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Life for All

A Quarterly Newsletter of Christian Medical Association of India



ANNOUNCEMENT



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"Fear Not. Hope"- Isaiah 41:10

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Administrators, Allied Health Professionals,
Chaplains, Doctors & Nurses League

10th - 12th November 2022
WelcomHotel Dwarka, New Delhi

"A Renewed Understanding" - *Word from General Secretary*



The financial year for 2022-23 has begun and we have finished its first quarter. Budgets have been passed for the year and audits are going on for the previous one. This is a time to take stock and look forward. The FCRA renewal process has reminded all of us of our vision and mission statements and how each of our activities and initiatives must align to that original purpose.

So, looking forward, can we look at new approaches to fulfil our vision statements. Is there a perennial challenge that needs a radical solution? Is there a new perspective or understanding that we have not looked at? Do the youth and young adults of today need a more participatory approach to career decision making? There is no one answer to the above, but of late we have been challenged, as CMAI, to address various issues head on and we are trying to make a small difference with His leading.

The issue of Governance in our network has been one of the standout challenges apart from human resource crunch and finances. Historically, the missionaries started the school, church, and hospital at roughly the same time. With Independence, the whole running of these institutions fell on to the Indian Church which was looked at as the parent. But, in fact it was a sibling, having come into existence at the same time as the other institu-

tions. A parent-child relationship is very different from a sibling relationship. This understanding might change the way we approach challenges of governance.

All the 3 institutions are under attack, either externally or internally. Sibling bonds are usually stronger when ties with the parent are cut short. A good sibling relationship will provide consistency and continuity throughout life. There is more understanding of emotional and material needs.

Can this governance challenge be addressed through this perspective? Will it make the much-needed difference? Will this strengthening of internal bonds influence decision making and bring down the chances of going down the wrong path?

There are many organisations in our network doing capacity building in Governance and Finance. CMAI will work with these various groups plus the church and our membership, to bring in this new perspective. The practical action points from these discussions will need to be documented and strategically disseminated to our membership.

May the good Lord direct our paths and may we lean not on our own understanding. May we seek His face in all our activities and bring Him glory.

SOWING SEEDS ONE REGION AT A TIME ~ Lyric Abraham, AHP Section



Student empowering and Enriching Directive (SEED) is an initiative from CMAI exclusively designed for students to address their current needs and challenges.

The aim of this retreat programme is to bring all health care professional students to a common platform for a time of fellowship, to provide spiritual, personal enrichment and empower them to face the challenges in life and grow holistically in right direction.

Background:- At present, there is a huge need for proper guidance for students, especially in their soft skill development that can lead to their professional success. Also, there is a Gap between CMAI and the student community.

So, there is scope for an interactive student programme that can help them to empower and enrich themselves and can motivate them for the mission.

CMAI's Student Empowering and Enriching Directive (SEED) has following objectives:

1. As the name mentions the SEED is to empower and enrich the students through soft skill training like communications skills, self-awareness, Motivation, Teamwork, Time management, Leadership skills, etc.
2. To encourage fellowship within the student community, sharing of experiences, and best practices.
3. To identify seed champions to strengthen regions and develop future leaders.
4. To give moral support and guidance to students to overcome their challenges.
5. To introduce the mission to the students and sow the seed of commitment to serving in the mission
6. To introduce CMAI to students and encourage membership

Day one of the SEED program began with an opening prayer followed by praise and worship led by the students. A brief introduction to SEED program was given by Mr. Lyric Abraham from CMAI. Inauguration of the SEED program by Rt. Bishop Andrew B Rathod, CNI, Nagpur, with lighting lamp. Also, the lamp was lit by Dr Vilas Shende, Director of Mure Memorial Hospital, and Ms. Aradhana Upadhyaya-Regional Sectional Secretary of AHP, CMAI, Ms. Sulekha Vk, and CMAI, Mr. Lyric Abraham, CMAI and the students. Introduction of the guests was done by Dr Joel, a welcome address from Dr Vilas Shende and followed by the inaugural address by Rev. Andrew B Rathod. The total number of participants for the program were 110. The inaugural program concluded with the vote of thanks by Ms Sanskruti and the closing prayers and Benediction by Rt. Rev. Andrew B Rathod.

