

Popularizing Genetics and Molecular Medicine

Tremendous progress has been made in Medical Genetics and Molecular Medicine in last decade. So much so that they have penetrated in our routine scientific teaching and training even to level of middle schools. Students are now being apprised of biotechnology progress in their standard syllabus. Despite this, the area is still being considered as awe in modern life among general public. Molecular biology has opened up new vistas in diagnostics and therapeutics. We are now moving closer to providing personalized medicine. Oncology visualizes the biggest benefit from advances in Genetics. Majority of clinical trials in gene therapy centered on cancer therapy. This issue has a brief review on current status of Cancer Biomarkers.

The younger generation needs to be apprised of application of Genetics and Molecular Biology. One should not expect the field to be owned and managed by few larger centers in big cities but rather appreciates its penetration and application in public health in future. This needs a paradigm shift in thinking of all stake holders including politician and government agencies. In doing so one should not forget public health ethics and social discrimination arising out of use of molecular medicine. Attempts need to be made to popularize genetics in school and college. Creating interest also requires innovations and appropriate pedagogical methods for delivery of difficult concepts in Molecular Biology.

Creating awareness and educating general public about use and limitation of technology assumes paramount importance. Regenerative Medicine is

being considered panacea for all ills- it may not be so. In depth understanding will go a long way in alleviating the myth. However, we should appreciate the value of this field. Dr Sharma has emphasized on the current scenario of regenerative medicine in this issue of IJGMR.

This issue also feature the value of basic tests for diagnosing infertility in males and importance of ring chromosome.

The 2nd Annual conference of Indian Academy of Medical Genetics, IAMGCON 2015 was held at Jodhpur at All India Institute of Medical Sciences Jodhpur and Dr S N Medical College, Jodhpur from 11-13 December 2015. Conferences are a great resource for Continuing Professional Development and proceedings of conferences also add to bibliometric usage though thought a small fraction [1]. The theme of the conference was "New Insight into Therapy of Genetic Disorders". Salient points are shared as a brief coverage.

References

1. Michels C, Fu JY. Systematic analysis of coverage and usage of conference proceedings in Web of Science. Fraunhofer ISI Discussion Papers Innovation Systems and Policy Analysis No. 33. Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI. Available http://isi-lehre.de/isi-wAssets/docs/p/de/diskpap_innosysteme_policyanalyse/discussionpaper_33_2013.pdf (Accessed 14 June 2016).

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