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IIHMR University welcomes fifth batch for the prestigious MPH cohort

IIHMR University inaugurated its fifth batch of students for the prestigious international post graduate degree programme, Master of Public Health (MPH) on October 11, 2017. The programme is conducted in partnership with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA.

The students in the 5th cohort of MPH program will undergo two-week training at John’s Hopkins University Campus at Baltimore, USA, beginning January 8, 2018. The three-fourths of terms will be taught in India while one term will be taught at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA. The collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) and IIHMR University will enable the students to benefit from Johns Hopkins’ track record of excellence in teaching public health and IIHMR University’s expertise in health management.

The Master of Public Health degree program is designed to focus on public health capacity building in India and other developing countries in the sub-continent. The curriculum aims at developing competencies of students in core areas of public health and management besides developing multi-disciplinary skills among them. Thereby, preparing professionals for challenging careers in public health management in the public & private sector, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), national and global organizations. The pedagogy in each course is selected judiciously, with an emphasis on involving the students in learning and helping them to relate concepts and theories to public health management on the ground.
UNFPA and IIHMR University jointly organized the second edition of a two-week International Training Program on Family Planning and Reproductive Health Commodity Security (FP/RHCS) from October 23rd to November 03, 2017. The program was organized for program managers from the public and private sectors working on reproductive health issues. The training was conducted at the IIHMR University campus. This joint consultation strengthened the technical and programme management capacity and skills of course participants. The training curricula included topics on:

a) Program planning and implementation  
b) Monitoring, supervision, and evaluation  
c) Evidence-based advocacy and mobilization of policymakers and other stakeholders  
d) Leadership, governance, and RH programme management  
e) Sustainability planning including strengthening linkages with other existing national programmes.

This year 27 participants from 8 countries namely Afghanistan (3), Bangladesh (5), Bhutan (4), Cambodia (2), Lao PDR (4), Nepal (6), Timor-Leste (2) and Vietnam (1) participated.
22nd Pradanya 2017

Imagining Sustainable Futures

Over the past 21 years, IIHMR-U’s flagship annual conference, Pradanya, has become a major fixture of the academic landscape. Conceived as a point of convergence for all the major stakeholders related to the health sector, the conference has grown over years, and now confronts major national and international issues related to the health, development, and pharmaceutical sectors. The success of this wonderful event has ensured that it will be organized for years to come.

The theme of the conference was SMART, wherein, S stands for Sustainable Design and Healthcare, M stands for Managing Change in disruptive times, A stands for Analytics, Mobility and The Cloud, R stands for Rurban Challenges and Opportunities and T stands for Technology, Innovation and Well-being. Smart and innovative systems are critical for driving transformative change in all fields. They provide the institutional framework for organizations to synergize the relationship between the demand and supply sides.

Pre-Conference 2017

November 15, 2017: IIHMR University, Jaipur, held a Pre-conference which covered the following heads for discussions:

- Start-up in healthcare
- Building and Managing patient-centric hospital of future
- NCD with population aging 2030
- Digital marketing in Health care
- CSR initiatives in capacity building of rural community
- Supply chain - revenue trigger

November 16, 2017: IIHMR University, Jaipur, held a stimulating and high-profile conference ‘Imagining Sustainable Futures’ on November 16-17, 2017. The conference was part of the University’s annual intellectual offering to the healthcare community called Pradanya. This was Pradanya’s 22nd edition which brought together some notable figures from the healthcare sector to ideate, debate and deliberate on the various challenges confronting the healthcare industry including public health, hospitals in development sector and pharmaceutical segments in both public and private sector.
Pradanya 2017, the much-awaited annual healthcare conference in the city, focused on the 5 ‘SMART’ issues -- **S** for Sustainable Design and Healthcare, **M** for Managing Change in Disruptive Times, **A** for Analytics Mobility and the Cloud, **R** for Rurban (rural + urban) Challenges and Opportunities and **T** for Technological Innovation and Well Being.

Chairman, IIHMR University, **Dr. S.D. Gupta** underscored the fact that if people are not healthy, development cannot happen. There is a need to shift focus from “traditional healthcare to well-managed healthcare”, he said.

Pro-President, IIHMR University, **Dr. P.R. Sodani**, in his welcome address, stressed that smart, innovative and sustainable development is critical to transforming our lives and should be the focus of all our healthcare strategies.

**Dr. Ram Narain**, Executive Director, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital & Medical Research Institute who was the chief guest at the Conference, said, “The biggest challenge of the healthcare industry is to create a system which is affordable, fair, acceptable and adaptable. Healthcare has become very expensive in India; 17.3% of the nation’s GDP is spent on healthcare. At present, 25% of healthcare expenses are borne by the public system and the rest 75% by the individual which is often back-breaking. We need to narrow the gap and reorient and strengthen our healthcare system.”