During the interactive session, Mr. Lyric Abraham gave an overview of CMAI and why SEED programmes are held. Students also shared their expectations for the programme. During this session, students were divided into four groups and the workshop's rules and regulations were briefly explained to them. The workshop included six sessions designed to help students improve their soft skills, communication skills, self-awareness, motivation, teamwork, Discipline time management, and leadership abilities.

The second day of the programme began with praise and worship led by the students. Students shared their learning from the first day of the programme prior to the session. Dr. Sonal Paliwal, Assistant Professor – Department of Psychology at Hislop College in Nagpur, served as the program's resource person for the last two sessions on "Communication" and "Social Media Addiction". The Valedictory Program, was led by the students, including participation certificates distribution as well as prize distribution and cultural performances. Ms Sanskruti gave a vote of appreciation to all of the attendees.

There is a huge need for proper guidance of the students, especially in their soft skill development that can lead to their professional success. Also, there is a gap between CMAI and the student community. CMAI's the Student Empowering and Enriching Directive (SEED) programme is assisting students in developing their leadership skills and commitment to their work.

LOST MARKSHEET

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CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND SERVICES OF NURSES ~ Shimy Mathew, Nurses League

**SO, LET'S CELEBRATE
LIFE IN ITS FULLNESS
ALONGSIDE LIVING
WITH DIGNITY AND
PROMOTING DIGNITY
OF OTHERS**



This year National Council of Churches in India, Evangelical Nurses Fellowship of India and Christian Medical Association of India came together to celebrate the life and services of nurses. We chose the theme **"Celebrating life: Upholding the Dignity of Nurses"**. A separate report is shared in this issue. As nurses we need to stand up for our own dignity and dignity of our fellow nurses.

We need to promote professional competence which is important to as we stand for the dignity of nurses. We need to also promote healthy working environment and efficient team management to maintain dignity of nurses. Fair remunerations and recognition of contribution of nurses in patient care, education and health care overall is important for promoting dignity of nurses. The Nurse Leaders have a major role in all these aspects and have a responsibility to help the nurses working with them to stand for their dignity and promote the same as they work with multi-disciplinary teams.

So, let's celebrate life in its fullness alongside living with dignity and promoting dignity of others.

We are all gearing up for the **National Conference planned in November**. This year we will have combined National Conferences of all five sections. So requesting all local units to start fund raising and come prepared with programmes and participate with enthusiasm in the conference.

Wishing you all God's blessings as you care for your patients, students and nurses in different capacities and roles that has been entrusted to you.

Let us know if we can help you in any way to accomplish your service. Nurses League can help with trainings and consultancies in any areas related to Nursing practice and education.

WEBINARS, CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND RESOURCES

~ Elsy John, Administrators' Section



Communication has never been this easy or as good as now, Reaching the Unreached is no longer a task, Section has opened up a new set of possibilities for anyone who has a message to share, a service to announce and something of value to share. We believe in continuous learning and we want to give you the resources to be able to lead a successful career in all areas as Administrators. We were able to connect with 1000 contacts through 4 webinars sharing the recordings as a resource.

Webinar on **Making Mission Hospitals Every Patient's Choice, Strategies for Service Excellence**, 50 minutes virtual meet on 19th April 2022 by Mr. Sunny Kuruvilla, discussed Patient-Centric Systems and processes, Service Promotion, Branding & Networking.

Webinar on **Employee Service Rules & appointment Terms – Statutory Impact** by Mr. Samuel Abraham, Legal Expert & Consultant on Legal aspects of Employee Service Rules & Types of appointments and statutory Implications on 20th May 2022.

