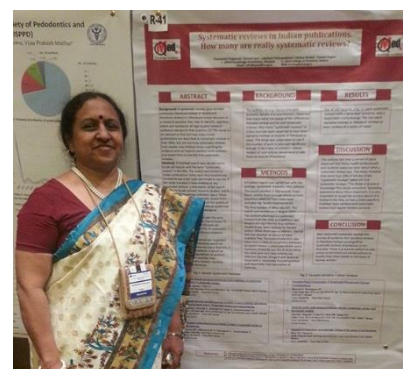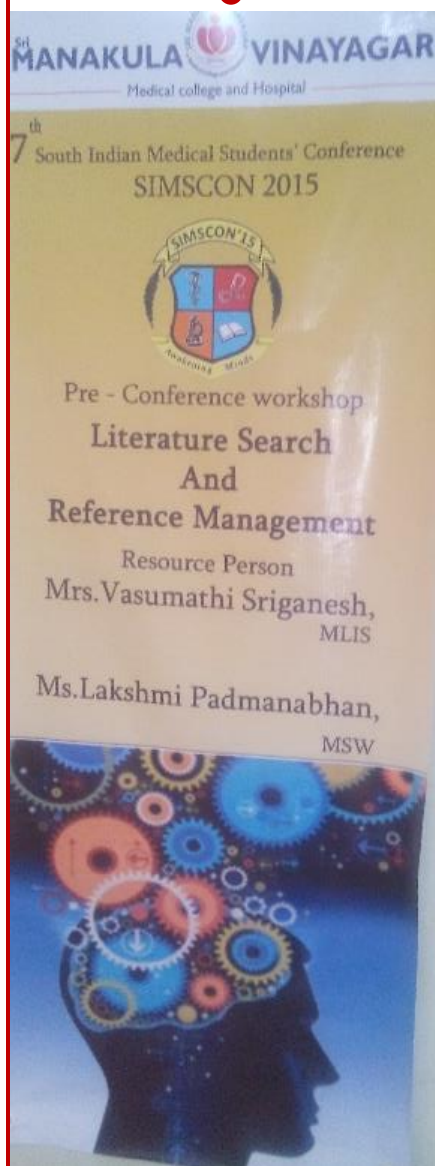# ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

A year of many firsts for QMed

From The CEO's Desk

Welcome to the Eighth Annual Report of QMed Knowledge Foundation! This year we experienced the feeling of "the break of a dawn and lights beginning to glow" as several of our dreams are coming true. One of our major dreams and priorities is for Undergraduate students of medicine (and health sciences). This year, we conducted seven workshops for this group! We wanted to raise our levels of help to assist Systematic Reviewers and Guideline developers. We worked with three such teams (one – an international group)! We believe that our skills should help rural India, and I had the good fortune to help an excellent team of rural health care professionals. In the last few years, I worked with one International team – MECOR of the American Thoracic Society, for conducting workshops. This year, thanks to the exposure at the Cochrane Colloquium, I was part of one more workshop coordinated by an International Group – from The Union (formerly IUATLD) - on systematic reviews. A further ripple effect happened was - we had more invitations to conduct workshops, by participants of these events, at their own institutions. From only three workshops last year, we soared – to doing 19 workshops this year. We believe that in the coming years, the numbers will rise, as I also have got the status of Specialty Speaker, by the Maharashtra Medical Council.

We still are waiting to see the day when literature searching and referencing are an integral part of the curriculum. We hope that our E-Learning programs (which we still had issues with, in launching, but will surely happen this year) will contribute towards this!

I would like to express gratitude to all individuals who funded us. We raised over $9000/- (about Rs.Six lakhs) from overseas, and nine lakhs fifty thousand from donations within India.

But our real needs to speed up our activities are to the tune of about Rs. 40 lakhs for the next year. And we need support to raise this!

I am grateful for what we have been able to do for the medical community, which in turn helps the health of the nation.

All the good in the year gone by

1. We conducted workshops at six under-graduate medical conferences across India.

2. The Maharashtra Medical Council, listed Ms. Vasumathi Sriganesh as a Specialty Speaker for its Continuing Medical Education programs!

3. The Cochrane Colloquium's Training Activity the 'Cochrane ClassMate', has collaborated with us for testing their training. The details are mentioned on the **Cochrane Training Page**-http://training.cochrane.org/TIF.