**Mr. Sandesh Kumar Sharma** of the Organizing Committee of IIHMR University Jaipur proposed the vote of thanks.

Click on the links to hear it from our speakers:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_YzySRVEm4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzuk0GXXBtw

**Day 1: November 16, 2017**: Eminent speakers at the conference included Dr. Ram Narain, Dr. K.B. Sood, Dr. Damodar Bachani, Dr. Anoop Daga, Akhilesh Mishra, Col. (Dr.) Sajal Sen, Dr. (Maj. Gen.) S.C. Pareek, to name a few.

The first speaker to address the congregation was **Dr. Ram Narain**, Executive Director Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital and Medical Research Institute, said that the need of an hour is to create a healthcare ecosystem where ideas generated can be implemented and executed in a sustainable manner. Further he added that the greatest conundrum of the healthcare industry is to create a system which is affordable, fair, acceptable and adaptable. Executive Director went on to say that India’s healthcare system is going through a transition where it’s vital to handle medical challenges via better infrastructure, governance, altered recruitment policies and superior patient care and natural selection is not an option in this industry.

**Chairman IIHMR University, Dr. SD. Gupta** said, “if people are not healthy, development won’t happen. The life expectancy has increased from 32 years in 1950 to 67 years in 2017. The ageing population is increasing, and mortality rate is reducing. There is a need to shift focus from traditional
healthcare to well-managed healthcare”. He believes that by 2030 the percentage of non-communicable diseases will increase to 75% of the total diseases. On this note, day 1 of the conference concluded.

**Day 2: November 17, 2017:** Eminent speakers at the conference included Dr. Suptendra Nath Sarbadhikari, Salil Khalianpur, Ashish Agarwal, Gaurav Khandelwal, Dr. Sanjiv Kapur, to name a few.

The second day of the conference focused on the need for digital marketing in healthcare and pharmaceutical industry. **Aashish Agarwal, Founder Paryavaran Mitra, Ahmedabad**, informed the congregation about women waste collectors in the city. In his interaction he further informed that there are about 30,000 women working as waste collectors in Jaipur and collect 6,00,000 kgs worth of waste everyday between 3 – 4 am every morning. **Gaurav Khandelwal, Director Contree Foundation**, said that by breaking gender and social comparisons, technological access, infrastructural development and better governance problems of rapid rurbinisation can be combatted. **Rajeev Khandelwal, Co-founder and Executive Founder of Aegean Bureau**, said that about 58.7 lakh people have migrated from rural areas to Jaipur. These are seasonal workers who are driven out, due to the distress of systematic collapse of the agricultural sector and lack of essential health and educational infrastructure.

Earlier in the session ‘Analytics, Mobility and the Cloud’ **Salil Khalianpur, former VP of Marketing, GSK**, said that the pharmaceutical industry is at the stage of digital preparedness wherein they have recognized the need to digitalize. The only missing element is the need to realize that customers will engage when a compelling need for the same is created. According to the Gartner Report by 2020 almost 80% of the pharmaceutical business will go online. **SN Sarbhadikari, Prof. of IIHMR Delhi**, said that there is a need to connect various concepts and build a decision support system. The second day of the conference came to end with Dr. P.R. Sodani, addressing the speakers, students, and participants.
Dr. Sunil Kumar Provost, Johns Hopkins University, USA visited IIHMR University on November 19, 2017. He was here to address a round table discussion on ‘Enhancing Quality of Higher Education: Issues and Opportunities at Hotel Marriott. Inability to communicate with others in a proficient manner makes it difficult to comprehend the skills of the said individual and create a cohesive learning environment, said Dr. Kumar.

He further added that it is important to measure a student’s capability to learn rather than what they have already learnt. There is a special requirement to realize that learning is a continuous process which over time results in holistic development. It is important to inculcate an aspiration for excellence among the students. They should be able to work with others not just academically but also be able to empathize emotionally.
Chairman, Ajit Foundation, Jaipur, Dr. V.S. Vyas who was also the part of this conference highlighted the 4 factors that determine the quality of education – students, teachers, leaders and regulators. If the teachers challenge the students, then there is positive scope for increasing their capacity of learning. Teachers should also be presented with ample growth opportunities and be recognized and encouraged by their peers.

Dr S.D. Gupta Chairman, IIHMR University said that India is the 3rd largest in terms of higher education with huge infrastructure and network. India’s educated middle class population is equivalent to the entire population of the USA. Fresh graduates can hurt their chances of employability with inadequate proficiency in written and verbal English communication skills.

