

## **Quality Medical Knowledge Foundation**

### An 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 they are always open to learning something new, and especially if technology is a major element. We believe that if we introduce these changes in students, they "grow" with them into their professional activities.

#### **What Do We Do**

We teach medical students, teachers, and health professionals about:

- Information sources: How to classify and relate them to their query
- How to search online databases with a systematic, scientific approach
- Methods to save their search strategies and search results
- Tools that help store and cite references in a structured manner
- Use their library resources optimally

This helps them:

- Plan their search activity by identifying sites & databases that will match their specific needs
- Know how to organise and manage information
- Get relevant information on topics
- And importantly – save hours of time

#### **What made us start this?**

As a former medical librarian, our founder discovered that in our country there is an acute lacuna in training of medical (and healthcare) 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?**

Yes increasingly with the need to write and publish. The demand for our workshops is growing rapidly. We have even 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 had paid for country wide access from 2007 till recently.

### **Our forthcoming projects & programs:**

1. To create E-learning modules including question banks, assessment and certification tools in order to reach out across the country
2. To conduct train the trainer workshops in all medical colleges in the country, to create local trainers, who can guide others in the institution

We wish to urge the Medical Council of India to make structured literature searching skills and reference management skills as part of the medical curriculum.

### **Partial list of institutions where we have conducted the Literature search / Reference Management programs**

Institutions where our lecture is a regular feature:

1. All medical colleges in Mumbai – LTMC, GSMC, TNMC, GMC, KJ Somaiya, Terna – (for their research Methodology Workshops)
2. Tata Memorial Hospital (Research Methodology courses)
3. Indian Journal of Ophthalmology – Research Methodology courses

A database of all lectures we have delivered is available at <http://www.qmed.ngo/filter-lectures/>

Workshops conducted in Mumbai

1. Grant Medical College
2. Hinduja Hospital
3. Lokmanya Tilak Medical College & Sion Hospital
4. Lotus College of Optometry, Mumbai (Annual, compulsory event for PG students)
5. Seth GS Medical College & KEM Hospital, Mumbai
6. Tata Memorial Centre

Workshops conducted outside Mumbai:

We have conducted workshops in several cities and towns outside Mumbai. Some of the well-known institutions which have hosted them are:

1. AIIMS, Jodhpur and Delhi (IRCH)
2. Armed Forces Medical College, Pune
3. Bapuji Dental College, Davanagere
4. Kerala University of Health Sciences, Thrissur
5. NKP Salve Medical College, Nagpur
6. Sri Manakula Vinayagar Medical College, Puducherry
7. University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi

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### **Feedback:**

More than 90% of the participants said that

- \* The program exceeded or definitely met their expectations
- \* They would recommend it to colleagues
- \* They believe it should be a part of the PG curriculum
- \* Some recommend that it should be initiated at the UG level.