



AULA MAGNA



An initiative by the Office of International Affairs & Collaborations, MAHE



Cover picture courtesy: Aruna

The lighthouse at Kaup beach, almost 15 kilometres from Manipal, was built in 1901 by the British. It still stands today and remains a popular tourist attraction.



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MAHE COLLABORATIONS – Exciting and Innovative!

I am very pleased to be sharing my experience of collaborating with Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and our journey together for the past five years or so. In my experience, many MoUs are signed but only a few bear fruit! Collaboration between MAHE and the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition at University of Aberdeen is one of those successful collaborations. Initial friendly conversations developed into formal conversations, and we signed a MoU with Manipal Academy of Higher Education in 2016, initiated by Dr Sumit Kumar and Dr Sanjay Pattanshetty from the School of Public Health (PSPH) in Manipal.

Following the general MoU, we have had 2 pump priming grants to develop a stronger research and teaching partnership with Manipal (Dr Amudha Poobalan, Dr Sara Maclennan and Prof Suma Nair on Cancer research; Dr Amudha Poobalan and Professor Baukje de Roos on Nutrition). Staff members from the Rowett Institute and Institute of Applied Health Sciences visited Manipal Academy of Higher Education, which was reciprocated by Manipal Public Health academic faculty. Dr Sanjay Pattanshetty, Dr Ranjitha Shetty and Prof Suma Nair visited Aberdeen at different points which inculcated trust and rapport between institutions. Visit by Prof Vinod Bhat (MAHE's Vice Chancellor), Prof Satyamoorthy and Prof Raghu Radhakrishnan in 2018 generated more energy and strengthened the collaboration.

The next initiative was to host medical elective students from MAHE and to send UoA MBChB Fifth Year students to MAHE to undertake a period of elective study. For both partners, this is typically to undertake a project. An alternative is to offer a structured programme of attending relevant classes and observing clinical practice with the aim of gaining an international exposure to a different medical system and health care setting, with a certificate of completion provided by the host partner. This did not end with exchange of certificates. For me, these short-term electives based in Aberdeen has initiated a bond and lifelong mentorship with many of my MAHE students. Some of the students have graduated and moved on but it is a pleasure that they still keep in touch. Wishes from students on festivals and other auspicious days brightens my day! Our medical elective students go throughout the globe and find their placements themselves or get support to do so. Having a trusted Indian partner played a crucial part in this exchange too. These exchanges enhance lifelong learning with a shared academic freedom and responsibilities.

Our collaboration was awarded a British Council grant in 2019 for 15 of our medical students to go to India in summer 2020 but this was cancelled due to covid. A second submission for this grant was successful for summer 2022 but the risks were considered too high to run it then and it has again been paused due to the pandemic. However, we were awarded a British Council virtual mobility grant in Sep 2020 and conducted a two-day webinar with MPH students in MAHE and Medical students in Aberdeen. Academic staff from both MAHE and UoA contributed to the webinars. Following this we had three more guest seminar sessions on various topics for MAHE students by UoA staff (Dr Amudha Poobalan, Professor Baukje de Roos, Dr Miriam Brazzelli, Dr Heather Morgan).

We look forward to innovative educational collaborations in the future. The University of Aberdeen and MAHE have complementary world-leading strengths in nutrition and public health. We hope that together we can contribute to enhancing teaching and learning across the institutions. Onwards and Upwards! As covid recedes we hope for more exchange visits and strengthening opportunities.

Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya, my Head of School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition, said that:

“I am delighted with our successful partnership with MAHE that has already established projects for medical student electives, staff visits, and external funding bids. I look forward to the partnership extending into further areas of collaboration.”

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MSLS and University of Ottawa's Talent Hunt for Fruitful Research Opportunities

With the Covid pandemic reiterating the importance of translating biomedical research in the lab to the market, Manipal School of Life Sciences (MSLS) organized a virtual Indo-Canadian Symposium on "Recent Advances in Translational Medicine" in partnership with the University of Ottawa, Canada, on March 11 & 12, 2022. The symposium was supported by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Conference and Lecture Series Grant (SCLSG). Presiding the inaugural event, Lt. Gen (Dr) MD Venkatesh (Vice-Chancellor, MAHE) reiterated the commitment and support of the university to promote scientific research by collaborating with international partners. He also highlighted the need for the international scientific community to come together in promoting translational research, which helps society at large. He opined that the two partnering institutions of the symposium – MSLS and UOttawa – would succeed in finding common objectives toward promising collaborations at all levels. Prof. Sylvain Charbonneau (Vice-President, Research and Innovation, UOttawa) discussed the various opportunities for collaboration. In her address, Dr. Prachi Kaul (Director, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, New Delhi) emphasized the importance of conducting such collaborative symposia to discuss common and complementary areas of expertise between the partner institutions. She also suggested that the organization aimed to bring specific research clusters in different areas, which will help collaborators to apply for funding to conduct collaborative research. Dr. K Satyamoorthy (Director, MSLS) coordinated the event with Dr. Ben Tsang (Professor, UOttawa and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute). The two-day symposium had an array of exciting and interactive lectures by more than ten scientific researchers from MSLS and UOttawa in the areas of biophotonics, organoids, biosensors and artificial intelligence, machine learning, microfluidics, and their potential application to human health. The students, research scholars, and faculties from both institutions have actively participated for two days in the scientific discussions and brainstorming sessions on future opportunities and challenges. The symposium concluded with the stated goal of identifying possible research opportunities between the two institutions, which can lead to research partnerships, exchanges, and fruitful collaborations.