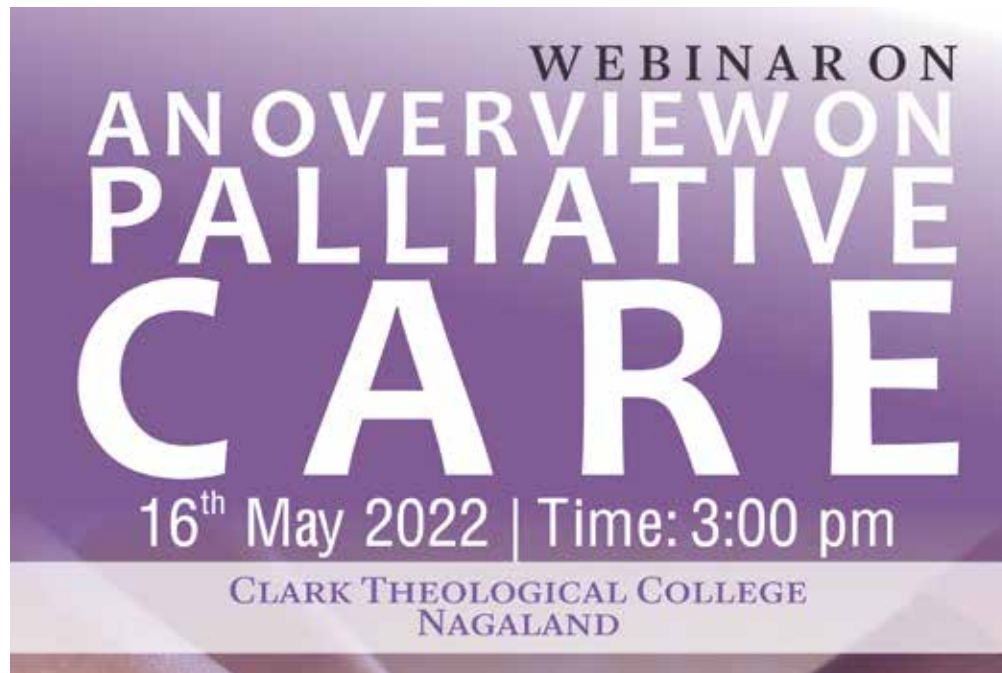
Webinar on **Leadership Transition, Best practices in Handing and Taking over of Responsibilities**, 50 minutes Virtual meet on 10th June 2022 by Dr. Naveen Thomas, Senior Advisor, Head- Networking & Development, Bangalore Baptist Hospital, The talk was on preparing for handover, Equipping for takeover, Mentoring and Coaching, Leading without power. Webinar on **Harnessing Social Media in Healthcare**, 90 Minutes Virtual meet on 17th June by the Administrators section of the Kerala Region, by Mr. Nirmal George Koshy, (Cluster Programming, Head, Radio Mirchi), was attended by 120 participants.

Forth coming Events:

- "When you have to lead another's domain", Dr. George Chandy, Director Believers Church Medical College Hospital
- 2 weeks Health care Management Workshop 1st August to 12th August, Bangalore
- The Electronic News letter with a new name

PASTORAL CARE, CONSULTATION PROGRAMS, WEBINARS, VISITATIONS AND SUMMIT INVITATIONS

~ Rev David Ebenezer, Chaplains' Section



The Chaplain Section of CMAI covers many functions relating to spiritual health, counselling, and education. It focuses on providing spiritual support services like counselling, visitations to hospitals, theological colleges, medical institutions, palliative and bereavement care centres, prayer, devotion, and church services. Our duties also include maintaining a network of institutional/community contacts, organizations, and volunteers to ensure that everyone has access to appropriate helpful resources with HIS grace.

Ministerial Activities: April - June 2022

1. Ms Imtinenla and I shared about the ministry of CMAI to the principal and faculty of Clark Theological College on 13th March 2022 and in this meeting, the college has requested that CMAI organize an internship program for M.Th. students. So CMAI organized a webinar, "An Overview on Palliative Care" through Zoom on Monday 16th May 2022 at 3:00 pm. The speaker was Dr. Stanley C Macaden, National Coordinator, Palliative Care, CMAI.

