

Foreword from the Inaugural Issue, 1966

It gives me great pleasure to write the foreword for the first issue of the Institute Bulletin which will record the research and other academic activities of this Institute. During the 4 years of the existence of this infant institute, we have been slowly building up its academic life and research potential. The experimental work in different departments and regular weekly staff meetings and clinicopathological conferences has provided sufficient material, which, we felt, could be recorded in the form of a bulletin. It would be worthwhile giving a short account of the history of this institute in the first issue of the bulletin.

The decision for the building of the Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, was taken in the year 1961 with the concurrence of the Planning Commission. It was indeed very fortunate that the Punjab Government had the foresight to ensure a national character for this institute by recruiting its teaching faculty and admitting postgraduates on an all India basis. The main idea behind the starting of this institute was to train teacher and specialist to provide ample facilities for research in the various fields of basic and clinical medical sciences, to set-up a College of Nursing, to promote research in indigenous medicine and to provide up-to-date facilities for the care and treatment of all types of diseases in the Institute Hospital. The institute was formally inaugurated by the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, on the 7th July, 1963 although the first batch of postgraduates was admitted in January, 1963. It is affiliated to the Punjab University for training courses leading to MD, MS, PhD and BSc (Nursing). It is proposed to start a rural wing attached to this institute with 200 beds in rural surrounding about 50 miles from Chandigarh. This would enable the staff of this institute to provide the benefits to modern medicine at the very doorsteps of the village population who have not so far received adequate medical care in this country. Further, it will be a training ground for the future postgraduates in the rural health problems and will enable this institute to collect data on the epidemiology of common diseases prevalent in the countryside.

Teaching is conducted in the outpatients and the wards of the hospital by the demonstration technique, group discussion, seminars, weekly clinical meetings and clinicopathological conferences, in which there is a free and frank discussion between the teacher and the student. These are the methods by which the student is able to learn for himself. Increasing responsibility in the care and treatment of patients both in medical and surgical wards gives the trainee grounding in the bedside manners and the practice of the art of medicine. To work in the Department of Experimental Medicine on a research problem is a common practice as it teaches the postgraduate the methods of research. The use of library is conducive to the self-education of both the teacher and the taught. Every Saturday, we invite an eminent person, who has specialized in another field of human endeavor, art, literature, philosophy, biological science, physics, chemistry, law and administration, to address the staff and students. This is done to inculcate in trainees the hippocratic standards of learning of sagacity of humanity and of probity so that when he starts the practice of his profession on his own he would be of priceless value in time of trial, his humanity would be shown in his tenderness and consideration to the suffering individual and his probity would make him true to his oath so that under all circumstances he will be true to his high calling and true to his fellow men.

Every member of this institute—the faculty and the students—would look forward to the future publication of this bulletin and it is my hope and prayer that, in the coming years, it would be a mirror of the manifold activities of this institute and would be able to convey to other institutions, engaged in a similar endeavor, both in this country and abroad something of the work which is being carried out in the basic and clinical medical science in this institute. Time alone show whether this bulletin will fulfill its objectives in the course of coming years.

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