

Quality Medical Knowledge Foundation

Brief Introduction

Quality Medical (QMed) Knowledge Foundation works in a very niche area of medical education and research.

Our long term Vision is to make better doctors out of today's medical students

How do we plan to do this?

The changes that we hope to introduce in medical education, research and practice are best done if we focus on students, because what they learn as students becomes a part of their professional activity.

1. We train medical students, teachers, and health professionals to
 - Get *relevant* information from the myriad resources on the Internet
 - Use their library resources optimally
2. We train and enable institutional libraries to
 - Use Internet technologies appropriately to facilitate best use of their library resources and ensure that their library expenditure is justified

What will be the outcome?

1. Medical students and professionals will save significant time they spend in searching for the right information and updates
2. This allows them to give more to themselves and their patients. The skills they learn help them do better for their patients and for medical research
3. Budgets spent on libraries will have much better Return on Investments

What made us start this?

As a former medical librarian, our Founder discovered that in India there is an acute lacuna in training for health sciences students in the area we are working on. These lacunae should have ideally been worked upon by bodies like the Medical Council of India and the ICMR, but has been neglected.

Has this need been clearly established?

Since the Foundation's inception in end 2007, we have delivered around 180 lectures and around 120 workshops (till Aug 2014) on the topic of "Searching medical literature" and "Reference Management". The demand for these is growing. We have also been invited to be trainers for the use of "The Cochrane Library" (a very important source for health research evidence) for which the Indian Council of Medical Research has paid for country wide access.

Our current program plans:

1. To create E-learning modules for our programs - including question banks and assessment and certification tools
2. To conduct train the trainer workshops in all medical colleges in the country, to create local trainers
3. To get software that will help libraries to fill in information about their journal collections - so that we can help them integrate them with online

resources. This will help in sharing of articles across the country - a very desperate requirement

4. To help institutions create "Repositories" of their own publications. This is a standard activity in majority of foreign universities and will make a huge difference in the knowledge sharing amongst Indian medical institutions

Our next level program plans:

1. We are starting consumer empowerment programs where we will teach educated consumers how to
 - a. Find the right information
 - b. Understand and interpret medical research summaries for consumers
 - c. Discuss health information intelligently with their doctors
 - d. Help less educated and illiterate people to take evidence informed decisions

We believe that such programs will strengthen the health professionals – consumer relationship and health care will move towards a joint effort activity, with increased responsibility on both sides.

Additional:

We maintain a Directory of Indian Medical Sites at www.indianmedicalsites.in
The Directory aims to include websites of every Indian health care entity / information resource.

Why do we need funds?

1. The IT infrastructure
2. Program costs - human resources, creation of trained personnel, travel
3. Awareness promotion activities - participation in lectures, conferences and events
4. Maintaining and updating Indian Medical Sites

We notice that most Government institutions - within current rules and regulations find it easy to pay for our travel and accommodation, but not for our training costs. Our training costs are chiefly towards expertise in creating the content and of course the IT infrastructure required. The "Society for Medical Learning Resources Transfer" (SMLRT) – a Chennai based group of doctors, has partially supported our lectures and workshops. We have also raised donations from family and friends.

Recognition:

Our founder Ms. Vasumathi Sriganesh has been recognized by the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences as a faculty for research methodology workshops. In 2013 she won the 'International Clinical Librarian Conference Evidence into Practice Award' set up to honour a practising librarian or informationist who has made outstanding contributions to bringing evidence into practice in the field of healthcare. More information at <http://npc.mlanet.org/mla13/?p=320>