Through this webinar, the theological students will know the aspects of pastoral care in practice including helping patients find meaning, acceptance, or reconciliation, paying attention to the spiritual issues of relatives of the patient, and helping them all to say farewell.

2. The Laity and Professionals Department of the Diocesan Nurture and Witness Committee (KCD) in collaboration Christian Medical Association of India conducted a workshop for IT professionals on Sunday, 3rd April 2022 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm in Bishops Cotton Girls School Auditorium. The speaker for this program was Mr Vinod Victor, an Oracaps counseling Consultant. The consultant was for the IT employees to feel cared for and appreciated when they get back to the office. This led to an invitation to conduct quarterly the same consultation program in their respective KCD churches.

3. On 25th April 2022, Mr Sumit David invited me to attend his regional committee – Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand for Annual Planning Meeting. I shared the ministerial activities of the Chaplains Section and the committee suggested visiting 6 seminaries in the UP/UK region. After CMAI GB on 15th July 2022, I will be visiting the seminaries for the paper presentation and to promote the CMAI membership and its objectives.

4. Virtual Zoom meeting on Friday 13th May 2022 at 3.30 p.m. with the Catholic Association of India (CHAI), Catholic Bishops' conference of India (CBCI), and National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) to discuss the theme for the next year's Healing Week Ministry, 2023. On that day, Archbishop Felix Anthony Machado (CBCI), Mr Asher, Youth Concern of NCCI, and Dr Priya attended the meeting. An apology mail was sent by CHAI that they would not make their day to attend the discussion.

5. Mr Yuhanna Pradhan, RCo, initiated me to visit Bihar/Jharkhand region. I preached in the Christ Vihar Church, Patna on 15th May 2022. I encouraged the health care professionals of the congregation to serve in the mission hospitals, healing ministry promotion, and membership drive. On 16th May 2022, I was invited to preach in the interdenominational Pastors Fellowship at Patna. On 17th & 18th May 2022, I visited GEMS hospital and TB Methodist Hospital, respectively. The initiation of my visitation is a promotion work about the ministries of CMAI to build the relationship for future regional activities and the role of the churches as well as hospitals in the Healing ministry.

6. I was taken to The Leprosy Mission (TLM) Trust

on 1st June 2022 to campaign for the Covid -19 vaccination among leprosy patients. I suggested how leprosy patients will be vaccinated if he/she does not have an Aadhar card, an android phone to download a vaccination certificate, no money to recharge their phones, social stigmas, etc., CMAI will be working along with the TLM to facilitate those patients to get vaccinated.

7. The Chaplains Section Executive Committee meeting was held on 10th June 2022 through virtual to discuss the activities of the CMAI Chaplains Section. In this meeting, I have submitted the report which covers the period from July 2021 – June 2022.

8. On 15th June 2022, Mr. Blesson, RCo – Delhi/Northwest Region organized, "Church and Mental Health", a one-day seminar for Pastors in Delhi. In that seminar, I have taken two sessions on 'Biblical and Church understanding of Mental health'. The seminar for the pastor to make them understand the role of the church to walk alongside people who are living with mental illness.

9. Invitation has come from the Diocese of Mavelikara to attend the India Summit that will be held in Bangalore, Karnataka on the 28th-30th June 2022. I will be attending along with Dr Priya (GS CMAI), Dr Sunita Abraham (HoD Community Health Department, CMAI), and Ms Elsy John (Administration Section, Secretary) to know the prevailing gaps in the mission to reach the nation.

I appreciate all you have done to help me get set up in performance and professionalism. My gratitude is beyond words. As always, continue to pray to go the extra mile.

LOST MARKSHEET

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OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT) REGULATIONS, 2022

~ Dr Abhijeet Sangma, Doctors' Section



To address a wide variety of concerns of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs), the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) of the National Medical Commission published the draft "National Medical Commission, Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2022" which also includes the Telemedicine Practice Guidelines version 2 for RMPs on May 23.

The NMC's proposed regulations define the code of conduct for RMPs, some of which might significantly alter how doctors conduct in-person consultations and teleconsultations.

