

Report of the World Bioethics Day 2018 Celebrations

GSMC MUHS UNESCO Bioethics Unit Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai

The **World Bioethics Day 2018** Celebrations started with various competitions on 3rd, 4th and 5th October 2018 for undergraduate students on the theme of the International World Bioethics Day 2018- “**Solidarity and Cooperation**”. The celebrations culminated into the mega event held on the **17th October 2018**.

The mega event was organised on the 17th of October 2018 keeping the focus on the theme “Solidarity and Cooperation”. The programme started early morning from 8.30 am. We had ‘WALKATHON- an ethical march’ silently carried out inside the campus holding bioethics and the World Bioethics Day theme related banner and placards by unit members and Student wing. KEMH teaching and nonteaching staff and students also joined us. At 10.30 am, we had exhibition of the posters of students who participated in the poster competition. The Academic Dean and Professor and Head, Department of Surgery- Dr. Rajiv Satoskar and Dr. Lopa Mehta, Former Professor and Head, Anatomy and our Senior teacher inaugurated the exhibition.

In the afternoon, the programme started with performance of the winning team of the street play competition. The skit was on the theme, “Solidarity and Cooperation”. Following lamp-lighting with prayers by the dignitaries, there was a welcome address by Dr Padmaja Marathe, Head of the unit, Director’s inaugural address by Dr Avinash Supe, Director – Medical education and major hospitals and Dean (GSMC & KEMH). This was followed by presentation of the annual report (2017-18) of the activities of the unit by the secretary of the Unit, Dr Yuvraj Chavan. The annual bulletin- INARCH was released formally by the dignitaries. The authors were called on the dais and presented the copies.

Dr. Manisha Gupte, Founder and Co-Convenor, Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM), Pune graciously agreed to be the chief guest on this occasion and delivered a key note address on the theme, “Solidarity and Cooperation in Health”. Dr Gupte narrated her own experiences about working on various social causes and healthcare issues. Not only she spoke pertaining to the theme but also covered many bioethical principles like autonomy,

dignity, equality and equity. She enthralled the audience with her unique eloquent way of speaking.

The keynote address was followed by the panel discussion on the theme, "Use of Generic Medicines". The panellists included Dr. Avinash Supe; Director – Medical education and major hospitals and Dean (GSMC & KEMH) who presented views based on his experience about public hospital administration and hospital policies. Dr. Jayashree Ghanekar, Professor & Head, Department of Medicine, MGM College & Hospital, Navi Mumbai expressed views of a physician. Dr. Aamir Shaikh, Founder - Assansa & Ex-Director, Medical Affairs & Research, Pfizer represented pharmaceutical industry perspective and pharmacologist's viewpoints. Dr. Omprakash Sadhavani, Ex Joint Commissioner, State FDA clarified all the doubts regarding regulatory scenario of generic medicines. The moderator was Dr. Nirmala Rege (Prof. and Head of Dept. Pharmacology and Therapeutics, GSMC & KEMH). Dr. Manisha Gupte, the chief guest also joined in the panel discussion and presented her experiences regarding working with an NGO promoting generic medicines. All the speakers were excellent.

Some of the points on which questions were raised and the discussion generated included: what are generic drugs? what are brand drugs? when do generic drugs enter the market? what are the advantages of having generic drugs? what are the concerns of a physician if generic drugs are to be prescribed? The current laws and guidelines, approval process in other countries vis-à-vis India, what is meant by branded generics? what can be done to promote generic medicines? Dr. Rege also invited questions from the audience. It was a very informative and interesting session.

There was a prize distribution ceremony for felicitation of the winners of the bioethics competitions held as part of World Bioethics day celebrations. Our dedicated and enthusiastic students' wing members were also felicitated on this occasion. The chief guest and panel members happily gave away the prizes.

The prize-winning short film was screened which marked the end of the celebrations. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Mariya Jiandani, the Head of the steering committee and this was followed by singing of the national anthem.

Dr. Karuna Nadkarni introduced the panel members to the audience. Dr. Kanchan Kothari and Dr. Monty Khajanchi were the master of ceremony for the entire programme. A beautiful theme based rangoli based on the prize winning poster adorned the floor of the foyer outside the event venue. (image attached). It was a team effort which made the event possible. The

event was attended by a total of 150 staff members, guests and students and was a grand success.



