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Short Communication

Executive summary of the XXIV State Annual conference of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (MLAM): Forensicon 2021.

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Abstract

The XXIV annual state conference of the Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra: Forensicon 2021 organized by the department of Forensic and Toxicology, Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and Hospital, Mumbai. Previous conference "Forensicon 2020" was held at TNMC & BYL Nair Ch. Hospital, Mumbai in the month of April 2021 as COVID pandemic prevented the continuity of the conference in the year 2020. Responsibility of organizing XXIV annual State conference was allotted to Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and General Hospital, Sion, Mumbai on 22nd November 2021. The organizing committee have magnificently conducted the annual state conference in the very short duration of 24 days on 17th and 18th December 2021 at main auditorium, Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and hospital, Mumbai. Dr Rajesh Dere, professor and head, Forensic Medicine Dept, LTMMC & hospital and Dean BKC Jumbo COVID 19 facility, Mumbai through his valiant efforts as team leader overcoming all the obstacles brought this conference to epitome of success.

1. Introduction

The XXIV annual state conference of the Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra: Forensicon 2021 organized by the department of Forensic and Toxicology, Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and Hospital, Mumbai. Previous conference "Forensicon 2020" was held at TNMC & BYL Nair Ch. Hospital, Mumbai in the month of April 2021 as on virtual hybrid platform.

The organizing committee (**Photograph 01**) have magnificently conducted the annual state conference

in the very short duration of 24 days on 17th and 18th December 2021 at main auditorium, Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and hospital, Mumbai. Dr Rajesh Dere, professor and head, Forensic Medicine Dept, LTMMC & hospital and Dean BKC Jumbo COVID 19 facility, Mumbai through his valiant efforts as team leader overcoming all the obstacles brought this conference to epitome of success. The Organizing team was presided by Dr KD Chavan, Registrar, MUHS, Nashik and guided by Dr Mohan Joshi, Dean, LTMMC

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and GH, Mumbai. The conference was conducted under the chief patronage of Mr I.S. Chahal, Hon. Municipal Commissioner, MCGM along with patronage of Mr Suresh Kakani, Hon Additional Municipal commissioner, (WS & health) MCGM, Mumbai.



Photograph 01: Organizing committee Forensicon 2021.

Left to right: Sitting:- Dr NB Kumar, Dr HG Kukde, Dr RC Dere, Dr RB Deokar, Dr SS Patil, Dr K Shirsat. Left to right: Standing:- Dr RR Wagh, Dr RA Kanekar, Dr S Shende, Dr A Lokare, Dr A Vora, Dr P Bale, Dr N Bhutada, Dr P Pavan Kumar, Dr R Lokare

Theme of the conference was “Forensic Medicine- Breaking new grounds.” The conference was aimed at upgrading the knowledge of the delegates and abreast them with recent advances in the field of Forensic Medicine.

2. Proceedings of the conference

This state chapter of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra witnessed more than 300 delegates for whole two days. The delegates comprise the faculty of Forensic Medicine, Postgraduate students, Medical Officers, Police personnel, Lawyers, Forensic Scientist and Medical practitioner from different parts of India who actively participated in all the sessions.

First day of the conference i.e., 17th December 2021 started with Guest lecture on “Crime scene visit – a holistic approach.” by Dr. Dinesh Rao, Professor & Head, TOMCH, Bangalore. The lecture was chaired and coordinated by Dr SC Mohite and Dr RR Savardekar.

Inauguration of Forensicon 2021, annual state conference was being held in the auspicious presence of Dr Dilip Mhaisekar, Director, Directorate Medical Education and Research, Govt. of Maharashtra and Ex VC, MUHS, Nashik. The session was also graced by Dr Avinash Supe, Director, PD Hinduja hospital, Mumbai, Dr Ramesh Bharmal,

