

Press release

QMed Knowledge Foundation Launched

Mumbai January 12, 2008

QMed Knowledge Foundation a not-for-profit organization was inaugurated in Mumbai at the Nehru Centre today. The Foundation will work in certain key areas in the Healthcare sector which have so far not been adequately tackled in the formal Medical Curriculum in India – medical information retrieval, medical writing and publishing.

Speaking on the occasion, **Dr. Y.K. Amdekar, Consultant Pediatrician** - Jaslok and Breach Candy Hospitals, highlighted the fact that **most often doctors find it very difficult to get relevant information at the point of care and cited his own experiences in corroboration.**

Dr. K.G. Nair, Consultant Cardiologist - Academic Director Holy Family Hospital and Former Director Research -Hinduja Hospital was the other speaker of the evening. He spoke on the **urgent need for sharing Indian data with the world. He stressed the need to improve the quality of medical writing and research reporting.** Both speakers emphasized the need for an entity like QMed Knowledge Foundation and commended the initiative.

The Foundation will offer training in medical information retrieval, writing and publishing. It will also offer help in researching medical information, getting journal articles, creating medical websites, and enhancing the effective use of IT in Medical libraries. Medical libraries have great potential to offer support in these areas and QMed Knowledge Foundation will work with them to enhance these offerings.

In the Internet era, there is no turning away from the fact that almost every healthcare professional will need the services of the Foundation, be it medical students, teachers, clinicians, medical librarians, Journal editors, nurses and paramedics.

The Foundation plans to conduct several training programs for health professionals across the country in the immediate future. It will also serve as an extended Medical library, for all health professionals and especially for those with no library access.

The Foundation has created a "**Directory of Indian Medical Sites**" (www.indianmedicalsites.in) which it aims to maintain as the **most authentic updated resource for Indian medical information**. The site is updated almost every day and offers a simple filtered search function. There will be a special effort to encourage even small Nursing homes, Polyclinics etc to have their own websites with regularly updated information, so that the public as well as healthcare providers can have quick access to much needed resources.

An additional initiative is to support and collaborate with the **HIFA2015 campaign** (www.hifa2015.org). HIFA2015 - (Healthcare Information For All by 2015) is a global campaign with more than 1100 professionals working in over 100 countries to ensure the same worldwide. Neil Pakenham-Walsh is the co-director of the Global Healthcare Information Network, which administers this campaign. "People in India are dying for lack of knowledge", he said – in an email communication to QMed. "We look forward to working with QMed Knowledge Foundation and others to help reduce this unnecessary suffering and move towards a future where every person in India has access to an informed healthcare provider." QMed Knowledge Foundation, with its collective experience in the health information area, plans to work for this campaign in collaboration with other NGOs that are working for better health care, especially in rural India.

The CEO, of the Foundation, Vasumathi Sriganesh - an expert medical librarian is ably supported by two senior librarians in the Management team - Girish Kunkur who headed the British Council Library, Mumbai till recently, and Parvati Iyer who was earlier with the Mumbai University Library.

The Trustees of the Foundation are Dr. Anand Shandilya – Consultant Pediatrician and an active member of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Bhavin Jankharia – Consultant Radiologist who also runs the Radiology Education Foundation and Mr. P. Sriganesh - a Consultant in the IT industry.

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