

NEWS & VIEWS

National Bio-Ethics Conference

The 5th National Bio-ethics Conference held on 11th, 12th & 13th Dec, 2014, at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences was an eye opener for working professionals in the medical fraternity as well as students prosecuting their studies in Health Care profession.

The Conference was attended by 695 delegates from India, Australia, Egypt, Germany, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK & USA. It also included 250 students (Bio-Sciences).

An academic workshop on the theme of "Curriculum development for Integrated Teaching of Bio-ethics for Medical and Nursing students" was held on December 10, 2014, where serious deliberations were held by academicians of the profession.

A preconference Colloquium on "Ethical Perspectives in Gender Health" was also held on December 10, 2014.

Apart from the main conference a Parallel Arts Festival was held. It was supported by "Empathize Now". It was held from December 11 to 12, 2014.

On the last day of the Conference, 13th of December 2014, an International Symposium on "Corruption in Health Care and Medicine" was co-organized by MEZIS, Germany.

The conference was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. Paul Parathazham, Director of St. John's National Academy. He spoke on "Social constructions are susceptible to etiological constructions."

Dr Amar Jesani welcomed the gathering and introduced the theme - "Corruption in Health Care."

At the function two eminent persons in the field of Bio-ethics were felicitated. Dr. Farhat Moazam, Prof & Founding Chairperson, Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture (CBEC) of Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation in Karachi, Pakistan for her services to bio-ethics in Pakistan and also in the subcontinent.

Dr. M. S. Valiathan was felicitated for his efforts to promote bio-ethics in our country. Accepting the award, he said "the practice of medicine is sacred, and training a physician is sacred; the only way out of darkness is to light a lamp..... be an ethical role model."

There were six plenary sessions. In these sessions corruption in various fields of medicine were discussed. There were 14 workshops on different themes of ethics. 43 oral presentations and 11 posters.

As a part of the Conference there were parallel arts festival where films such as Petals in the Dust; The Human Cost of Healthcare; Fire in the Blood; Love, hate and everything in between, and The English Surgeon were screened. Three short plays were also staged relating the theme of the Conference - A Heart to Heart; MPL and Can you Feel This? A dolls exhibition on medical themes and ethics was also organized. A collage of all the newspaper cuttings on corruption was also organized with the theme 'Heal thyself.'

International Symposium on Corruption:

On 3rd Day an International Symposium on “Corruption in Health Care and Medicine” was organized. This symposium highlighted the problem of corruption in health care all over the world.

The conference concluded with suggestions for further work in areas like promoting transparency and reducing corrupt practices in health care.

Dr. C.D. Ravindra



Honouring the pioneers- (Left) Dr. Farhart Moazam and (Right) Dr. M.S. Valiathan



Student Delegates, Dignitaries and Senior Delegates at the Conference (photos 1,2 & 3 below)