IIHMR-U Jaipur’s Dean, Research Dr. D.K. Mangal Participates in WHO’s Project Review Panel

Dr. Daya Krishan Mangal from IIHMR University Jaipur participated in the ‘In-Person Meeting of the Project Review Panel (RP2) committee’ at World Health Organization (WHO) Geneva. He is the only member representing India in RP2. The RP2 committee at WHO, Geneva was held on 11-12 December this year.
Dr Mangal is the Dean, Research, IIHMR University and is member of the RP2 committee since 2016. RP2 panel member/reviewers are senior, external researchers, carefully selected for their expertise in various aspects of SRHR research. There are 20-25 members of the RP2 Committee. Dr. Mangal actively participated during the discussions on all the research proposals considered by the committee and provided his inputs.

IIHMR University Prof. Ratna Verma represents India at “EYES” in Indonesia

Prof. Ratna Verma from IIHMR University represented India as a fellow strategist in Indonesia under five days ‘EYES for Embracing Diversity Programme’ of Japan Foundation Asia Centre. The visit was from November 27 to December 1, 2017. The strategists mutually learnt and engaged with each other on the issues of diversity, human migration, and tolerance in their respective countries to propose possible solutions to those challenges.

EYES (Empowering Youth for Engaged Society), is a program that aimed at “Building stronger bonds among Asia”. In Asia, there are incidents where people exclude others based on their differences, whether in political views, socio-economic stratum, religion, ethnicity, race, or in any other traits that they have.

Even when local governments from each respective country try to implement “multicultural symbiosis (multicultural coexistence)”, to exercise more inclusive practice; “hate speech”, that aims at excluding targeted ethnic groups still occurs.
Reliving Good Old Days: IIHMR University Alumnus, Abdul Bari Abdulla at College Campus

IIHMR University alumnus, Abdul Bari Abdulla, Member of Parliament and former Health Minister of Maldives visited the campus for an interactive session with the students sharing his life experiences, the work he did for social benefits and his career journey from a student of Public Health at IIHMR University to Member of Parliament and former Health Minister, Maldives.

It's was great to have IIHMR Alumnus Masters of Public Health, Batch 1 (1993-1994) now a Member of Parliament and former Health Minister of Maldives Abdul Bari Abdulla on campus; inspiring students and going down the memory lane.
Capacity Building workshop in Vaccine Economics

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and IIHMR University jointly organized a two-day capacity building workshop in Vaccine Economics, on 21st-22nd December 2017 at IIHMR University, Jaipur. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded the workshop.

The objective of the workshop was building capacity of policy makers in low and middle-income countries and facilitate regular application of economic principles to healthcare decision-making. The achievement of this objective requires greater expertise in applied health economics.

IIHMR University, Jaipur, India in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, WITS School of Public Health, Aga Khan University, and Makerere University have developed a series of capacity building workshops to strengthen skills related to economics and financing of national immunization programs to improve the sustainability of vaccine delivery in low and middle-income countries.

A team of seasoned Health Economists from IIHMR University and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health jointly offered the program.

• P.R. Sodani PhD, MPH, IIHMR University, Jaipur, India
• Susmita Chatterjee PhD, Health Economist, India
• David Bishai MPH, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA
• Shreena Malaviya MHS, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA.
3rd ML Mehta Memorial Oration

Third ML Mehta Memorial Oration was held at OTS, Jaipur to mark the third death anniversary of Shri ML Mehta, former Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, and Founder Trustee IIHMR University, Jaipur.

In an increasingly privatized world, the belief that policy formulation can only be done by people sitting in the Government is a myth. Big businesses in India can also help in proactively reducing the inequities. This was informed by Election Commissioner, Government of India, Mr. Sunil Arora. He was speaking at the 3rd ML Mehta Memorial Oration at B S Mehta Auditorium, HCM RIPA (OTS), on December 7.

The oration was jointly organized by M.L. Mehta Memorial Foundation (MLMMF) and HCM Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (RIPA). The event was presided by retired IAS officer, Mr. Anil Kumar.

Mr. ML Mehta was the Founder Trustee of IIHMR University and the Founding Chairman University Jaipur.

The programme began with Pushpanjali to Late Mr. ML Mehta. This was followed by the welcome address by Chairperson, MLMMF, Mr. Rakesh Mehta. A 10-minute film on the life and achievements of Late Mr. ML Mehta was also shown to the audience. Managing Trustee delivered vote of thanks, MLMMF, Dr. Rashmi Jain. As many as 15 students of Jaipur were presented with scholarships sum of which amounting to Rupees 1 lakh. These scholarships were offered by Sumedha — a NGO, founded by Late Mr. ML Mehta. Director General, HCM RIPA, Ms. Gurjot Kaur was also present on the occasion.
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