

## Second Asia Pacific Pharmacovigilance Training Course

The Second Asia Pacific Pharmacovigilance Training Course took place from 18<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru in collaboration with Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC), the WHO Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring in Sweden.

The course aimed at building pharmacovigilance capacities amongst healthcare professionals in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. Countries in this part of the world face a challenge in increasing awareness of adverse drug reactions among health care professionals and the public, placing demands on effective communication to reach out to a large and diverse audience. Another challenge is to establish sustainable safety surveillance systems, which requires purposeful advocacy towards ministers of health and other stakeholders to secure funding and resources for pharmacovigilance activities. Training is closely related to equipping pharmacovigilance experts in addressing those challenges and to build overall capacity to improve patient safety in relation to the use of medicines. UMC and JSS University offers the Asia Pacific training course to meet pharmacovigilance training needs and to help support the advancement of Pharmacovigilance in this region.

The two-week course was taught by field experts from JSS College of Pharmacy and UMC, as well as by external speakers from India and abroad. In total, Twenty two internationally known experts from Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Republic of Vanuatu and India were attended; the covered topics ranged from health impacts of low quality medicines to effects of inappropriate use of medicines and adverse drug and vaccine reactions.

The course drew 14 attendees from national regulatory authorities, pharmaceutical companies, academia, contract research

organizations, and the health care sector in eight Asian and two African countries.



*Speakers with Participants*

The training program started with welcome dinner on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 07:00PM. This gave the opportunity to participants to interact with UMC & JSS University Staff. The inaugural event of the training program was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 9:00AM in JSS College of Pharmacy. Dr. G. Parthasarathi, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, JSS University, Mysuru & Principal, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru welcomed the gathering and briefed about objectives of the training course. He mentioned that JSS University is identified as training hub in Pharmacovigilance for capacity building in Asia Pacific region. Also he highlighted about importance of Pharmacovigilance and need for strengthening drug safety reporting culture in developing world. Dr. Pia Caduff-Janosa, Chief Medical Officer, UMC, Sweden was a guest of honour. In her address, she briefed about importance of including Pharmacovigilance in the curriculum of medical, pharmacy and other allied health care courses. Dr. B. Manjunatha, Registrar, JSS University, Mysuru inaugurated the training course and delivered presidential address. In his address he highlighted the importance of capacity building in the area of Pharmacovigilance in improving patient safety. Mr. Sten Olsson, WHO Program Expert, UMC, Sweden delivered a key note address on “Pharmacovigilance—Global Scenario”. In his keynote address he briefed about importance of Pharmacovigilance in accessibility, availability and affordability of

medicines in low and middle income countries.



*Inauguration of Training Course*

This course and the UMC-JSS partnership is an important component of the UMC commitment to Pharmacovigilance capacity building in India, going back to the early 1990s - **Sten Olsson**, WHO Programme Expert at UMC and one of the course lecturers

The Training built around lectures, workshops and hands-on exercises, took place in an open and interactive environment. Plenty of opportunities to interact with JSS University staff, UMC staff, faculty experts and fellow course participants were provided. Social activities and events like official course dinner and sightseeing tours were also included in this training course.



*Participants at Mysuru Palace*

The training course was concluded with the presentation of action plan of respective countries or organization by participants and course evaluation. The closing ceremony of the training program was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 3:30PM. Dr. P.A. Kushalappa, Director (Academic), JSS University, Mysuru, Sten Olsson, WHO Programme Expert – UMC, Frank May Service Director, DATIS, Repatriation General Hospital, Australia, Dr. G. Parthasarathi, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, JSS University, Mysuru & Principal, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru and Dr. M Ramesh, Professor & Head, Department of Pharmacy Practice, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru were present during the closing ceremony.



*Closing Remarks by Sten Olsson*

All the participants unanimously told that this training course helped them to gain more knowledge on spontaneous adverse reaction reporting, data management and analysis tools, signal detection, causality assessment, communications in Pharmacovigilance, Pharmacovigilance methods, Pharmacoepidemiology and regulatory aspects of Pharmacovigilance and vaccine Pharmacovigilance. The knowledge and skills gained will help them to initiate or further strengthen the Pharmacovigilance activities in their respective country or organization. Also the interactions with the participants and the resources persons from different parts of the world can be utilized for future international collaboration and building a global Pharmacovigilance

network which will help them to improve the safe and quality use of medicine regional and global level.

Extremely valuable content of the training program, excellent presentation skills of the recourse personals, exemplary team work of JSS staff ..... are only a few of the highlights of the course. I am grateful to the UMC and the JSS College of Pharmacy for arranging such a good program - ***Gopi Krishantha De Silva***,  
*Regulatory Pharmacist, National Medicines Regulatory Authority, Sri Lanka*