

Event Report

One week Short term training program “Certificate in Forensic odontology”

One week Short term training program “Certificate in Forensic odontology,” was organised by Faculty of Dentistry from 20th-24th November, 2023. The event was inaugurated on 20th November 2023, by the Chief Guest, Hon’ble Offg. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Eqbal Hussain and Guest of Honour, Prof (Dr) Susmita Saxena, former President, IAOMP, & HOD, Oral Pathology, ESIC Dental College, Rohini. The training program was organised by Faculty of Dentistry under the able guidance of Dean Faculty of Dentistry, Prof (Dr) Keya Sircar with her team, Prof (Dr) Aman Chowdhry, Prof (Dr) Priyanka Kapoor, Prof (Dr) Deepika B Popli, and Prof (Dr) Harneet Kaur.

The inauguration started with a welcome address by the Dean, Prof (Dr) Keya Sircar, who briefed the gathering about the importance of forensic odontology in the current times. She outlined the contents to be covered in the five-day training program highlighting the innovations done by the Faculty of Dentistry in this domain. She expressed her deepest gratitude for the former Vice Chancellor, Prof Najma Akhtar for her support, encouragement, and necessary permissions to conduct this training program.

The Guest of Honour, Prof Susmita Saxena, in her address complimented the organising team for conceptualising and executing this one-of-a-kind training module in forensic odontology at a national level. She also expressed deep interest in this field and mentioned that it was the need of the hour.

Prof. Eqbal Hussain, Hon’ble Offg. Vice Chancellor extended his warm wishes and support for the training program which is being organised for the first time at a national level. He emphasised on the importance of dentists in forensic investigations and as subject experts in legal proceedings. He congratulated the team for keeping a futuristic vision and excellent array of lectures and workshops by eminent experts in this field.

A beautifully compiled souvenir book was released on the occasion by the dignitaries. The success of the event could be measured by extensive pan India participation of faculty, PGs, and event general dental practitioners, who were ready to embrace a new upcoming branch in dentistry.

The inaugural event ended with a vote of thanks by the convener, Prof Aman Chowdhry.

The first day of the event saw excellent deliberations by D Prof (Dr) Aman Chowdhry on introduction to forensic odontology, followed by lectures on Disaster Victim Identification by Dr Deepak V and Dr Parul Khare, followed by a hands-on experience of a disaster airplane crash site where the participants learnt on-site, the principles of evidence collection, and documentation. The day ended on a high note of learning and practical training experience.

The second day included themes that acknowledged both institutional and individual inclination towards the field of forensic odontology. It started with a lecture by Dr Jayashankar Pillai, Govt. Dental college, Ahmedabad, on the principles of setting up of forensic odontology department in institutions followed by sex and ethnicity determination based on teeth and skulls. He ended with a practical demonstration of using ASUDAS (Arizona state University Dental Anthropology System) for ethnicity in a physical plaque-based and software version.

The topic then diversified to Age estimation by teeth by international speaker, Dr Ivan Bedek from Zagreb, Croatia on an online platform. It was later corroborated with a practical workshop on age estimation using DAEcc charts by Prof (Dr)Priyanka Kapoor and Prof (Dr) Deepika B Popli.

The third day started with a basic lecture on ethical aspects of dental record keeping by Dr SM Kanthikar, retd. member of NCDRC, New Delhi. It later diversified to discussing details and legalities of “Child Abuse and Neglect” by Dr Nitesh Tiwari, Additional Professor, AIIMS, New Delhi. Futuristic prospects in forensic odontology were discussed by Prof (Dr) J Augustine, MAIDS, New Delhi. This was followed by an exposure to bite mark recording manually and with software in a lecture and practical workshop by Prof (Dr) J Augustine.

The fourth day gave the participants an exposure to a relatively untouched and less discussed part of forensic odontology, forensic facial approximation. It was taken by our own faculty, Prof (Dr) Aman Chowdhry, Prof (Dr) Priyanka Kapoor and Prof (Dr) Deepika B Popli. They discussed the principles of skull profiling for age, sex, and ethnicity followed by measures of facial soft tissue thickness and a 3D reconstruction of face on representative 3D printed skull.

The last day started with forensic science deliberations on oral autopsy and principles of dying declaration by Prof (Dr) Rakesh Gorea, Gyan Sagar Medical college, Punjab. This was followed by basic principles and practical demonstrations of forensic photography, rugoscopy and chieloscopy by Prof (Dr) Aman Chowdhry, Prof (Dr) Priyanka Kapoor, Prof (Dr) Deepika B Popli, and Prof (Dr) Harneet Kaur.

The event was highly successful with extensive participation from various states of India, ranging from Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. The participants were extremely satisfied with the course which was depicted in the feedback form which was shared at the end of each day.

The training course ended with valedictory program which was attended by Dean, Prof (Dr) Keya Sircar) and Dr Ragini, Former Dean, FOD, JMI. They conferred the certificates to the participants for successfully completing the **One week Short term training program “Certificate in Forensic odontology**, and also to the organising committee for their valuable contribution to the success of the program.