

Nurture With Care: PEDICON 2012



The 49th National Conference of The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP): PEDICON was held at the Leisure Valley Grounds, Gurgaon between 18th-22nd January 2012. The theme for the conference 'Nurture with care' was dedicated to the precious girl child.

The conference provided an opportunity to learn about the current paediatric practices in India. It also further consolidated the increasing collaboration between the RCPCH, London and the IAP. The RCPCH has now started conducting the full MRCPCH examination in India and is also conducting training for paediatricians in India.

The conference was attended by more than 6000 delegates including international experts such as Professor Nikolaos Papadopoulos, Dr Steve Black, Dr Ron Dagan, Dr Walter Orenstein and Dr Nigel Curtis. In keeping with the Indian tradition, PEDICON 2012 was made more enjoyable by the cultural evenings organised by IAP. On the evening of 21 January, 2012 the Bollywood singer Javed Ali enthralled the audience with his popular song numbers (**FIGURE 1**).

It was challenging to decide which session to attend and which to miss, as seven or eight different lectures or symposia were happening at the same time. A few aspects from PEDICON 2012 are highlighted below.

IAP RCPCH CME, 19 January 2011

This was a half day event with speakers from the UK and India. Particularly interesting topics included 'The approach to diagnosis and management of coeliac disease' by Dr Daljit Singh(IAP), 'Clinical



FIGURE 1 Javed Ali entertaining the delegates.



diagnosis of congenital heart disease' by Dr Anil Garg (RCPCH), 'Recurrent UTI in children' by Dr Ramesh Mehta (RCPCH), 'NIPPV' by Dr Sunil Sinha (RCPCH), and 'Food allergy' by Dr Arvind Shah (IAP).

Minimising childhood morbidity and mortality through vaccinations

The focus on mass immunisation still remains and the news about the success of the oral polio vaccine and the elimination of the wild polio virus cases was received with great enthusiasm by the paediatricians. It was interesting to see newer vaccines such as rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines as well as the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine being discussed and actively considered by the IAP.

Other interesting sessions

The sessions on 'non-resolving pneumonia' with Dr Subramanya as the moderator and 'prolonged jaundice' presented by Dr Parekh were useful for clinical practice. The child abuse, neglect and child labour (CANCL) session was an eye opener and it was good to see that social paediatrics is getting a foothold among the paediatricians in India. The key pad session 'How Z that? Test the Expert' was a very interesting session and active audience participation made it lively and useful. The symposium on paediatric gastroenterology and hepatology by Dr Neelam Mohan highlighted the newer approaches towards managing a challenging aspect of paediatric practice.

Trainee presentations

Trainees from both India and abroad were given the opportunity to present their work through oral, poster and e-poster presentations. The Abstracts handbook published by PEDICON 2012 contains a wealth of knowledge. Studies in neonatology² carried out by Dr Ray and Dr Mukherjee (Neurodevelopmental evaluation in preterm neonate and its association with serial cranial ultrasonographic findings) and Dr Mittal and Dr Singla (An interventional study to know the effect of counselling on early initiation of breast feeding and avoidance of prelacteal feeds) were very relevant and useful.

It was heartening to see that paediatrics is making tremendous progress in India. The efforts of the specialist services to develop a network to minimise the inequality in the availability of specialist care was noteworthy. Demand always exceeds supply in a nation like India and paediatricians are delivering their best to ensure the next generation is well cared for.

References

1. Soin A.S., et al. Evolution of a reliable biliary reconstructive technique in 400 consecutive living donor liver transplants. *J Am Coll Surg* 2010;211:24-32.
2. PEDICON 2012. Abstracts p257-58. <http://pedicon2012.com/pedicon%20abstract%20book.pdf>

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