Building new bridges: symposium on personalised medicine in India and Canada

As part of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Conference and Lecture Series Grant (SCLSG), the Manipal School of Life Sciences at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and the Institute of Genetics at the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) of the Government of Canada had jointly organized a Think Tank Symposium entitled "Personalized Medicine in Canada and India – a common approach?" on March 9, 2022 and March 10, 2022. The inauguration of the symposium was presided by Prof. Dr. PLNG Rao (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, MAHE, Manipal), Dr Prachi Kaul (Director, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute), Prof. Dr Christopher Ross (Scientific Director, CIHR-IG), Dr Matthias Kiesselbach (Director, DFG Office India), and Dr Angela Brand (Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE). The symposium had scientific deliberation from renowned scientists in the field of personalized medicine and panel discussion. Symposium discussed (1) the exchange of best practices and approaches of Personalized Medicine (PM) in India and Canada, (2) fostering sustainable research collaboration between the involved institutions, (3) identifying further key institutions and stakeholders in the field, (4) initiate the development of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda on PM (PM SRIA) for India, and (5) prepare India for joining the International Consortium Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed), which was established in 2016 with Canada (CIHR) being one of the major initiators. A panel discussion followed the scientific deliberations. Prof. Kapaettu Satyamoorthy, Prof. Padmalatha Rai, Dr Matthias Kiesselbach, Prof. Christopher Ross, Dr Etienne Richer Michael, Prof. François Rousseau, and Dr Wolfgang Ballensiefen served as panel members during the panel discussion. Prof. Dr Angela Brand, Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE, moderated the entire event.



**Transcending borders:
Student virtual exchange
program with 5
universities worldwide.**

28 students from five universities across the world kick-started the exchange program starting from January 25, 2022, to March 8, 2022, which was spread over 7 sessions. The universities include Boston university, hosting the exchange program along with Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, Tokyo Medical and Dental university, Japan and the University of Manchester. Apurva Desai, Kajol Mahapatra, JR Jahnavi, Ridhima Harjai, Sonakshi Prakash and Vedushi Jain were selected for the exchange program.

The session started with an icebreaking round of introductions before dividing all the students randomly into different breakout rooms to encourage interaction and exchange of knowledge systems, healthcare systems and other opportunities in the different universities. At Manipal, the exchange program was overseen and guided by Dr M Vidya Saraswathi, Associate Dean, MCOODS, Manipal.

Fulbright-Nehru Post Doctoral Fellowship Grant awarded to Dr. Stephen Samuel

Dr. Stephen Samuel, Assistant Professor- Senior Scale, Department of Physiotherapy, KMC Mangalore has been awarded the Fulbright Nehru post-doctoral fellowship grant by the United States India Educational Foundation (USIEF).

The Fulbright-Nehru post-doctoral fellowship is designed for Indian faculty and researchers who are in the early stages of their research careers to strengthen their research capacities and build long-term collaborative relationships with U.S. faculty and institutions. While it receives the highest number of applications, the post-doctoral fellowship grant is the category of Fulbright fellowships that has a success rate of only 6%.

Dr. Samuel will be pursuing his post-doctoral research fellowship at the PEAK Human Performance Lab, University of Rochester Medical Center, New York under the supervision of Dr. Karen Mustian who is a world leader in exercise oncology. During the course of his Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Dr. Samuel will be conducting research on “Using Exercise as a Tool to Improve Health Behavior and Oncological Outcomes in Cancer Survivors Post Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy”. In addition, he will be getting trained at the world-famous PEAK exercise oncology research lab at The University of Rochester medical center, New York, USA.



Adjunct Faculty Visit - Department of Public Health Dentistry

Dr Amitha Ranauta, adjunct faculty of the Department of Public Health Dentistry who currently works as the Director of Undergraduate Dental Education, Senior Clinical Lecturer, Lead for Dental Professionalism Teaching Professionalism, Teamwork and Social Responsibility (PTSR), Institute of Dentistry, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, QMUL visited the Department of Public Health Dentistry during March 9, 2022 to March 17, 2022.

Her extensive academic and proactive interaction had a significantly positive influence on the students who were present during her visit and attended the Post Graduate Journal club at the Department.



