

2nd Kolkata Annual Research and Medical International Congress (KARMIC), India, 2013: A Report

**Mr Shubhajit Dutta, Dr Kalpajit Banik
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The World Journal of Medical Education and Research (WJMER) is the online publication of the Doctors Academy Group of Educational Establishments. Published on a quarterly basis, it's aim is to promote academia and research amongst all members of the multi-disciplinary healthcare team including doctors, dentists, scientists, and students of these specialties from all parts of the world. The principal objective of this journal is to encourage the aforementioned from developing countries in particular to publish their work. The journal intends to promote the healthy transfer of knowledge, opinions and expertise between those who have the benefit of cutting edge technology and those who need to innovate within their resource constraints. It is our hope that this will help to develop medical knowledge and to provide optimal clinical care in different settings all over the world. We envisage an incessant stream of information will flow along the channels that WJMER will create and that a surfeit of ideas will be gleaned from this process. We look forward to sharing these experiences with our readers in our subsequent editions. We are honoured to welcome you to WJMER.



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2nd Kolkata Annual Research and Medical International Congress (KARMIC), India, 2013: A Report

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The term 'KARMIC' is derived from the Sanskrit word "karma", which means "deed" or "act" and more broadly means the universal principle of cause and effect, action and reaction, that governs all life, KARMIC also believes in the deed/act of exchange and sharing of knowledge to have the effect of enlightenment of the budding medical minds. Swami Vivekanda said, "let there grow a KARMOYOG among the youth." With great respect to the Indian culture, Indian Medical Students' Association (IMSA) named its annual conference as KARMIC. The previous edition of KARMIC was a huge success among the medical students and thereby established itself as one of the finest and largest undergraduate medical conferences of India. The Congress has proved to be a congregation of the upcoming pioneers of medical science of the country. It also brought together the Indian and the Global Medical students' fraternity on a common stage to bridge the gap by exchange of knowledge and experiences.



Figure 1: Logo of KARMIC 2013.

After the success of last year, IMSA had the immense task of ensuring a bigger and better KARMIC in the 2nd year of running this event in 2013. In the pursuit of excellence IMSA did what was never done before in any medical students' conference of the country. The Organizing committee created a milestone by having **Dr. John Robin**

Warren, Nobel Laureate in Medicine in the year 2005 for his discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* as the Chief Guest of KARMIC-2013.



Figure 2: Nobel Laureate Dr. John Robin Warren delivering his Keynote Address. (Inset: The Original Golden Nobel Medallion).

And as it is said accomplishments are not possible without the support of others, IMSA is grateful to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, IEMS and last but, not the least Doctors Academy, UK for the support and help they have bestowed upon us in organizing the Kolkata Annual Research and Medical International Congress – KARMIC 2013.

Doctors Academy (www.doctorsacademy.org) is an International Consortium of Doctors, Dentists and Scientists that undertakes a diverse range of educational activities globally¹. The aim of the Academy is to disseminate information, and exchange medical knowledge, technical and technological expertise between the professionals working in varied health care settings in resource-rich and resource-poor nations¹. The relation with Doctors Academy has been special.

Doctors Academy has played a crucial role of helping us as the Knowledge Partner of IMSA since, KARMIC 2012 and then in HAMSA-2012 and now in KARMIC 2013.

This year KARMIC was hosted by Medical College, Kolkata, Asia's first medical college² on the 12-14 April 2013. The event was divided into workshop sessions on April 12 and paper presentations and deliberations on April 13 - 14.



Figure 3: Medical College Kolkata, Asia's first Medical College².

Day 1- Workshop Day

Day 1 witnessed medical and dental students from different corners of the country actively take part in the following workshops:

- Problem Based Learning by Dr. Stuart Enoch, Doctors Academy, UK
- Communication Skills and CRIMP by Dr. Stuart Enoch, Doctors Academy, UK
- "Conducting Medical Research : Tools & Techniques" at NICED, Kolkata
- Dental Implants
- Laser in Dentistry at R.Ahmed Dental College, Kolkata
- Evidence Based Medicine, titled "Rememdmium".
- "Artificial Intelligence in Medicine".

