

Thirteen Faculties Deans/Secretaries met. **Joint review meeting of Surgery and Allied Faculties**

CPSP held a Joint meeting of Faculties of Surgery and Allied on 20th September 2016 at CPSP Council Hall, Karachi with Prof. Zafar Ullah Chaudhry, President in Chair. Prof. Naqib Ullah Achakzai, Vice President CPSP who also is a member of Faculty of Neuro Surgery participated with Prof. Mohammad Arif Malik, Dean and Prof. Shahid Ahmed, Secretary **Faculty of Neuro Surgery**, Maj. Gen. Syed Muhammad Naqvi, Dean and Brig. Zahid Akhter, Secretary **Faculty of Anesthesiology**, Prof. Riaz Anwar Khan, Dean, **Faculty of Cardiac Surgery**, Dr. Madiha Khaliq, Focal Person, **Committee of Critical Care**, Prof. Naila Ehsan, Dean, **Faculty of Obstetrics and Gynecology**, Maj. Gen. Mazhar Ishaq, Dean and Prof. Zahid Kamal, Secretary, **Faculty of Ophthalmology**, Prof. Mohammad Rafique Sabir, Secretary **Faculty of Orthopedic Surgery**, Prof. Muhammad Tariq Rafi, Dean **Faculty of Otorhinolaryngology**, Prof. Muhammad Arshad, Secretary and Prof. Muhammad Saleem, Member **Faculty of Pediatric Surgery**, Prof. Farid Ahmed Khan, Dean and Prof. Shahid Hameed Choudhary, Secretary, **Faculty of Plastic Surgery**, Prof. Moeed Iqbal Qureshi, Dean, **Faculty of Surgery**, Prof. Amer Bilal, Dean and Brig. Farhan Ahmed Majeed, Secretary, **Faculty of Thoracic Surgery**, Maj. Gen. Arshad Mahmood, Dean and Dr. Mohammad Hammad Ather, Secretary **Faculty of Urology** participated in the Joint Meeting with functionaries of CPSP.

President in his opening address told the participants that Faculties contribution in running and uplifting the prestige of this College is by no means less than that of the Council. The Faculties do chart out the curriculum, table of specifications, SVCD charts, competencies and their attainment besides keeping a lively interaction with Supervisors of their faculty. President told that this joint meeting is to review the tasks set in the previous one and update ourselves with new tasks and introduction of newer domains if needed. He told that to review the meeting should

focus on the following:

- **Curriculum update**
- **SVCD charts**
- **Workplace Based Assessment parameters**
- **MCQ's and SAQ's review**
- **Parameters for Accreditation and examination.**

Anesthesiology: Over 3,600 MCQs have been reviewed by holding two MCQ review retreats, one at Lahore Center and the other at Multan. Next will again be held in Multan shortly as there are 333 MCQs pending review. Faculty reported that almost 200 SAQs have been reviewed as three retreats for SAQ review have been held at Karachi but still the work is not completed. There are over 2,600 SAQs to be reviewed. Faculty told that FCPS curriculum has been revised and submitted along with Competency charts and Workplace based Assessment; while curriculum for MCPS is under review but competency charts have been submitted.

Cardiothoracic Anesthesia: Faculty informed the meeting that curriculum has been revised and submitted along with Competency charts and Workplace Based Assessment. Faculty proposed that while keeping the option to have Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology as second fellowship, there may be an option to go for subspecialty after IMM in Anesthesiology as First Fellowship.

Pain Management: Faculty informed that curriculum has been reviewed and no changes have been recommended. Faculty proposed that Trans-Esophageal Echocardiography workshop be added and a proposal has been submitted along with format of workshop. A booklet is being prepared on this workshop. Faculty also proposed an Advance Airway Management Workshop too; for which proposal has been submitted along with format. Faculty also informed that TOACS stations were increased by adding 2 or 3 stations in the previous exams and they hope to conduct exams



A view of Joint review meeting of Surgery and Allied Faculties, thirteen Faculties Deans/Secretaries with Prof. Zafar Ullah Chaudhry, President in Chair.

on simulated patients soon as a long case. They recommend the duration of long case be reduced from 40 to 30 minutes. Faculty is looking into Table of Specifications and construction of Viva Voce.

President appreciated it as a highly active Faculty. However he felt that the idea of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology as first fellowship should be well thought among all the College supervisors of this Faculty before submitting it to the Council. He however observed that Pain management MCQs be added as country does lack the specialists in this discipline. President offered to send some of Faculty recommended Fellows to UK on available slots in Pain management.

Cardiac Surgery: Faculty told that this specialty is much needed by the Country and Government has announced a special incentive for candidates who are coming for less opted specialties like Cardiac Surgery. Faculty reported that some refresher workshops on development of MCQs, SAQs and TOACS were planned but we need time as faculty members are heavily engaged. Curriculum review is in process and proposed new curriculum will be submitted shortly. Faculty also proposed that duration of Long Case in exams be reduced to 30 minutes.

