

Editorial

Janaki Medical College expanding its horizon also through International Collaborations

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History of medical education in Nepal backs to 1933 AD after opening of Rajakiya Ayurved Vidyalaya at Kathmandu for the training of Ayurvedic health workers followed by starting of Institute of Medicine in 1972 AD [1]. Janaki Medical College is the second private medical college under Tribhuvan University, Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Since the establishment of Janaki Medical College in December 1999 in Ramdaiya Bhawadi, a rural area of Janakpur city in Madhesh Province of Nepal, it has established itself as one of Tribhuvan University's most prestigious medical college [2]. It was a proud privilege and honor to have His Excellency Mr. Hanan Goder Goldberger, Ambassador of Israel to Nepal, as a chief guest at the medical college premises on December 28, 2021, for the first time in these

two decades. The event was for medical and nursing student's welcoming ceremony and orientation class, but it was the most memorable. Because various announcements were made, one of which was the beginning of Janaki Medical College's global scientific collaborations including faculty exchange programs and teaching learning activities, student exchange programs between the two institutions, mutual research collaboration, technology transfer for super specialty hospital facilities, educational excursions, and other training programs [2] with other Universities and higher education institutions all around the world. International collaboration is emerging as a norm and is an accepted form of current medical science and research. International university partnerships can promote such a perspective through the strengthening of cooperation, exchange, and communication between academic institutions across national boundaries [3].

The Department of International relations of Janaki Medical College made an announcement of tie-up process of scientific international collaborations with Universities and Institutes all over the world. At the meantime, faculty and student exchange programs, teaching learning activities mutual research collaboration started with Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel was

announced. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which was founded in 1918 and officially inaugurated in 1925, is Israel's top university and research institution. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is ranked first among Israeli universities and among the top 100 universities in the world. The Hebrew University is recognized for its goals of public, scientific, educational, and professional leadership; cultural, spiritual, and intellectual traditions; and knowledge advancement for the benefit of all humanity. It has strived for excellence and is an important part of academic worldwide as well as the scientific community [4]. For the first time in two decades, this collaboration has sensitized all belongings of Janaki Medical College. No doubt, both the institution will be benefited cordially as well as the promotion of cultures of both these countries will be promoted.

On the same day, Department of International relations mentioned about a joint press statement of international Partnership MAHSA (Malaysian Allied Health Sciences Academy) University, Malaysia and JMCTH (Janaki Medical College Teaching Hospital), Tribhuvan University, Nepal [2]. MAHSA University has grown to a full-fledged Malaysian higher education institution with programs in the fields of Medicine, Biosciences, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Health Sciences, Nursing, Business, Finance, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Engineering at Diploma, Degree, Masters, and Doctoral levels [5]. Collaborations with international institutions and healthcare sectors throughout the world will accelerate Janaki Medical College to a new level of international impact and developments in modern medical science in

order to accomplish national goals in the 21st century.

In every health care system, infrastructure is a critical pillar supporting the core goal of providing improved standards of care and welfare for all patients. In the meantime, Janaki Medical College has begun constructing new infrastructures in order to operate a super-specialty hospital and explore with recent advancement in medical science and research. In Ramdaiya, Bhawadi, Madhesh Province, Nepal, Ambassador Hanan Goder also unveiled the "H.E. Mr. Hanan Goder Goldberger Building" at Janaki Medical College teaching hospital, which will be named after him [2] which symbolizes the Nepal-Israel friendship.

The Department of International Relations' commendable efforts will inevitably improve understanding of the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary foundations of international public health research facilitating the information exchange, and spark discussion about the transferability of public health concepts and technologies. As a result of the partnership's diverse activities, students and faculty could benefit from foreign exposure to health-care concerns, and able to experience and jointly analyze international aspects of public health, ethical implications, stakeholder responsibilities, and the effectiveness of policies and strategies to reduce global and local public health problems in a global context.

Through an exchange program with an external university or other institution of higher learning, students and staff can expand their career and professional development in reference to innovative ideas and approaches in their particular discipline. The exchange program encourages worldwide thinking and builds strong relationships with

other recognized colleges and educational institutes. They will profit academically and intellectually by exchanging experiences among students or personnel between universities. Furthermore, the collaboration increased attentiveness of developmental health care challenges among teaching faculty, staff, and students, as well as provided an opportunity for all people concerned to improve their flexibility, cross-cultural competence, and mutual respect for other cultures and world perspectives.

Because health issues transcend national borders, the relevance of international viewpoints and collaboration in medical science and public health education should be recognized. Medical and scientific research has grown increasingly worldwide, cross-national, cross-cultural, and collaborative in recent years [3]. All national health systems strive to maintain and promote population health while also minimizing health inequities [6]. Epidemics of communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as issues of inequality, health-care reform, and financing, all have global dimensions and determinants. Epidemics of communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as issues of inequality, health care reform, and financing, all have global dimensions and determinants. As a result, solutions to public health issues require a worldwide perspective, and international collaboration in teaching future specialists in these fields. Janaki Medical College's move toward this International partnership is noteworthy and appears to be extremely promising which presents with both opportunities as well as challenges.

Janaki Medical College can develop a notion for an academic collaboration through the International Public Health Partnership that

will be able to address the needs in public health education with an international perspective which also respects contextual specificities. Experiences gained with the partnership show that collaborations in the field of academic education involving mobility of students and staff face different challenges, individual commitment of the persons involved, and available infrastructure are particularly difficult to maintain, unless sufficient financial resources are available. Geographical distance, as well as cultural, political, and economic variety, poses additional challenges in such type of collaborations [7,8]. An international perspective in teaching is often limited: existing public or community health courses often focus on national or regional problems than on international aspects of public health [9]. Sometimes, they may also make it difficult to maintain the interest and motivation of students and faculty members [10]. Limited external funding, internal financial budgets, time, and human resources, as well as differences in program regulations and structures at the partnership sites, are all possible obstacles.

As many academic institutions' budgets become more constrained, relevance of international partnerships for research and teaching along with its sustainability becomes a crucial issue. However, current approaches to electronic distance learning, as demonstrated during COVID-19, can be advantageous and may help to overcome these obstacles. Formalized international university partnerships that foster exchange and cooperation can help tackle these challenges by providing a structural and organizational framework for respective activities [11, 12]. International visibility and attractiveness for students and researchers in

global context is very important. It needs careful planning and considerable thought to the diversity of the human society. At this point, Janaki Medical College has arrived at this destination in tie-up process with universities and institutions all over the world, and the realistic favorable outcomes are still to come.

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