

Quality Medical Knowledge Foundation

Brief Introduction

Quality Medical (QMed) Knowledge Foundation is involved with a very niche area of medical education and research.

Our long term Vision is to help create better professionals out of today's health sciences students

How do we plan to do this?

The changes that we are working to introduce in the health sciences 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. We also need to train faculty and practitioners, it is not enough to train students.

Health sciences students, include medical student and those studying dentistry, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and allied courses

What does QMed do?

There is an information overload on the World Wide Web today. Most people are confident about searching online. Alarmingly few actually know how to.

At QMed, we train all health sciences students, teachers, and professionals to

- Get *relevant* information from the multiple resources on the Internet
- Reference correctly in their medical writing
- Use their library resources optimally
- Find the right evidence for patient care

We do these through our online courses and workshops, supported by our blog, web resources and our mentoring program "Friends of QMed".

What will be the outcome?

1. Medical students and professionals will save significant time in online searching. This allows them to give more time to their patients and to themselves
2. The skills they learn help them do better for their patients and for medical research
3. Budgets spent on libraries will have much better Returns 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. Ideally what we teach should be part of the curriculum, but it is not.

Has this need been clearly established?

Since the Foundation's inception in end 2007, we have delivered more than 400 lectures and conducted around 240 workshops on the topic of "Searching medical literature" and "Reference Management". More than 95% of workshop participants have told us that these skills need to be included in the curriculum. We have documented several personal inputs from students and professionals, as to how our teaching/mentoring has made a difference to them. In July 2019, we did an intensive workshop in an ICMR Centre. While several participants gave good feedback, some specifically mentioned that such workshops are a must for all ICMR centres.

Why do we raise funds?

We believe that our online courses will help us become self-sustaining by the second half of 2020. Till then we need funds for:

1. Creating all planned online courses, regularly updating them and providing the help needed to all registered participants
2. Our IT infrastructure
3. Other program costs –workshops, Friends of QMed and creation of web resources
4. Awareness promotion activities - participation in lectures, conferences and events

Recognition:

- Our founder Ms. Vasumathi Sriganesh has been recognized by the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences as a faculty for research methodology workshops, and as a Specialty Speaker by the Maharashtra Medical Council
- She is a faculty in International programs in India organized by MECOR (by the American Thoracic Society), The Union (IUATLD) and FAIMER (by the ECFMG)
- She is accepted as a member of the Academy of Health Professions Educators, established to improve the standards and quality of health professions education in India
- 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 in this [blog post](http://clinicallylibrarian.blogspot.com/2013/06/international-clinical-librarian.html):
<http://clinicallylibrarian.blogspot.com/2013/06/international-clinical-librarian.html>

As of October 2019, the Manipal Academy of Higher Education has enrolled 1000 students & faculty for our online courses – this across three medical colleges – KMC Manipal and Mangalore and Sikkim Manipal University
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