4. Ms. Vasumathi Sriganesh's involvement was sought by three teams working on writing systematic reviews and guidelines. We are glad that 'literature searching' is getting the importance that it deserves.

5. We conducted a two-day workshop at Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS) in Ganiyari, Bilaspur. This is an initiative in rural and tribal healthcare by a group of doctors from AIIMS Delhi.

6. We conducted our first under-graduate workshop not connected to any event or conference at Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital.

7. We presented a poster at the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME) 2015 titled "Systematic Reviews in Indian Publications, how many really are systematic review?"

8. Ms. Vasumathi Sriganesh's lecture at MECOR got introduced by the organizers as *"we cannot think of doing MECOR without QMed"* and her lecture was video-taped as well.

9. Dr. Diana Schmidt, a member of the Indian Association for Medical Informatics and a retired professor from Germany visited us. She has been interested in QMed's work for quite some time and has donated to us on several occasions.

10. We set up an account in Instamojo for enabling Indian donors to donate using the options of credit cards / debit cards or netbanking facilities.

11. We got a first guest blog published on QMed blogs by an under-graduate student from Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital.

Gratitude List

❖ All the donors who contributed through various mediums.

❖ Family and friends for constant support and encouragement

❖ Thank you Dr Vinutha Shankar, Dr Thomas Mathew, Dr Suresh Chari, Dr Yashpal Singh, Dr Asha Kamat and Dr Smrati Bajpai for inviting us to conduct workshops for under-graduate students at your institutions or at under-graduate student conferences.

❖ Dr Thomas John- a very special thanks for a generous donation you gave QMed for the help and guidance you received for your project.

M Gmail

Donation

Thomas John <thom_____@gmail.com>
To: Vasumathi Sriganesh <vasu@qmedkf.org.in>

Sat, Mar 19, 2016 at 2:25

Dear Ma'am,

Hope this mail finds you in the best of health.

Sorry for the delay in updating you. My presentation at the end of February went well. I still need to submit a report of my survey though.

I have just received payment for my project today and as suggested by you I would like to make a donation to QMed of Rs.10,000/-

Could you please let me know how I can do that (NEFT/Cheque).

Thank you once again for all the help and looking forward to working with you again.

Kind regards,
Thomas

Dr Thomas John

Our Dream

- Literature searching and referencing training becomes a part of the medical education curriculum in India.
- Trained health science professionals in every teaching institution teach and support students and professionals in good literature search and referencing practices.
- Every health care institution provides access to important, evidence based resources to its students and faculty
- Institutions share resources, with effective technology usage, and adhere to good copyright practices.

Involvement with a surgical team in the UK for the development of a guideline

Vasumathi Sriganesh was invited to join a team of surgeons in the UK, who were working on developing a guideline. Interestingly, usually she is asked to be involved in searching the literature however this group requested her to be involved in selecting studies from the search results, and for the task of data extraction.

The second half of 2015 had Vasumathi work at selecting possible titles from over 5000 search results, and then selecting from about 800 plus abstracts. She had excellent guidance from a Research Methods expert, and this project will now enable her to guide others to adopt similar methods while working on Systematic Reviews and Guideline development.

At the time of writing, the data extraction has not yet started, but we look forward to learning this process and hope to help similar projects in India, with our learning

We also express gratitude for the donation given by this group, to QMed!

Important learnings in this project

1. While choosing from the titles, first only discard the 100% irrelevant titles.

2. While choosing from the abstracts, keep handy the overall topic details, inclusion / exclusion criteria and any important details about the guideline. Again discard the ones that do not fit with these.

3. The final selection is from the full text of the rest.

4. For projects like these, using a sophisticated Reference Management system is vital.

Lectures

-A lecture at **CONFLUENCE 2015**- a UG conference by Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai

- Lecture over Skype for students of Bioethics certificate program, Manipal University.

- A talk at Knowledge Resource Management (KRM), a conference for librarians on "***Copyright clearance centres and copyright care in libraries***".