President suggested that as the number of Fellows in this discipline is very low, (92), Faculty may propose candidates whom College may send abroad for Training and who will have to come back to appear in FCPS exams.

Critical Care: Focal person informed that she has suggested names to be added as members of Committee. She informed that Curriculum is under review. She added that 483 MCQs of the existing lot in Bank have been reviewed while 102 remain to be taken care. It is urgent to add to Bank with new questions. As for SAQs, 483 have been reviewed while 133 still remain to be looked into. Workplace Based Assessment parameters are being developed and Accreditation criteria has been discussed. She felt that there should be more accredited centers with greater number of supervisors too so that this discipline may become attractive for candidates. She desired that College should review two internationally well-known courses meant for non-interventions. They are

- **Fundamentals of Clinical Care Support (FCCS) (An American Course)**
- **Basic Amendment and Support in Intensive Care (BASIC)**

She felt that if CPSP finds it feasible Committee of Critical Care can introduce one of these course free of cost. She informed that there are instructors available for both the courses and these can also be conducted on video link too.

President suggested that Committee may coopt members and invite them in its meetings.

Neuro Surgery: Faculty informed the meeting that FCPS II curriculum has been revised and will be submitted soon. Faculty has developed 142 new MCQs for IMM exams. Last two exams conducted at Lahore and Islamabad included TOACS too. Faculty is revising TOACS stations and developing new ones too. Faculty also informed the house that for proposed **Spine Surgery** curriculum will be finalized after consultation with the Faculty of Orthopedic surgery and they intend to finalize it by early 2017. President reacted that Faculty has reviewed 426 MCQs and the Bank badly needs new MCQs. Faculty needs to review SAQs in the bank which

are almost 1,100. Faculty should also focus on reviewing criteria of Accreditation of institutions, Workplace based assessment parameters.

Obstetrics and Gynecology: Faculty informed that it has nominated Focal Persons at regional centers to organize meetings for review of 3,747 MCQs pending review. Faculty proposed to have two sets of reviewers to scrutinize questions and the paper setters should also review and revise questions before formulating paper. For SAQs review Faculty has devised modality to distribute SAQs among Faculty members to take care at various regional centers. Faculty is seized of development of new TOACS stations. Faculty recommends that in FCPS II, there be 12 TOACS stations and all should be interactive. Candidates who qualify in TOACS be allowed to take Viva Voce of the exams and College should use simulators for exams instead of real patients. Faculty has developed Workplace Based Assessment parameters and a pilot study to implement DOPs and Mini-Cex is underway. Faculty asked the examination Department of College to announce dates of exams well in advance to ensure availability of examiners and the cell phone jammers be installed in examination hall. President informed the Faculty that last minute regrets from examiners is a big issue that exams department faces. He once again stressed that if MCQ bank is updated and stocked with enough new questions, paper setters will have bigger choice to select questions. Faculties should play their role in this aspect.

Ophthalmology: Faculty informed that all curricula, (FCPS-I, IMM, FCPS II and MCPS) have been revised and submitted by Faculty. MCQs review is taken up but it is proposed that retreats be organized at various regional centers for this activity. Faculty also informed that TOACS have been reviewed and redesigned to include Skills assessments. Practical refraction component has been added in TOACS. Faculty suggested that candidates who clear TOACS be allowed to take the Clinical Exams. Faculty also suggested that in IMM and MCPS exams, a long case of practical refraction be added. Faculty desired that list of examiners be shared with Faculty and examiners too should undergo re-training of assessment and Radiation Jammers too be installed in Examination Halls. President in his response highlighted the declining percentage of passing candidates and asked Faculty to look into this issue with concern. President also invited attention of Faculty to review the Curricula of two second fellowships in Ophthalmology; Vitreo Retinal and Pediatric Ophthalmology. He invited attention of Faculty to further strengthen Bank with more MCQs and SAQs.

Orthopedic Surgery: Faculty told that curriculum for FCPS II has been revised and been submitted as well as specialty specific Accreditation criteria. Faculty proposed that candidates opting for Orthopedic Surgery be allowed to appear in IMM after 18 months so that candidate can spend still more time with specialty specific training. But candidate should be allowed to go to specialty only if he clears IMM exams. Faculty has already developed forms for Workplace Based assessment and competencies to be assessed at different stages have been identified with pilot tests going on at different training centers. Faculty proposed that workshops based on Mini-Cex and DOPs for supervisors be held at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. Faculty proposes that resident should take 12 Workplace based assessments, (one every quarter) during the

entire period of residency. President discussed proposed Spine Surgery discipline and suggested that it should be introduced on trial basis for a year and then it be finalized. President declined to accept the proposed change of IMM exams for candidates of this specialty after 18 months and it was agreed that the present time schedule be continued.

