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Molecular Medicine: Bridging the Gap between Basic and Clinical Sciences

A physician's ultimate goal is to help in building healthy society and helping mankind by alleviating diseases. The task cannot be completed alone and but need a coordinating efforts of a team of experts. Clinicians provide care to suffering humans through their skills, vast knowledge, experience and expertise in their decision making. They deal with real problems of real life which are based on the scientific evidences. One can also recount the way the clinical medicine is evolving in last few decades with patient management moving from bedside to heavy reliance on laboratory and technology support. In fact, we can see that our clinical acumen is improving because of technological advances. At the same time doctors are still being appreciated for being humane to people. Insufficient data from appropriate clinical studies and evidence-based medicine presently limit the applications of molecular medicine in clinical practice. Moreover, lack of awareness of each other's field advances limits our utilization of available resources optimally.

The buzz word nowadays in medical education is integrated medical care and teaching. The task is difficult but not impossible. The molecular medicine has provided the true base for integrating basic and clinical sciences. The rapid pace of basic science research greatly exceeds the rate at which these findings are being translated into clinical application.

Our conventional medical curriculum disregards the role of basic science in human suffering and there is deep perception of it being of purely research interest. For this our society is also partly responsible as the subject of Biology is not given much importance to students in school. One important change required is making the subject more relevant to students. This can be achieved by arranging talks by experts, visit to labs and showing application through practical demonstrations.

For medical schools, it should be emphasized that incorporation of conceptual and clinical aspects of molecular medicine in undergraduate and postgraduate curricula and a continuing education of medical professionals is necessary for the quality medical care. The emphasis should be put on bedside-orientated molecular medicine. The prerequisite is translational research aimed to the improvement of healthcare of individual patients and the population as a whole.

The Indian Journal of Genetics and Molecular Research (IJGMR) provide a platform for interaction between basic and clinical research scientists. In this issue, Volume 2, we bring such an attempt of integrating medicine by including clinical case, epidemiological study as well as role of genetic polymorphism in common disease causation.

Dr Kuldeep Singh,
MD, DM
Additional Professor Pediatrics,
All India Institute of Medical Sciences,
Jodhpur