The workshops on PBL, Communication Skills and CRIMP were undertaken by the eminent medical educationalist Dr. Stuart Enoch. His teaching style was highly interactive, compared to the unidirectional lecturing

style. Case based scenarios with real life emergencies were discussed and practical tips to deal with these situations helped consolidate knowledge that may be difficult to remember by just reading out of the textbook. The doctor-patient interaction session was particularly appealing as the audience were invited to participate actively. The Curriculum of Resource Independent Medical Practice (CRIMP) also accomplished its aim of



Figure 4: Dr. Stuart Enoch enthraling the crowd with his engaging lecture on CRIMP and PBL.

providing the students, the majority of whom belong to resource poor areas of India and Bangladesh, a structured framework and appropriate guidelines to undertake the best practice within the constraints of the available infrastructure and resources.

National Anatomy Challenge

Perhaps, the most awaited and the best session of KARMIC-2013 that created a lot of stir among the participants was the "National Anatomy Challenge". The 'National Anatomy Challenge for Indian Medical Colleges - 2013' was perhaps the first of its kind run by Doctors



Figure 5: Delegates and Participants of KARMIC sitting in the 200-year-old European style lecture theatre of Medical College, Kolkata.

Academy in India. The first initial screening round was held in the multiple workshop venues simultaneously. The next rounds which were organized on the second day of the conference were even more exciting as the participants gave their best effort with zeal to stream

through the pre-quarter finals, quarter finals, semifinal and finals. This was done on a strict knock-out basis and finally Mr Debmoy Ghatak from Kolkata emerged as the National Champion in the event. Doctors Academy was kind enough to award the winner with direct free entry into the World Anatomy Challenge to be held at Manchester, UK later in the year in August, 2013. In this context it has to be mentioned that this is the same competition where Ms Prachi Pophali, from Maharashtra who was the overall winner of KARMIC'12 emerged victorious in last year's World University Anatomy Challenge.

Guest Lectures

The biggest highlight of KARMIC for years to come was the keynote-lecture by Dr. John Robin Warren about his discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in pathogenesis of gastric ulcer. His eloquent description of the research he undertook, the initial serendipitous nature of his discovery, the early challenges, and finally the global acclaim and recognition that culminated in him winning the Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine in 2005 along with Dr Barry Marshall was both stimulating and captivating.

Other sessions witnessed

- An interactive session on ethics by Dr Dipanjan Mukherjee, Professor of Medicine, CNMC
- Lecture and discussion on cadaveric kidney transplant program by Dr Edwin Fernando, eminent Nephrologist



Figure 6: Dr. A. Mahapatra, ICMR, one of the esteemed Guest Speakers of KARMIC 2013.

from Chennai.

- Lecture by Dr. Sanjay Mehendale, Director, National Institute of Epidemiology(ICMR)
- Session on Chloroquine Sensitivity by Dr. A Mahapatra, Scientist, RMRC, Bhubaneswar

- Interesting and engaging Lecture by Dr. S. Panda, Scientist, NICED, Kolkata
- And yet another interactive session by Dr. Stuart Enoch, Doctors Academy, UK

Student Presentations

The student presentations were divided into Oral and Poster sessions where a total of 116 scientific papers and 12 case reports were presented by the medical students. All the 10 session winners were again given a second chance to present their research work on the last day of the conference to compete for the much coveted champion's trophy and a direct entry into the 5th International Medical Summer School (<http://www.doctorsacademy.org/AcademyCMS/default.asp?contentID=769>) and 3rd International and Academic Research Conference (<http://www.doctorsacademy.org/AcademyCMS/default.asp?contentID=938>) to be held at Manchester, UK in August, 2013. Mr Supreet Khare from AFMC, Pune was judged the overall winner by the esteemed panel of Judges headed by Dr. TK Lahiri, Principal, Medical College Kolkata and Dr. TK Bose, Prof. and HOD, WBUHS.

Project MDM presentation

At KARMIC 2013 were also presented the results of the Phase-I of the nationwide research project carried out by Research-Wing IMSA titled Project-MDM (Malnutrition & Delayed Milestones), a Community research project³.



Figure 7: The organizing team of KARMIC 2013 with Dr Stuart Enoch.

In a nutshell, KARMIC 2013 was a hub of medical professionals who furnished the medical students with immense knowledge and new opportunities in the field of medicine. The overwhelming support of Doctors Academy, ICMR and Medical Students took KARMIC 2013 through its path of success...!

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3. Official Website of the Research Wing of IMSA: www.research.imsa.in.

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