- A lecture on understanding the different types of research studies, delivered at GSMC and KEM Hospital on ***"Spectrum of Studies – Frame Them Well"***

MECOR lecture and one-on-one mentoring

QMed@MECOR 2016
"Can't think of MECOR without QMed",
says Sonia Buist, Director ATS MECOR

*2016 started on a high note for QMed. Ms. Vasumathi Sriganesh was a faculty at **MECOR (Methods in Epidemiological, Clinical and Operations Research)** 2016 – an event organized by the American Thoracic Society, in India and developing countries. In addition to a lecture, she mentored participants by helping them do an exhaustive literature search for their research topics.*

Dr Sonia Buist – Director – ATS MECOR program, and Dr Jerry Krishnan – MECOR India Course Director kept on emphasizing the importance of proper searching, to the participants.

Workshops for Under-graduate students

So many of our dreams seem impossible, then improbable, then inevitable."
Christopher Reeve

Testimonials

-This workshop makes our work dead easy and narrows down our search, Workshops based on theoretical knowledge can be learnt from various sources but QMed workshop must be conducted in order to narrow down our search and save our precious time.
R Merlyn Sniky (DeMedCON 2015)

-When I registered, I had nil knowledge about PubMed and QMed etc. This workshop created a ground for me to know many newer things and to get an idea on research side. I have learned many things which I can implement for my future use.
J Anusha (SIMSCON 2015)

-I came across something like this for the first time and throughout the session I thought "Why didn't someone teach me this earlier". It makes it so much easier to swim through the pool of knowledge that the web offers, to reach what we want.
Mini Talwar ,(Medicon 2015)

-It was a good start for the UGs. It will give us an incentive to start getting into research. Thank you! **Shagun Nasta. KEM**

QMed always wanted to impart literature search and reference management training at the under-graduate level as we believe that it is important to learn these skills at the early stage of medical education. This year gave us many opportunities to be among our favorite target audience.
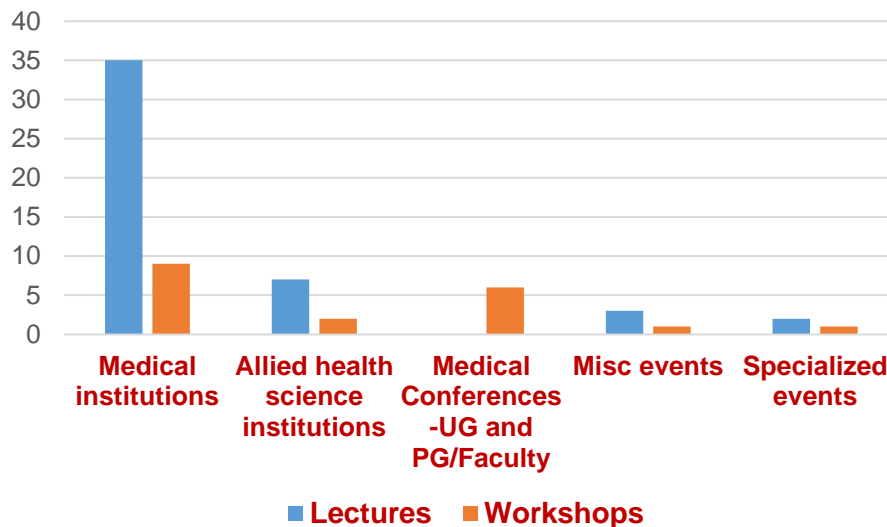
SIMSCON 2015	Medicon 2015

Prior Knowledge of Searching and Referencing	10%
Learnt about searching and referencing from QMed	83%
Strong need to include searching and referencing training into the curriculum	55%
Strong recommendation about our programs to colleagues/students/batchmates	66%

Lectures and Workshops

Lecture v/s Workshops

Mumbai V/s Outstation

Workshop at an Ayurveda College

We were invited by Amrita Centre for Advanced Research in Ayurveda- for two interactive workshops.