Director ME and MH, MCGM and Dr VV Apte, Ex Prof and Head, FMT, TNMC & BYL Nair hospital, Mumbai. The occasion was also embellished by the presence of Dr Mohan Joshi, Dean LTMMC & GH, Mumbai, Dr Shailesh Mohite, President, MLAM & Dean HBTMC & RNCH, Mumbai, Dr Nilima Bhamare, President elect, AMC and Dr RR Savardekar, Ex Prof & Head, FMT dept, LTMMC, Mumbai. This session was commenced with the inaugural speech of the dignitaries on the dais (**Photograph 02**) and lamp lightning ceremony (**Photograph 03**). Dignitaries for this conference then officially released souvenir for the Forensicon 2021 conference (**Photograph 04**) followed by the release of Journal of Forensic Medicine science and law, official publication of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (**Photograph 05**). By the initiative of the organizing committee, membership card for the life members were made and officially released by the dignitaries. In addition, faculty of Forensic Medicine who have contributed significantly to the subject and the society were felicitated on this auspicious occasion. Dr Rajesh Dere was felicitated for his significant contribution in COVID relief work and COVID Vaccination at BKC Jumbo COVID hospital, Mumbai. Next felicitation was for Dr Kalidas Chavan for his eminent work as registrar, MUHS for streamlining the functioning of MUHS. There was also felicitation for Dr Ajit Pathak for his noteworthy work as Controller of examinations, MUHS, Nashik. Dr Sandeep Kadu was also felicitated for his remarkable work in the field of Medical education and bagging the best MUHS teacher award. Finally, Dr Ravindra Deokar was felicitated for his astonishing work for the journal of Forensic medicine and toxicology, triggering the revival of the journal and uplifting the journal to the international level by getting indexed in Scopus.²



Photograph no 02: Inauguration speech by Dr Dilip Mhaisekar.

Left to right sitting: Dr MA Joshi, Dr RN Bharmal, Dr AN Supe, Dr SC Mohite, Dr VV Apte, Dr RR Savardekar, Dr N Bhamare.



Photograph 03: Lamp lightning ceremony.

Left to right : Dr RN Bharmal, Dr MA Joshi, Dr D Mhaisekar, Dr AN Supe, Dr SC Mohite, Dr RC Dere, Dr RR Savardekar.



Photograph 04: Release of Souvenir Forensicon 2021.

Left to right : Dr RC Dere, Dr MA Joshi, Dr RN Bharmal, Dr AN Supe, Dr D Mhaisekar, Dr SC Mohite, Dr RR Savardekar, Dr N Bhamare.

This was followed by informatic Lecture on topic “Formulating Research Question in Forensic Medicine.” by Dr. Avinash Supe, Director, Clinical Governance & Head, P. D. Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai. The chairpersons for the session were Dr KU Zine and Dr SS Kadu.³ Third lecture for the first day was by Adv. Sudeep Pasbola, Member & Ex Vice chairman, Bar council of Maharashtra & Goa on topic” Doctor in witness Box- a legal purview”. The chairpersons for the lecture were Dr HM Pathak and Dr Ajay Patil.

Next lecture for the day was from the international speaker Dr Yanko Kolev, Head of department, Forensic Medicine, District Hospital, Gabrovo, Bulgaria. Topic for the lecture was “virtuopsy- autopsy without scalpel” with chairpersons being Dr MB Shrigiriwar and Dr GS Chavan. Last lecture for the first day was on topic “Medicolegal aspects of Vaccination deaths.” by Dr. B. G. Chikhalkar, Professor & Head (FMT), GMC Mumbai. This lecture was chaired by Dr RV Kachare and Dr BV Jain. Similarly, Scientific Paper presentations for faculty and postgraduate students

was also scheduled in the afternoon session in adjoining seminar halls. Scientific Paper presentations for faculty was chaired by Dr Rajesh Sukhdeve and Dr Rajendra Bangal. While paper presentations for PG students was chaired by Dr Ajay Shendarkar and Dr Sadanand Bhise.



Photograph 05: Release of Journal of Forensic Medicine, science and law.

Left to right: Dr RC Dere, Dr MA Joshi, Dr RN Bharmal, Dr AN Supe, Dr D Mhaisekar, Dr SC Mohite, Dr RR Savardekar, Dr N Bhamare, Dr RB Deokar, Dr SS Patil.



Photograph 06: Panel Discussion

Left to right: API Wagh, API Madhukar, Dr S Surase, Dr S Utture, Dr K Kulkarni, Dr SM Patil, Dr P Keshkar, Dr S.Iyer, Dr S Pikale, Dr V Thakur, Dr KU Zine and Dr RC Dere.

Last session for the first day of Forensicon 2021 was panel discussion with topic “Hospital Management- Various Medicolegal issues”. Prominent panelist for the panel discussion were Dr Shivkumar Utture, President, MMC and Member, NMC. Dr SM Patil, Police Surgeon, Mumbai, Dr KU Zine, Prof & Head, GMC, Aurangabad, Dr Krishna Kulkarni, Ex Director, FSL, Mumbai, Dr Padmaja Keshkar, EHO, MCGM, Dr Vidya Thakur, Chief MS, peripheral hospitals, MCGM, Mumbai, Dr Sanjay Surase, MS, JJ group of hospitals, Mumbai, Dr Sangita Pikale, Consultant, AMC, Dr Suganthi Iyer, Dy. Director, PD Hinduja hospital, Mumbai, API Madhukar & API Sachin Wagh. Panel discussion was moderated

by Dr RC Dere. (**Photograph 06**). There was in-depth discussion on multiple issues of medicolegal importance pertaining to Forensic Medicine faculty, Medical officers, Police, FSL personnel and lawyers.