Otorhinolaryngology: Faculty expressed its concern on declining interest of new candidates. Faculty proposed that Head and Neck, Otolaryngology, Rhinology and Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology be developed. Faculty informed that Accreditation forms have been redone and will be submitted very shortly. Faculty also proposed that last day of Surgical Skills workshop should be focused on candidates for ENT with specialty specific training. Faculty proposed that institutions who lack certain training facilities should have a MoU with institutions that do have such facilities and residents may be sent on rotation there for those specific skills. President in his turn agreed in principle to allocate last day of Surgical Skills workshop for ENT but Faculty should provide their trainers to conduct such training and logistically it should be feasible too.

Plastic Surgery: Faculty sought approval of CPSP to hold MOCK exam course biannually to improve the performance of residents. Faculty also requested that foreign examiners be invited in its exams. Faculty also proposed intra-city rotations of residents from Islamabad to Pindi and such other teaching institutions. Faculty requested for support and approval of College in this arrangement. Faculty informed that there are 265 MCQs that need to be reviewed and it would be taken care as soon as Bank sends these questions to Lahore Center for review. Faculty proposed that duration of Long case in exams be reduced from one hour to 40 minutes. Faculty informed that FCPS II curriculum is under review while competency charts have been submitted to College. Faculty also proposed to start Flap course and Workshop on Microsurgery for residents. President in his remarks desired that accreditation forms be reviewed and re-developed soon, besides taking care of Workplace Based Assessment parameters.

Surgery: Faculty informed that revision of curriculum for IMM is almost complete and SVCD charts too are being realigned with updated curriculum. Faculty also informed that it has developed 40 new TOACS stations for IMM and FCPS II exams. Faculty also shared that it is improving existing lot of TOACS. Faculty informed that it has developed 200 new MCQs besides review of existing MCQs which is continuing. Faculty also shared that it has developed Workplace based Assessment Performa's and piloting of these is undertaken already. Competencies that need to be assessed at each assessment have been identified and it proposes two (2) DOPs every quarter. Workplace based assessment should be incorporated in SVCD charts that Faculty will submit soon. Faculty informed that revision of curriculum for 2nd fellowship in **Surgical Oncology** is in final stages and will be submitted before end of 2016. Faculty informed that it has received interest of many for introduction of 2nd Fellowships in **Minimal Invasive Surgery and Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery**. Faculty has identified possible supervisors as well as development of institutions and development of curriculum.

Pediatric Surgery: Faculty informed that competencies that need to be acquired during rotation of two months in Pediatric Surgery

have been identified and submitted. Faculty sought approval of College and assistance in making logistic arrangements for rotations in institutions other than parent institution. Faculty also suggested to develop a workshop with collaboration of Surgery to comprehend essential parts of Pediatric Surgery. President highlighted that FCPS II curriculum needs to be reviewed by Faculty and finalized. Question bank also needs to be strengthened by developing new items. President informed that there are 222 MCQs which need to be reviewed and 767 SAQs. Similarly Accreditation parameters need to be developed in accordance with new form.

Thoracic Surgery: Faculty told the house that 112 MCQs have been reviewed and 27 are still there to be reviewed. But there is strong need to develop new MCQs for the bank. There are 293 SAQs pending review and similarly new SAQs need to be developed. Faculty proposed that TOACS as part of examination be included from 2017. Faculty informed that review of curriculum of FCPS-II has been taken up and competencies are being finalized. Faculty requested College to facilitate and permit residents to undertake two rotations of one month each in a period of three years in recognized institutions of their own choice besides their parent institution. CPSP assistance in logistics of these rotations too were desired. President told that accreditation criteria according to new form should be taken up by Faculty as soon as possible besides developing Workplace based Assessment parameters.

Urology: Faculty reported that Curriculum has been revised and submitted along with Competency Charts after revision and updating. Faculty also told that 695 MCQs have been reviewed and only 157 are pending review. Faculty will develop new MCQs and submit it to the Bank. They also suggested modalities for review of SAQs too and requested that exam department should follow the SAQs submitted by Faculty. TOACS too are being updates after review, as it has developed 40 new stations but these are pending review. Faculty hopes to submit another 50 to 60 stations by the end of this year. Faculty proposed to introduce TOACS instead of Viva Voce in exams from 2017. Faculty felt that emphasis be on submission of two articles instead of dissertation. Faculty also suggested that Short Cases be changed by introducing virtual on spot diagnosis and SAQs on real live cases and clinical situation. About Long Cases, Faculty suggested that these be replaced with virtual real life scenario based exams with simulators. Faculty suggested that at least one International examiner be there in each exams as it will help expose us to new scenario of exams being used abroad and adjust accordingly. President lamented that Province of Punjab has hardly any Fellow in Urology because 40 to 50 urologists get certified each year and large number of them move abroad. He also informed that there are available slots for training abroad which can be sponsored for 6 weeks training.

President sought suggestion from the meeting about retention of Long Cases as part of exams. Majority of meeting agreed that Long Cases are a good tool to assess knowledge, skills and attitude of candidates and thus should continue as part of exams. However it was suggested that the duration of Long Case be reduced from one hour to 40 minutes. President urged the Faculties to develop criteria for Inspection and re-inspection of units and institutions.

The Joint meeting concluded with thanks from the Chair