

First International Conference of Confederations of Epidemiological Associations (ICRMSW 2013)

Banerjee I^{1,2,3,4,5}

¹Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, Manipal College of Medical Sciences, Pokhara, Nepal

² Chief of Manipal Sanjeevani Clinic

³ Assistant Secretary General of Confederation of Epidemiological Associations

⁴ Joint Organizing Secretary- Academic programme Committee of ICRMSW 2013

⁵ Co chairperson of the abstract committee and member of the Scientific Committee of ICRMSW 2013.

Chief Editor

Dr. Brijesh Sathian

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Letter to the Editor

Corresponding Author:

Dr. I. Banerjee MD
Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology,
Manipal College of Medical Sciences, Pokhara, Nepal
E-mail: indrajit18@gmail.com

It gives me immense pleasure to witness and participate in the International Conference of research Methodology and Scientific Writing (ICRMSW-2013) organized by Mahatma Gandhi University and Confederation of Epidemiological

Associations. It was the 1st Conference Confederation of Epidemiological Associations (CEA) being held at Kottayam, Kerala from December 20-22nd 2013^{1,2}.

I was entrusted upon the responsibility of the joint organizing secretary- Academic programme Committee, Co chairperson of the abstract committee and member of the Scientific Committee.

The first day was allocated for Introduction to Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis And Evidence-Informed Health Care as a preconference workshop. The workshop was conducted by Prof Prathap Tharyan, Director of the South Asian Cochrane Network and Centre, editor with the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group and a review author with many other Cochrane review groups. Around 70 participants actively participated in the workshop.

There were 2 plenary sessions viz. Improving health

outcomes through the better conduct and reporting of primary research in developing countries- by Prof. Dr. Prathap Tharayan and Type 2 diabetes Mellitus: Newer concepts and research opportunities- by Prof . Dr. Balakrishana Valliyot. 3 symposiums viz. Scientific Writing- by Dr. Padam Simkada and Prof. Dr. Asis De, Medical Ethics by- Prof. Dr. Shishir Gokhale, Prof. Dr. Ranabir Pal, Dr. Mohammed Madadin and NJE symposium by Dr. Anil Mathew and Dr. Brijesh Sathian. There were 19 scientific oral sessions and 7 poster sessions. There were a total number of 193 abstracts were accepted for presentation (125 orals and 68 posters). The abstracts were divided according to the various subthemes viz. were Communicable Diseases, Non communicable diseases, Evidence based medical research, policies and practice, Health Professions Education, Nutrition and Health, Health Economics, Mental Health, Tobacco and Alcohol, Diabetes Mellitus/Cardiovascular Diseases/Obesity, Maternal Health, Epidemiological Modeling and Statistical Methods: Applications in Biological Research, Biological Sciences and open papers. All the accepted abstracts will be published at Nepal Journal of Epidemiology as a special issue³.

I got the chance to chair a fruitful session on mental health and got the time to present papers too in spite of the hectic day.

On 21st December there was CEA award ceremony function. The occasion was graced by Amb.(Rtd) Executive Vice Chairman Kerala state Higher Education Council T.P. Sreenivasan and the Pro Vice Chancellor of the Mahatma Gandhi University, Dr. Sheena Shukkur . I was awarded with the prestigious award CEA Prize in Neuroscience. The award ceremony was followed by the dinner and the cultural programme. There was fire dance of Kerala, Bharat natyam performed by the students of the Mahatma Gandhi University was really breath taking.

I would like to thank all the participants, resource persons, chairpersons, faculty members of Mahatma Gandhi University, School of Behavioral Sciences and the students who actively participated in the International Conference of research Methodology and Scientific Writing (ICRMSW-2013) to make the conference a grand success.

Dr. Indrajit Banerjee
 Joint Organizing Secretary ICRMSW 2013
 Assistant Secretary General Confederations of
 Epidemiological Associations

Acknowledgment

I extend our heartfelt and cordial gratitude to Dr Brijesh Sathian, President Confederation of Epidemiological Associations, Organizing Secretary ICRMSW 2013, Dr. Jayadevan Sreedharan, Vice - President Confederation of Epidemiological Associations, Scientific committee chairperson ICRMSW 2013, Rajesh E, Joint organizing Secretary - Finance Committee ICRMSW 2013 and Dr. Mustafa, M.G. University, Chairman, organizing committee ICRMSW 2013 for organizing such an eventful conference.

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