She delivered lectures to the graduates and post graduates in two sessions:

- Session 1- Professionalism: March 9, 2022, Wednesday, from 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm
- Session 2- Reflective Practice: March 15, 2022, Tuesday, from 10.30 am to 12 pm

A field visit which was scheduled to the urban satellite center at Dr. TMA Pai Hospital Udupi, Udayavara RMCW, and the District Health Office, Udupi district on March 16, 2022, Wednesday.



Exploring New Horizons In The Field of Oral Cancer Research: A Virtual Joint Symposium

As part of the initiative for Academic and research collaborations, a virtual joint research symposium was held between Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal (Manipal Academy of Higher Education), and Barts and The London Institute of Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London on March 16, 2022. This symposium was organized to share the research interests of the faculty of the institutions in the field of oral cancer. Professor Paul Coulthard, Dean of The Institute of Dentistry, QMUL welcomed the participants and gave an overview of the symposium. During this symposium, various aspects of Oral cancer ranging from Diagnostics, screening for oral cancer, molecular biology, and treatment strategies of oral cancer were discussed.

Dr. Keerthilatha M Pai — Dean of MCODS, Manipal envisioned the path for future collaborations. Dr. Keerthilatha M Pai, Dr. Raghu Radhakrishnan, Dr. Shashidhar Acharya, Dr. Adarsh Kudva, and Dr. Monica Charlotte Solomon from MCODS, Manipal as well as Dr. Muy Teck Teh, Dr. Adrian Biddle, Dr. Ines Sequeira and Dr. Manu Mathur Raj of Barts and The London Institute of Dentistry shared their research experiences. Around 100 faculty and students of MCODS, Manipal and Barts, and the London Institute of Dentistry participated in the symposium.



Through the spectacles of curiosity!

An encounter with a dental patient who was a cancer survivor three years ago during my dental practice ignited my curiosity to create a novel solution for taking dental x-rays in a better, easier, and faster way in a single shot.

Backed by the strong financial, technical and mentoring support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), the Government of India in the form of Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG), BIRAC, and strong industry and academic leaders like IKP, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platform (C-CAMP), National Institute of Technology, Surathkal (NITK), MCODES, Manipal, Innovation Centre, MAHE, Manipal, Manipal-GoK Bioincubator, MAHE, Manipal, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and HexGn, we at Eikona X Innovative Solutions Pvt. Ltd. created Tarsier X, which is a complete solution for accurate dental x-rays.



In hindsight, I realize that it was the strong foundational support at MAHE, Manipal as well as my enriching global experience at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada, and Melaka Manipal Dental College, Malaysia which has taught me to see the world around through spectacles of curiosity and create interdisciplinary novel solutions.

By: Dr. Shruti Singh, Co-founder, Eikona X Innovative Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

(Incubated at Manipal-GoK Bioincubator, MAHE, Manipal)

Eikona X Innovative Solutions Private Limited, co-founded by Dr. Shruti Singh and Dr. Shruthi Acharya, is a product-based company working in the domain of Healthcare with a specific interest in dental innovations. Their product Tarsier X aims to develop dental radiograph technology to allow for faster, better, and more accurate dental x-rays creating a smoother and seamless X-ray experience for both patient and practitioner.

Dr Shruthi Singh
MCODS, Manipal

MCHP's Department of Occupational Therapy provides inbound student mobility for clinical placement.

Ms Julie Chlebovská from Jan Evangelista Purkyne University, Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic started a three-month clinical placement for the Neurosciences elective at the department of occupational therapy, MCHP, Manipal from 1 March 2022.

She observed and assessed clients with neurological deficits and also visited various other clinical settings at the department. Through her placement, she learned about occupational therapy practice in a different culture and socio-political context compared to her own native country.



Dr Rakesh on his Path to Pronounced Development and Success with NIDCD Bursary

Dr Rakesh C V, PhD in Speech-language Pathology, Department of Speech and Hearing, MCHP, received the prestigious National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders-NIDCD (part of NIH) Bursary, Maryland USA, for the year 2022. This award is offered in conjunction with the International Fluency Association (IFA) which brings together clinicians and researchers at the Joint World Congress on Stuttering and Cluttering (JWC) in order to discuss current research that has important implications for the study of Fluency and its disorders. This award offers research experience to awardees who show potential as emerging scientists.



Dr Rakesh C V
Department of speech and
hearing, MCHP

CAM welcomes the new Working Committee

Campus Ambassadors of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal welcomed the new talented working committee for the year 2022-2023. The induction event, held at the MV Seminar Hall saw the Core committee of CAM along with the Working Committee get their official induction letter along with their CAM lapel pins by the Director of International Collaborations of MAHE, Dr Raghu Radhakrishnan. He was joined by other faculty representatives of Office of International Affairs and Collaborations (OIAC), MAHE.

Campus Ambassador is the official student organisation under the Office of International Affairs and Collaborations(OIAC), MAHE. Every year, students are taken in to work under the guidance of OIAC in different fields, such as Cultural and PR, Newsletter, MAESTRO, and social media. They also take care of incoming foreign exchange students in Manipal.



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