Workshop at an Institution for UG Students

We conducted a workshop for under-graduate students of Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital which was not a part of any conference or allied event.
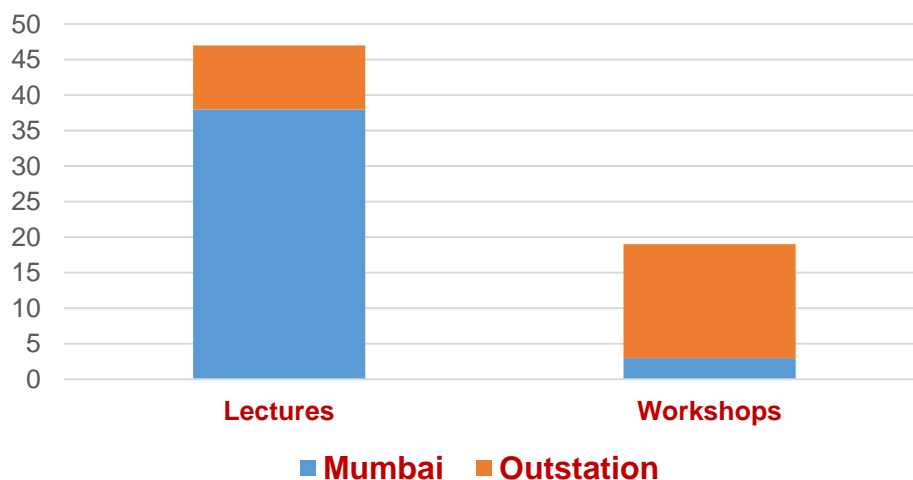
Training for Guideline Developers

This year saw us conduct a workshop for a group of gynecologists developing guidelines. This is an excellent development and we hope it continues.

Workshop on Ethics Research

We did a full day workshop for a group of Public Health Researchers on "Resources in Ethics" at Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation.
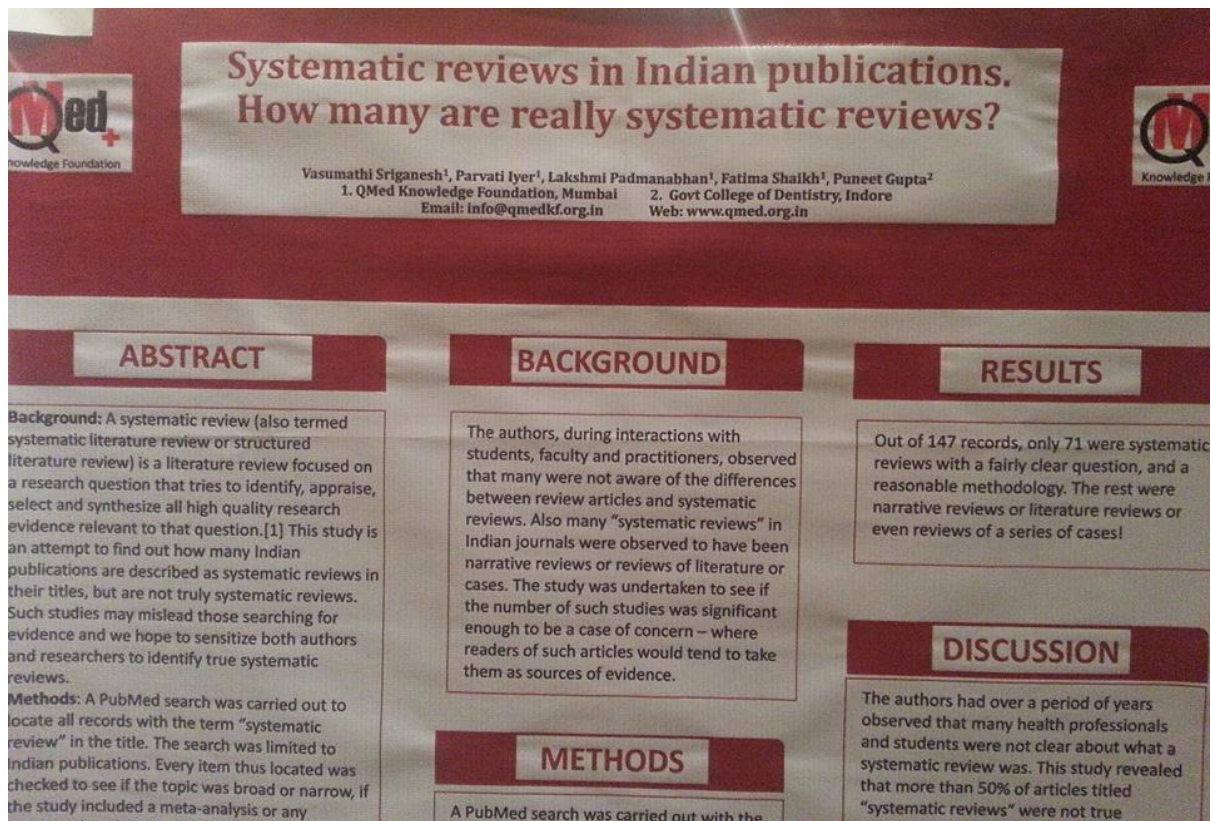
We conducted 47 lectures and 19 workshops reaching out to more than 2400 health science students and professionals across India