(i) RMPs who are registered under the NMC Act, 2019, are permitted to use the prefix "Med Dr" for "Medical Doctor" before their names.

(ii) A RMP may not refer to themselves as a clinical specialist unless they have received training and certification in that particular area of contemporary medicine from the NMC.

(iii) To ensure patient and public clarity, RMPs with foreign medical degrees who are applying for practise registration after passing the National Exit Test (NEXT) and Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) must utilise prefixes and suffixes that have been approved by the NMC.

(iv) Additionally, it prohibits RMPs (registered medical practitioners under NMC) from using more than one medical system. RMPs are not permitted to practise two different medical systems at once.

(v) Continuous professional development (CPD) has replaced Continuing Medical Education or CME. CPD and the connection of RMP CPD points to licence renewal by the EMRB or SMC have also been given a lot of emphasis.

(vi) If an RMP has moved their place of employment or home, should notify the State Medical Council of the state in which they desire to practise and apply for a licence to do so. The state will have to manda

LOST MARKSHEET

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torily provide license to practice charging appropriate fee within 7 days.

(vii) If the fees recommended by the RMP earlier are not paid, the RMP may refuse to continue treating the patient (not applicable to doctors in government service or emergencies).

(viii) Neither directly nor indirectly, nor as a member of a group of RMPs, institutes, organisations, or hospitals, an RMP may solicit patients.

(ix) Any act of dividing, transferring, assigning, subordination, rebating, splitting, or refunding of any price for diagnostic, scanning, medical, surgical, or other treatment is prohibited, whether it is done directly or indirectly.

(x) Every self-employed RMP must fully digitise patient records within three years of the date the regulations were published, in strict accordance with all applicable laws of India and in accordance with the proforma established by NMC, in addition to obligations placed on healthcare institutions.

(xi) Euthanasia practise is being considered an unethical behaviour. However, in specific circumstances, the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994's regulations must be followed when deciding whether to remove life-supporting equipment or interventions even after brain dead.

(xii) RMP should not refuse to participate in or carry out sterility, birth control, circumcision, or medical termination of pregnancy when there is a medical indication solely on the basis of religious beliefs.

(xiii) The Telemedicine Practice Guidelines (TPG) has mandated that an RMP start consultations by provisioning an introduction (details of name, credentials, area of expertise), as well as the location of their affiliated medical facility. Additionally, the Draft Regulations mandate that an RMP get the patient's signature or thumbprint along with the date of the signature on the shared informed consent document. Any documentation of explicit consent, whether text, audio, video, images, or other formats, must be documented and stored by the RMPs. Additionally, the proposed regulations

include a framework for informed consent.

(xiv) The primary RMP is designated as being accountable for the patient's care and coordination with the patient's remote medical team/professionals in the ethical considerations and duties imposed upon RMPs for the practise of telemedicine. The revised TPG makes clear the variety of advisory that an RMP may offer during a tele-consult and permits guidance on immunisation, physical activity, personal and household cleanliness habits, mosquito control, and other topics.

(xv) Apart from "Schedule X" medications, the RMP is now allowed to prescribe any drugs during a tele-consult under the terms of the modified TPG, depending on the type of consultation.

(xvi) It is now mandated by the modified TPG for providers of telemedicine services to create standards for referrals to emergency services.

(xvii) The Draft Regulations make it explicit that any correspondence in this respect with the patient shall be conveyed directly by the RMP and underline the prohibition against AI/ML-based counseling and prescription.

Even though the proposed rules contain several positive initiatives, some of them need clarification or further information. According to Articles 14, 19, 21, and 25 of the Indian Constitution, all citizens are entitled to the freedom to work, the freedom of conscience, and the right to practise and uphold their religious beliefs with dignity. However, some of the new guidelines in the Draft Regulation go against these rights. The 2022 Regulations also suggest adding "The Physician's Pledge" of the 2017 Geneva Declaration to the National Medical Commission Code of Medical Ethics. A medical professional must be allowed to exercise their profession with conscience and dignity, according to clause 8 of the Pledge. But the penalty and certain regulation go against the pledge.

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