Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi
Dr. Richa Dewan Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi
Dr. S. Anuradha Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi
Dr. Sanjeev Bhoi JIPNA Trauma Center, AIIMS, Delhi
Dr. Syed Amer Zahoor Shaheed Memorial Medical College, Srinagar
Dr. Syed Moideen Ahmed Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU, Aligarh

In his inaugural address Dr. Katoch recognized the need for developing the Science of Emergency Medicine in India and lauded the efforts made by Councilors in this regard. However, he cautioned the Councilors about the challenges as the existing faculty of other specialties might feel threatened with the loss of control on areas which Emergency Medicine (EM) would encompass. He emphasized that for innovation to occur, challenges would have to be faced and conquered and this would lead to the Councilors formulating guidelines for developing this new science in India. He assured the Council of the ICMR commitment to support research in the area of translational science.

Dr. O.P. Kaira, Principal of University College of Medical Sciences was the Guest of Honour.

Dr. Aggarwal welcomed the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour and the Councilors to the first meeting of ACET North. He briefed about the activities of ACET.

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Dr. O.P. Kaira echoed Dr. Katoch’s thoughts and added that we must formulate guidelines regarding the faculty recruitment and accrediting a residency program which can then be submitted to the MCI for its consideration.

Dr. Sagar Galwankar Chief Academic Officer of the INDUS Collaborative discussed the present and future activities of ACET and also emphasized the need to have Council meetings in different zones of India. It was stressed that the ACET Councilors must work towards achieving the goal of having a separate Specialty of Emergency Medicine in India via their medical colleges.

Councilors from some of the colleges presented their work done till date.

- Dr. Aggarwal informed the Councilors that the creation of specialty of EM has been agreed upon by several Standing Committees of AIIMA.
- Dr. Syed Amer Zahoor from SKIMS informed about the difficulties being faced by him in proceeding with Council’s agenda.
- Dr. Richa Dewan, Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Dr. Anuradha from MAMC presented activities being carried out by them, to promote the specialty of EM.
- Dr. Syed Moideen from JLNMC, Aligarh presented the progress in having a new building for EM at his college.
- Dr. Anita Sharma informed that she was trying hard to have a separate specialty of EM and was appreciated by the Councilors for her commitment towards the specialty.
- Dr. Sanjeev Bhoi from JIPNA Trauma Center gave a broad presentation on the functioning of trauma center and how the mortality has changed using protocol-based care.
- Dr. Bonnie Arquilla from SUNY Downstate discussed briefly about the disaster curriculum as relevant to emergency medicine.
- Dr. Anuradha from AIIMS informed the Councilors that University Grants Commission had agreed to create a separate specialty of EM at his college i.e. the University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He however pointed out lack of clear guidelines about the qualifications of faculty members for the specialty of EM. He also stressed that a curriculum for EM needs to be submitted to the MCI so that whenever anyone approaches Medical Council of India (MCI) for recognition of EM specialty, the MCI would already have with it the essential qualifications of the Faculty and the curriculum.

The Councilors discussed various points related to development of specialty of EM in India.

Following decisions were taken regarding the advancement of specialty of Emergency Medicine in India, some of which may be sent to MCI for its consideration:

1. A curriculum agreed upon by the Councilors and covering 36 rotations of one month each over 3-year period towards a post graduation in the specialty of Emergency Medicine, was planned to be submitted to the MCI. The MCI should approve the specialty of Emergency Medicine in the degree of MD with MCI degree after residency for 3 years in this specialty.

2. At the end of 3 years of residency, the assessment would include theory and practical assessment. The theory would consist of four papers. Paper-I would include Basic Science related to EM, Paper-II and III would include Principles and Practice of EM (related to Medicine, Surgery, Anesthesia, Trauma, Toxicology, Pediatrics, Obs & Gynecology, Psychiatry, Dermatology, Otolaryngology, Ophthalmology etc.) and Paper-IV for recent advances in EM. The questions in theory will be multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The practical would be based on simulated models as the OSCE and OSPE.

3. Each department should have faculty at all levels viz. Professor (at least 1), Additional Professor/Associate Professor/Reader (at least one) and Lecture/Assistant Professor (at least 2). Initially, the faculty could be drawn from the specialties of Medicine, Anesthesia, Surgery, Pulmonary Medicine, Orthopedics, and Pediatrics. Since it would take several years before trained emergency physicians become available from the faculty job, this system of recruiting faculty from various specialties may continue for a period of 25 years after which, the faculty job would be offered only to those with MD in Emergency Medicine.

4. Minimum resources for Emergency Medicine Department should include 30 fully-equipped beds for observation, additional 5 beds for pediatric patients, supply of commonly used emergency drugs and equipments (including cardiac monitors, defibrillators, pulse oximeters, ventilators, etc.).

5. Each shift should have a nurse ratio of 4:1.

6. The total number of beds devoted to emergency admissions should be at least 15% of total bed strength of the institution.

The meeting came to end with thanks to all the Councilors present.

Praveen Aggarwal National Chair, ACET