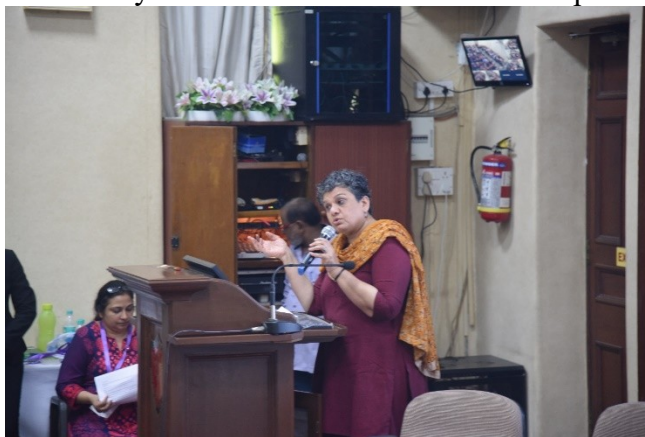
Theme based rangoli by Mr Sachin Mahadik(Community Medicine Department)







Address by the Chief Guest Dr. Manisha Gupte





The photo of Unit members and students' WIng

2. **The Audio- visual Competition** -- This year, as a part of the World Bioethics Day Celebrations, a unique event was planned and organized-"The Audio-Visual Competition" by our unit. The participants, in teams of 3 were shown a film clip which had ethical dilemmas or which highlighted specific ethical principles. They were then expected to point out these principles and explain them. The event was conducted in two parts: 1) Elimination round on 3rd October 2018 wherein 4 best teams were chosen based on their comments on a common clip shown to them. and 2) Final round: 4th October 2018 in which the finalist teams spoke out their impressions on the film clips shown. The judges for the event were: -Dr. Leena Gangolli (Ethicist and legal expert, Masters in Public health from TISS, Harvard school of public health)-Dr. Padmaja Samant (Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, GSMC and KEMH); and -Dr. Yuvaraj Bhosale (Associate Professor of Anatomy, GSMC and KEMH).
3. **Street Play Competition** -- An intercollegiate street play competition was organized based on the theme on 5th October 2018. The event was conducted between 11 am to 1 pm in front of the Central Canteen of the institution so that the hospital staff, students and patients' relatives can witness the event and understand the message we wanted to convey. Three teams participated, GSMC BpTH, GSMC Nursing and LTMGH Nursing. Each team was given 10 minutes to perform their play, on the topic 'Solidarity and cooperation – in health care', live in front of the judges and the audience that gathered to witness the event, inclusive of lay persons visiting KEMH. The event was judged by – 1) Mrs Khedkar, retired Head Nursing school. 2) Dr Rachana Arora – Professor of Physical therapy, TN Medical College and BYL Nair Hospital. 3) Dr Kamakshi Bhate – Professor, Community Medicine, GSMC and KEMH. 4) Dr Santosh Salagre – Professor and head of the Unit. Medicine, GSMC and KEMH
4. **The Faculty – PG students Debate** -- An exciting, jaw opening, mesmerizing PG DEBATE was held at Seth GSMC and KEMH on October 3, 2018. The event was first of its kind in the history of GSMC MUHS UNESCO Bioethics unit. The debate was between the teacher's group and the resident's group. Representing the teacher's we had Dr. Yuvraj Bhosle, Dr. Ashwin Kolhema'am, Dr. Jignesh Gandhi and Dr. Charan Lanjewar. Representing the residents we had Dr. Bhanupriya, Dr. Priyanka Deshpande, Dr. Saurabh Patil and Dr. Arnav Tongaonkar. The debate was centred around the topic 'compulsory service bond improves healthcare delivery'. The teacher's group spoke FOR the topic and the residents spoke AGAINST. The event, a very popular one was attended by about 200 strong audience. It was very smoothly moderated by the members of the unit and the members of the student wing.

5. Poster Competition 2018: Solidarity and Co-operation in Health. -- We got an overwhelming response in the form of 58 beautiful and thoughtful posters. Only handmade posters were accepted. Printing and copy pasting of images on the posters was a strict exclusion criterion. The judging of the poster competition was carried out in the Department of Pharmacology, on 3rd October 2018 between 11.30 – 1.00 p.m.. All 50 posters went through a very stringent, three level screening process. The posters were judged on the basis of 'Originality', 'Relevance to the theme' and 'Aesthetics'. The Judges for the Poster Competition were- 1. Dr. Pritam Pathare, Surgeon, 2. Dr. Priyanka Prasad (Associate Professor, Microbiology, GSMC and KEMH): and Dr. Munira Hirkani (Associate Professor, Physiology, GSMC and KEMH)



Poster competition 2018

Ms. Gautami Chaudhari, our student wing member (III MBBS/major) won the 2nd prize in the International World Bioethics Day competition – Scientific posters category and made the unit members proud.