General body meeting of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra was conducted from 05.30 pm on 17th December 2021. The Inauguration

of the MLAM membership Identity card was done by the executive committee of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (**Photograph no 07**). Various issues related to faculty of Medicolegal association of Maharashtra were discussed and elections were held for Executive committee of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra.



Photograph 07: Release of MLAM Member ID card.

Left to right: Dr RC Dere, Dr MV Sonawane, Dr SS Kadu, Dr AB Shinde, Dr SM Patil, Dr SC Mohite, Dr KD Chavan, Dr MN Pawar, Dr RB Deokar, Dr SS Patil.



Photograph 08: Convocation ceremony.

Left to right: Dr MB Shrigiriwar, Dr KU Zine, Dr R Kute, Dr SC Mohite, Dr MA Joshi, Dr SV Ghumatkar, Dr RS Bangal.

Second day of Forensicon 2021 on 18th December 2021 commenced with lecture on topic “Redefining medicolegal services – a challenge for the

future” by Dr. Avinash Deshpande, Director, CEO & Medicolegal Consultant, Manavi Medicolegal Consultancy, Aurangabad. This topic was chaired by

Dr MB Shrigiriwar and Dr RB Deokar. This was followed by lecture on topic "Biological Evidence – Role & challenges for RMP by Dr. R. S. Bangal, Professor & Head (FMT), Symboisis Medical College for Women, Pune. Next topic was on Mini Toxicology Laboratory at A Tertiary Health Care Centre – Need of an Hour. Dr. S. V. Ghumatkar, Dy. Director, FSL, Mumbai. Chairpersons for this lecture were Dr Sunil Kadam and Dr Pawan Sabale. Last lecture for second day was on topic "Toxic trends – designer drugs." by Dr. Naresh Zanjad, Professor & Head (FMT), BJGMC, Pune. This lecture was chaired by Dr Mohan Pawar and Dr Navinkumar Verma. Eventually, as every good thing comes to end, the conference was concluded by Valedictory function. This function was moderated by Dr Rajesh Dere with the dignitaries on dias. Prize distribution to the Winners of paper presentation for Faculty and Postgraduate students was done. Faculty paper presentation winners were Dr Ravindra Deokar and Dr Ajay Patil for 1st and 2nd position respectively while for postgraduate students, Dr Rutuja Kanekar and Dr Ashwini Bhosale secured 1st and 2nd position respectively. Delegates from different fraternity were provided chance to express their views about the conference. Dr Rajesh Dere briefed about the preparations of the conference and offer thanks to all the delegates, honorable dignitaries, respected guest speakers and the whole organizing team. **(Photograph 08).**⁵

3. Conclusion

Forensicon 2021 was the state chapter of Medicolegal Association of the Maharashtra conducted by the department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, LTMMC & GH, Mumbai under the guidance of Dr Rajesh Dere. This was first time in the history of Medicolegal Association of the Maharashtra that the annual conference was organized within record time of 24 days. This was only possible by the support and constant encouragement of all faculty of Forensic Medicine from whole Maharashtra. The purpose of this conference was to add the rich heritage of Forensic Medicine through lectures and discussions as well as to boost the morale of future pioneers from the current pioneers.

Concluding points drawn from this conference were about need for maintaining the uniformity of the format of the reports and about the procedures involved in various medicolegal cases in different types of hospitals. There is also need to maintain proper coordination with police and Forensic science experts to avoid undue delay of viscera and other samples.

Journal of Forensic Medicine, science and Law currently index with Scopus due to the valiant efforts of editorial committee under the guidance of Dr Ravindra Deokar. It is also aimed for getting indexed in PUBMED, DOAJ and other indexes at the earliest. The editors also has aim of discrete website for online submission of articles for the journal.

The science gave forensics and law gave crimes!!! Such academic gatherings at regular interval can serve as booster for advancement of the knowledge of Faculty, PG students, police, Lawyers and Forensic science personnel which can thereby serve as base in imparting justice to the mankind.

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