QMed's Poster Presented at the conference of
World Association of Medical Editors (WAME 2015)

This study, presented at WAME 2015, is an attempt to find out how many Indian publications are described as systematic reviews in their titles, but are not truly systematic reviews. Such studies may mislead those searching for evidence and we hope to sensitize both authors and researchers to identify true systematic reviews. We retrieved articles from PubMed, published in Indian journals and had the words Systematic Review in the title and checked them to see whether they were systematic reviews produced following the necessary methodology, or if they were review articles.

We found that a little less than 50% of the 147 articles were systematic reviews.

We recommend that journal editors and peer reviewers *must* tell authors of such papers, to amend the title to Review of literature, or just a Review.

A Major Question

Our core activity is empowering health professionals (including students) by training and mentoring. This training will contribute to provision of evidence based health care

Our question: Who should fund this? The Government? The Community? Or the end users? Or a mix of all?

This is a question that challenges us every year.

If it is the Government, should it be the Medical Council of India, the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Public Health Foundation of India – or a mix of all and more? If yes to any one or more, who is ready to help us not just reach the right people, but work with us, to make this happen soon?

If it is the Community, (which is what it is, in addition to the Founder's family funding) – who in the Community should we target? How do we get a critical mass audience to fund us regularly?

Is it our target audience – the doctors / nurses / professionals and students? The community at large believes that they can pay to learn from us. But… here are hurdles:

1) Individual students / professionals have the impression that we should not charge for our workshops or we should subsidize them heavily. They are so used to subsidies that they don't stop to think of what it costs us to give them our offering.
2) Institutions seem to be unable to decide which budget to utilize for the workshops, and are never sure if they should charge their participants, because of the latter's perceptions

The last option – which is in process – seems to be the most optimistic. Our E-Learning programs can reach out to a far larger target audience and with the most affordable payment options, we should be able to not only reach a stage of self-sustenance, but maybe we could, in future fund some research projects. But till then, we do need funding.

We seek answers and help to overcome these challenges!

Overcoming Challenges

The challenges we faced in 2014-2015 Too few workshops	How we overcame the challenge in 2015-2016
Workshops at institutions	
Workshops: 3 Number of participants: 66 Though the institutions had all good intentions of conducting our workshops, they did not prioritize our workshops as they did the ones on clinical topics. The most important reason being that literature search is not considered significant enough in the area of research as is statistics or any other research related topic.	To reach out to more institutions we hit upon an idea. Wherever UG conferences were being organized, we requested the host institution to conduct a workshop for their PG/Faculty one day prior or after the UG event. Almost all of them agreed to this arrangement. We also offered an alternative – 'interactive workshops' (which are shorter in duration and open for a larger audience). This mode of workshop does not include hands-on activity hence the logistics of organizing an interactive session is easier. **Results:** **Workshops: 19 Number of participants: 495**

QMed Participates

'Be a leader'

Fatima and Lakshmi attended a one-day GYAN (Get Your Answers Now) session on 'Be a Leader' organized by I-Volunteer, Mumbai. The two speakers for the workshop shared interesting inputs on employee engagement, being a team player and giving effective feedback. The topic was dealt with in an informal way focusing more on the participant's experiences rather than mere theory. This made the entire workshop a great learning experience.

Social Business Summit – "Empowering NGOs for Future

Vasumathi Sriganesh attended an event – "Social Business Summit – "Empowering NGOs for Future" – organized by the Don Bosco Institute of Management & Research. There were interesting talks and panel discussions on empowerment of NGOs and the DBIMR shared with us, the work done by their Management Students on Social projects during their PG degree course. (It is mandatory for them!) . We hope to use the learning from this and explore possibility of having a student from DBIMR engage with us sometime.

Google Ad Grants Workshop

Lakshmi Padmanabhan attended a training on 'Google Ad Grants' organized by the Google Ad Grants training team (India) specially for the non-profit sector. The team gave an overview of the various methods which NGOs can use to leverage Google ads to promote their work, raise funds and appeal to volunteers. We hope to leverage this learning in the near future, to generate funds for our activities

Fund-raising Workshop

CEDSS – SPJIMR – Workshop on fundraising. Ms Usha Menon – a highly experienced fund raiser and consultant shared some excellent ideas for NGOs to raise funds.

