



62nd Indian Pharmaceutical Congress- A Review

The three-day Congress of the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association (IPCA), which began on 17 December ended on 19 December 2010 with the valedictory function at Fortune Inn Valley View. The Congress set a new record for Manipal by hosting close to ten thousand people. It was the successful culmination of the efforts of scores of people that included the faculty, supporting staff, student volunteers of Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MCOPS) and other sister institutions of Manipal University.

After months of preparation, the meet began on 17 December 2010 with the inauguration. The Minister for Higher Education of Karnataka, Dr V S Acharya was the Chief Guest. The Chancellor and Pro Chancellor of Manipal University, Dr Ramdas M Pai and Dr H S Ballal, were present as Chief Patron and Chairman of Local Organising Committee, respectively. The President of IPCA Mr S L Nasa and the presidents of the five confederating bodies of IPCA were seated on the dais as per the accepted protocol for the inauguration of IPC. Two Guests of Honour, Dr B Suresh (President Pharmacy Council of India) and the noted entrepreneur Padmashri Dr B R Shetty, graced the occasion. Dr N Udupa and Dr C Mallikarjuna Rao were the other dignitaries on the stage.

The total number of participants for the Congress was about ten thousand. The break up was: student delegates 5450, other delegates 1550, spot registration 28, complimentary registration of 500, volunteers 600 and the rest comprised the local participants.

Elaborate arrangements were made to receive, transport, accommodate and feed the delegates and guests.

An exhibition on the sidelines of the Congress was hosted by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). There were about 160 stalls exhibiting sophisticated instruments, software and books used in pharmaceutical industries and pharmacy colleges. Dr B R Shetty inaugurated the exhibition on 17 December 2010.

Details of scientific papers presented at the conference;

Total Number of Papers Received		6025
Poster Session Topics		No. of Posters Selected
A	Pharmaceutical Technology	881
B	Medicinal Chemistry	420
C	Pharmacognosy, Indigenous Drugs, Herbal Formulations and Phytochemistry	368
D	Pharmacology and Toxicology, Clinical Research & Pharmacovigilance	400
E	Biopharmaceutics, Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism	166
F	Pharmaceutical Analysis and Quality Assurance	418
G	Biotechnology and Biotherapeutics	86
H	Hospital, Community and Clinical Pharmacy	205
I	Pharmaceutical Education and Professional Pharmacy	39
J	Drug Regulatory Affairs	61
K	Pharmaceutical Management	39
L	Pharmacoeconomics and Pharmacoepidemiology	25

Total number of posters selected	3108
Posters presented	2800
Rejection % by reviewers	~ 50%
Best papers selected for oral presentation	14

Plenary lectures and symposia were held during the Congress. Out of 90 expected speakers, 78 delivered lectures on topics of importance to pharmacists. One symposium was on Spurious Drugs. Spurious drugs are counterfeit or fake drugs and are widely marketed in India. The symposium sought to alert the pharmacists to the menace of these products. These products have no therapeutic value. The trade in spurious drugs thrives due to the collusion of the officials with the manufacturers and suppliers. Internet and mobile phones are used for the trade in spurious drugs. Mr Atul Kumar Nasa stressed on the importance of participation of doctors, NGOs, retailers and pharmaceutical industries in curbing the menace. Citing that India accounts for 35% of the world's spurious drugs and the rampant sale of spurious drugs through Internet Pharmacies, Dr N R Rau, Professor of Medicine, KMC Manipal, told that efforts are being made internationally through IMPACT (International Medical Products Anti Counterfeit Task) to curb this. Dr Ravindranath Shanbhag, the well-known human rights

activist also took part in this symposium. He lambasted the regulatory officials for being hand in glove with the peddlers of spurious drugs and adulterated food.

About 270 experts chaired the scientific sessions of oral and poster presentations.

The Indian Hospital Pharmacists' Association, the host for the 62nd IPC, wants amendments to Schedule-N of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1948 to add up patient education and other services to enforce better health by a pharmacist and for a mandatory post allocation as a clinical pharmacist in the Government and Private settings for Pharm D and MPharm graduates were made.

Pharmacy as a career does not seem to be attractive, as sufficient jobs are not available for the graduates. Consequently, many pharmacy colleges fail to get their seats filled during admission. One of the reasons cited for this is that pharma companies are giving employment to science in preference to pharmacy graduates. With a view to reversing this trend the professional bodies have passed a few resolutions at the 62nd IPC. One of them is to convince the regulators to amend the existing drug laws to make it incumbent upon the pharma industries to employ only pharmacy graduates for the post of manufacturing pharmacist. Similarly, only registered pharmacist should be allowed the right for wholesale drug distribution, while the present law allows a person matriculate to do so. Mr Atul Kumar Nasa, the president of Indian Pharmacy Graduates Association moved these resolutions.

The valedictory function of 62nd IPC was held at Fortune Inn Valley View on 19 December. The dignitaries for this function were: Mr S L Nasa, Mr Atul Kumar Nasa, Mr R A Gupta, Dr Udayashankar (Registrar Evaluation, Manipal University), Mr Pankaj Bector, Dr N Udupa and Dr C Mallikarjuna Rao. Dr Udupa made a presentation highlighting the events of the Congress. Mr S L Nasa spoke on the occasion and thanked Manipal University and MCOPS for the success of the event. Dr Mallikarjuna Rao proposed the vote of thanks. Dr D Sreedhar (MCOPS) was the Master of Ceremonies.

Feedback

Programme	Rating
Registration Process	Good to Excellent
Inauguration Function	Excellent
Accommodation	Satisfactory to Good
Scientific Services	Good to Excellent
Poster Sessions	Good to Excellent
Oral Sessions	Good to Excellent
Entertainment	Good to Excellent
Catering Services	Good to Excellent
Exhibition	Good to Excellent
Transport	Satisfactory to Good

Parameters	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Quality of papers	23.8%	65.6%	4.4%	1.4%
Quality of poster venue	41.8%	41%	8.8%	1.4%
Overall performance of presenters	14.9%	53.7%	22.4%	---

Overall Rating of the Conference	Good to Excellent
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