



Report on 3rd Asia Pacific Pharmacovigilance Training Course 16-27 January 2017, Mysuru, India

Department of Pharmacy Practice, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru organized '3rd Asia Pacific Pharmacovigilance Training Course' from 16-27 January 2017 in the Seminar Hall of JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru. The course was provided in collaboration with Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC), the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring in Sweden. The course aims at building pharmacovigilance capacities amongst healthcare professionals, providing solid practical foundations for those working in drug safety and updates for experienced staff in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

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. Twenty six internationally known experts from Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, The Netherlands, Scotland, Morocco, Kenya, Bhutan and India were participated in the program as speakers and trainers. 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 detailed course agenda is attached. This course has drawn 28 attendees from national regulatory authorities, pharmaceutical companies, academia, contract research organisations, and the healthcare sector in 13 countries in Asia and other parts of the world.

The training program started with welcome dinner at Hotel Fortune JP Palace on 15th January 2017 at 7 PM. This gave the opportunity to participants to interact with UMC & JSS University Staff. The inaugural event of the training program was held on 16th January 2017 at 9 AM in the seminar Hall of JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru. Dr. G. Parthasarathi, Principal, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru & Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, JSS University, Mysuru welcomed the gathering and briefed about objectives of the training course. He mentioned that JSS University is identified by WHO 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 in developing world. Mr. Sten Olsson, WHO program expert, UMC, Sweden was the chief guest. In his address, he highlighted the importance of pharmacovigilance training in strengthening the pharmacovigilance system in developing countries. Dr. B. Suresh, Vice Chancellor, JSS University, Mysuru & President, Pharmacy Council of India inaugurated the training course and delivered presidential address. In his address, he highlighted the importance of safety reporting in India and need for strengthening the pharmacovigilance program of India (PvPI) in improving patient safety. Mr. Micheal Deats from Essential Medicines Division of WHO, Geneva was the guest of honour. Mr. Sten Olsson, delivered the key note address on "Pharmacovigilance - Global Scenario". In his



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keynote address, he briefed about medicine related harm and importance of Pharmacovigilance in accessibility, availability and affordability of medicines in low and middle income countries.

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. Also, course participants visited the JSS Hospital (The regional Pharmacovigilance centre). This gave them a opportunity to know the functioning of a Pharmacovigilance centre at teaching Hospital and also helped them to understand how Pharmacovigilance is integrated with patient care.

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 programme was held on 27th January 2017 at 4:30 PM. Dr. B. Manjunatha, Registrar, JSS University, Mysore, Mr. Sten Olsson WHO Programme Expert – Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Mr. Frank May, Service Director, DATIS, Repatriation General Hospital, Adelaide, Dr. G. Parthasarathi, 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.

All the participants unanimously told that this training course helped them to gain more knowledge on spontaneous reporting of adverse events, data management & 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 both at regional and global level.