Looking Forward: 2016-2017

- ❖ Mentor under-graduate students who are working on the ICMR STS projects.

- ❖ Launch e-learning courses on Information Resources, Literature Search and Reference

  Management.

- ❖ Organize train the trainer programs.

- ❖ Conduct training programs for librarians working in health science colleges/hospitals so that

  they can ensure optimum utilization of the library resources and become a point of contact for

  the students and professionals of the institution for this subject.

- ❖ Encourage medical institutions to conduct literature search and reference management

  training programs for the under-graduate students.

- ❖ Make our workshops a regular feature in the PG orientation programs.

About QMed

The problem: a lacuna in medical education & research in India

The medical curriculum in India does not incorporate the required training to search and retrieve health information with the *systematic approach that is required*. To add to it today there is an overload of information available especially on the internet. Health professionals tend to rely on the most accessible and easily available information compromising on its authenticity, reliability and accuracy. This directly impacts patient care. The patient / consumer community also search generic search engines and rely on the flood of social media messages they get, for health information. As a result, they are often misinformed. This could also create a major problem in the communications with doctors while receiving medical care.

What we do and how we do it:

We teach health science professionals (medical students, doctors, allied health professionals, researchers & librarians) to search for health information from recognized online resources in a systematic manner, so that healthcare will be provided based on the best of updates and evidence, from the world literature. We conduct training programs in medical institutes and hospitals in India and organize a few on our own to impart literature search and reference management skills. In future, we plan to teach consumers how to find reliable and authentic information, so that they interact with their healthcare providers and share the responsibility of their healthcare decisions.

What is QMed?

QMed Knowledge Foundation is a not-for-profit Trust set up in 2007, working in the area of medical education and research.

Who are the people in QMed?

Trustees	Team	
	Founder & Hon CEO: Ms. Vasumathi Sriganesh MLIS	**Hon. Dir. Projects:** Ms. Parvati Iyer MLIS
Dr Anand Shandilya- MD DCH Dr Bhavin Jankharia- MD, DMRD Mr P Sriganesh, B.Sc., FCA, FCS	**Program Associates**: Ms. Lakshmi Padmanabhan MSW Ms. Fatima Shaikh MLIS	**Hon. Consultants**: Ms. Dipti Suvarna BSc Ms. Smita Srinivasan MLIS **Honorary Accountant:** Ms. Jayanthi Raghunath BSc

Vision

Health care services to society will be based on the effective utilization of the best available current evidence from systematic research.

Mission

To enable health professionals, institutions, patients and health consumers working in the health care sector, to obtain the best evidence from systematic research, in order to ensure accurate delivery and availability of optimal health care services.

Objectives

- To conduct training programs to equip students, faculty and researchers with skills needed for Evidence Based Practice

- To create high quality teaching aids to supplement training programs

- To enable the health science community to access reliable and up-to-date medical information

- To enable medical libraries to enhance resource-sharing activities

- To conduct workshops for health consumers and patients to help them find reliable evidence based information so that they can communicate correctly with health providers and participate responsibly in their own health care

- To collaborate with individuals and organizations with similar goals

You can help us make a difference to
the way people search and use health information

US/UK citizens can donate through our:

Global Giving – US page: https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/better-doctors-india/

Global Giving UK page: http://www.globalgiving.co.uk/projects/better-doctors-india/

Indian citizens/Indian passport holders (even if you reside outside India)		
Cheque Payment	**Debit Card /Credit Card/Netbanling**	**Bank Transfer**
On – par Cheques favouring "Quality Medical Knowledge Foundation" Please courier cheques to: QMed Knowledge Foundation A-3, Shubham Centre, Cardinal Gracious Road Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai 400099	You can donate through our account in Instamojo http://imojo.in/qmeddonation	Axis Bank Ltd Account Name- Quality Medical Knowledge Foundation Savings A/c No: 395010100192880 IFS CODE – UTIB0000395 MIDC-Andheri (Mumbai) Branch

Trust Registration No.	E-24663
PAN No.	AAATQ0120B
Income Tax Approval Number for 80G	TR/41728 dated 03.06.2008
FCRA Number	083781318

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Directory of Indian Medical Sites: www.indianmedicalsites.in