Preamble:

The National Medical Commission's document: "Competency based undergraduate curriculum for the Indian Medical Graduate" specifies in 3.4.4 that the Indian Medical Graduate must be able to

*"Demonstrate **ability to search** (including through electronic means), and critically evaluate the medical literature and apply the information in the care of the patient"*

Source: https://www.nmc.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/UG-Curriculum-Vol-I.pdf

Competency based Undergraduate (UG) curriculum for the Indian Medical Graduate (Foundation course for MBBS) specifies on page 64:

*"The students should be introduced to the basic use of word and power point, familiar with search engines, **in performing a literature search and accessing online resources**"*

Source: https://www.nmc.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FOUNDATION-COURSE-MBBS-17.07.2019.pdf

QMed's observations and actions:

Literature searching and referencing skills are based on the domain of Information Sciences and need to be taught with a structured approach. This is lacking in the Indian medical curriculum. QMed Knowledge Foundation is working on this issue with institutions to help spread these skills to students and professionals in the health sciences

QMed's Online Courses,

Why are our courses important?

1. Medical practice evolves with research
2. Literature search is the foundation of research
3. If the foundation is weak, the research is weak
4. Weak results do not contribute to evidence
5. Good research -a must for evidence based practice

Objectives of the courses

To understand and learn how to:

- Search literature correctly, retrieve relevant results and save time
- Narrow down search results, and also broaden them when there are too few
- Save search strategies and search results for future review and use
- Use reference managers for storing details of books, journals and more and to cite items and create reference lists with ease

Quality Medical Knowledge Foundation
Registered with the Charity Commissioner, Mumbai. Registration no: E-24663
A-3, Shubham Centre, Ground Floor. Cardinal Gracious Road, Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai – 400099, India.
Tel: +91-22-40054474   **E-mail**: info@qmed.ngo **Web**: www.qmed.ngo; **Courses**: www.qmedcourses.in

What courses do we currently offer?

- Information Resources & Literature Searching
- Introduction to Referencing
- Mastering PubMed
- Reference Management with Mendeley

What we cover in the courses

We teach literature searching in detail, including performing detailed search strategies for systematic and scoping reviews. We teach referencing from the basics till the use of a reference manager for accurate referencing

For the full table of contents – please check - www.qmedcourses.in/home/images/Course%20TOC.pdf

How we work with institutions

An institution needs to subscribe to work with QMed and gets the following:

1. Access to the online courses for ALL its employees and students
2. Access to the "Library of Resources" – which include links to several useful resources for research and medical writing
3. *Live workshops during the year
4. Short webinar sessions for groups or individual

How does the institution partner with us?

1. **Pay an annual partnership subscription fee as below: This is valid for one year**

Type of Institution	Amount in Rupees
Medical colleges	70,000
Dental colleges & Pharmacy colleges	50,000
Physiotherapy colleges / Non-teaching & DNB hospitals	40,000
Nursing colleges / Small research institutions	25,000

   Please note – GST will be added to the fee at the applicable rate – currently 18%

2. **Plan for one or more workshops:**

   a. For every institution that subscribe to our courses, we include one full day workshop, to be held on a mutually convenient date.
   b. The institution can request for additional one day workshops during the year at a nominal cost of Rs 10,000/- (plus GST)**.**
   c. For any workshop we conduct for the institution – we request the travel and stay costs to be covered.
   d. Smaller institutions could plan for short sessions over Zoom after availing of one workshop.

3. **Explore and learn from Library of Resources** that we have compiled:

   In – www.qmedcourses.in – we have a library of resources – "Resources for you" – which has links to sites and tutorials useful for searching and writing and for research in general. We also have links to useful articles (in PubMed) on topics related to research – eg – Journal clubs, literature search, plagiarism etc. To learn more and view a sample, **please visit this page -** https://www.qmed.ngo/courses/resources/

4. **Webinars**:
   Institutions can plan for webinar sessions in order to have interactions

5. **Small Group Consulting sessions**:
   We offer consulting / mentoring sessions specially for:
   a. Detailed search strategies for systematic / scoping reviews,
   b. Any detailed help regarding searching / referencing

   QMed is open to suggestions from an institution to make the partnership very productive

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Recommendations for ensuring institution wide learning

An institution should ideally plan for following to ensure that maximum numbers learn from our courses in order to ensure that every student / faculty / employee learns the skills we teach.

1. Appoint a team of three faculty to coordinate with QMed
2. Request for one-to-two volunteers from every department and UG batch, to coordinate with the main team
3. Spread the awareness of our courses and offerings to all students and faculty through the coordinators – to ensure that people enrol (we provide a simple form to be filled by each – to ensure accuracy of data – and we enrol them to the courses)
4. Do everything possible to ensure completion of courses – maybe offer recognitions / small rewards for completion
5. Ensure that students definitely complete the two free courses (takes only two hours). Encourage all students and faculty to complete the modules with "badges" and recommend that they try and complete certification too

How we make things easy

1. Our online courses can be done on any device
2. Every recorded video is short – average duration of 5 minutes. Every video later becomes a revision tool if one forgets something
3. The total duration of video viewing is about eight hours
4. We have provided a time table that people can follow – they spend 15 minutes a day and can finish the courses in 30-40 days. They can do the courses at any time within a year, and repeat the learning any number of times
5. Cost effective for institutions to implement and ensure skill building in this important aspect
6. Every course has "badges" for important modules. And participants get certificates for every course completing a course. If an institution provides its logo for incorporation in the certificates, then it encourages participants to do more

Institutions Enrolled

- AIIMS Bhopal
- AIIMS Guwahati (renewed for a second year)
- AIIMS Jodhpur
- AIIMS Kalyani (renewed for a second year)
- AIIMS Rae Bareli
- AIIMS Raipur
- Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi (renewed for a second year)
- Dr D.Y. Patil Medical College, Pune
- Sri Manakula Vinayagar Medical College & Hospital, Puducherry (renewed for a third year)
- Ashok & Rita Patel Institute of Physiotherapy (Charotar University)
- Bangalore Hospice Trust: Karunashraya (renewed for a second year)
- Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar (ICMR Centre) – (renewed for a third year)

Special Mention:

- Lancet Citizens' Commission (through CMC Vellore Association, Vellore) – This comprised a cohort of researchers across the country working in small groups on different detailed health reviews. In the year 2021-2022, each group went through specific videos on our courses and worked with us to formulate the search strategies for their review topics.
- Foundation for Excellence – a Bengaluru based not for profit Trust. They support needy students for medical and engineering education. They had given access to several of their MBBS students. They are currently working at renewal of access
- Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Sikkim (renewed twice)

About QMed

QMed has taught literature searching and reference management since 2008 April – via lectures and workshops. In 2018 we started our first online (Elearning) courses and since 2020 we have had them on our own platform.

Before the onset of the pandemic – we had conducted 250 workshops and we delivered around 540 lectures. During the pandemic all our teaching went online – via our ELearning courses and webinars

From April 2022 – we offer a "package" of learning opportunities via **www.qmedcourses.in** - online and offline courses, mentoring and the library of resources

We also offer to deliver lectures in institutions to sensitize the importance of structured literature searching & referencing.