

Meeting of MLSI dt 14th Feb 2023

Online meeting of Medico Legal Society of India was organised on 14th Feb 2023 between 850 pm to 10 pm. Following members attended the meeting

Dr Sanjay Gupte

Dr Mukesh Yadav

Dr Nitin Dhande

Dr Sangeeta Pikale

Dr Ashutosh Jape

Dr Pratibha Kane

Dr Suresh Vasistha

Dr Ajay Gangoli

Dr Shubhangi Biyani Mundada

Dr Vyankatesh

Dr. Rajeev Joshi

Sincere Apologies for missing a couple of names of people who joined late.

Dr. Rajeev Joshi informed that a total number of 29 participants have joined the Certificate course on Law and Medical Profession and an amount of Rs. 160000 has been collected as fees for the course. Total amount of Rs. 90000 was concession given to the members, which means the policy of giving 50% concession has helped to get new members to the association.

Dr. Rajeev Joshi informed that many participants of the course asked for video recording of the lectures, so that they can watch them if they could not attend the lecture due to some emergency. He got information for recording google meet, but they charged for one month for 100 participants which we cannot afford. Hence he requested the Principal of Sinhgad Law College, who agreed to provide Microsoft Teams app. Using the same, 2 sessions have been recorded i.e. 6 lectures and 2 QA sessions. He requested faculty members to give permission to send links to participants but none of the faculty members have given such permission. He sent a link to the video recording of the question answer session to all participants but very few asked permission for accessing the video. Some participants had problems joining the Microsoft Teams app. Therefore he is wondering whether recording the video is any good idea and whether we should switch back to google meets. Dr Suresh Vasishtha said that Zoom is available for US \$25 per month for unlimited periods and unlimited number of participants. Dr Gupte said that that is reasonable and we should try and subscribe for zoom. Dr Vasistha will provide all the details and we will try to use it for the next meeting Dr Mahesh Sinha will also evaluate the possibility of using the zoom licence bought by ISCCM.

Dr. Narsimha Rao was busy attending a patient so he could not attend the meeting. We can request him to give his suggestions by email / at the time of the next meeting.

Dr. Rajeev Joshi informed the procedure for application for registration under foreign exchange regulation Act. Dr. Gupte said that if we get registration, then the accounting procedures will have to be followed strictly as the government observes all such donations and use thereof. Dr. Pikale said that if the amount collected is not substantial, then every year we will have to do the accounting work. Dr Vasishtha asked why FCRA registration is necessary and why they can not donate in Indian Rupees. Dr Joshi informed that they may not have an account in an Indian bank, and any transaction in foreign currency will be looked at as suspicious transaction hence association must have FCRA registration. In addition they may want to get some tax benefits for donation in their own IT returns. Dr Gupte informed that in the past many NGOs have got donations in foreign currency and misused the funds hence the government is having a strict approach for FCRA. Dr Joshi said that we have to maintain accounts meticulously for the trust in any case, and the chartered accountant is going to charge Rs. 5000 for each account and we have to pay Rs. 5000 as application fees. This means we have to spend Rs. 10000 which is about US \$125. Therefore unless the donation is more than US\$ 250, it is not worth registering for the FCRA. However if we get substantial donations, it will be useful and in that context associations of doctors outside INDIA could be of help, so we should try and get letters of commitments from doctors outside india. Dr Gupe said that if we can get letters from associations of doctors outside INDIA, then it will be worth filing an application. It may not be useful for individual doctors as there will be too many applications. Therefore it was decided to make a request to friends to try and send the letter of commitments through such associations of doctors if possible.

Dr Rajeev Joshi requested someone to volunteer for drafting the MOU with Dr Shiralkar on the lines of MOU he has settled with Sinhgad Law College. Dr Sangeeta Pikale, Dr Ajay Gangoli and Dr Shubhangi Mundada volunteered and will discuss it among small groups and come back with the draft MOU.

Dr Ashutosh Jape and Dr Pratibha Kane discussed what can be done regarding PCPNDT issues. Dr Kane informed that NCDRC has directed NMC to form a Committee For Formulating Stringent Guidelines To Regulate Antenatal USG PROTOCOLS (for preventing missing obvious major congenital

anomalies) In that context following issues are important e.g Mandated training/ experience, USG machines upgradation, To serve the public in the rural sector – where experts may not be readily available, all govt centres to have experts visit monthly etc. Dr. Sangeeta Pikale said that in doubtful cases radiologists should send the report to Appropriate Authority by speed post and put the onus of informing the patient on them. When AA is flooded with requests from radiologist, they will ask govt to amend the Act

Dr Jape said that if there is a woman who files a petition asking the court that she wants to know about the healthy sex of the child (rule out intersex) then the court may grant such leave. This will help radiologists as currently they are not supposed to see the sex of the foetus. Dr Pikale informed about the movement of Dr Nikhil Datar and she said that if such movement is thought of with respect to the issue mentioned by Dr Jape, it will be successful. She has given contact details of advocates who worked with Dr Nikhil Datar. Dr Joshi said that MLSI can take care of raising funds for this initiative, and the radiology association should try and get women who may want to file such cases in high courts and supreme court. However we should have substantial data regarding both congenital anomalies and intersex related cases e.g. how many were missed by radiologists etc as PIL will need a lot of research and recommendations which will stand the test of law.

Dr Joshi said that we should also submit our suggestions to NMC. Dr Sanjay Gupte said that if suggestions are accepted then it will help in the long run. Dr Venkatesh said that since PCPNDT Act is central Act, NMC guidelines will be of no value. Dr Mukesh Yadav said that NMC is also formed by Act of central government, and if NMC issues guidelines, it will help to make amendments in the Act also. So we should pursue this course in addition to suggestions by Dr Jape and Dr Pikale. Dr Joshi requested Dr Jape to prepare a document giving all relevant details, plan of action, what petition can be filed if a woman is ready to file one, and how the association of radiologists will be willing to participate in the initiative. The committee can take these tasks as the first step.

Dr. Mukesh Yadav said that he is attending all the sessions of LAMP and making notes of what could be learning objectives of each lecture and how the course can be re-designed. He will discuss with Dr Jamkar and discuss how we can design a 6 month course etc.

Dr. Jayanta Das could not attend the meeting and hence nothing about the unfinished agenda could be discussed. Meeting ended at 10:00 pm.