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December 9, 2017

Dr. Jayasree Mehta
President
Medical Council of India

Dear Dr. Mehta,

We request you to please consider Family Medicine department mandatory by MCI at all Medical Colleges in India endorsed by AAPI.

Family Medicine MD program was approved by MCI in 2012. But only 2 medical colleges established the program out of more than 400 medical colleges in India. Family Medicine PG course was started in Calicut, Kerala in 2012 and the first batch of the doctors graduated. Christian Medical College in Vellore in Tamil Nadu introduced this program in 2017. Most of the current general practitioners practice Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Pediatrics and Obstetrics with minimal non structured training. By making MD program in Family Medicine widely available, these new generation of Family Medicine postgraduates can provide a comprehensive medical and surgical care to the communities in the rural, suburban and urban areas. All the members in a family can get benefitted from attending one Family Medicine postgraduate doctor's facility instead of going to 4 or 5 different specialists. This is a much better way of providing community healthcare.

According to MCI guidelines, out of 36 months Family Medicine MD should be in primary health center and small community Hospital for 12 months. This will address much needed doctor shortage in small rural health clinic and rural community 30 bed hospitals.

In USA, out of total 31,413 Residency programs, 4316 (13.7%) positions are in family medicine per year whereas India has 5 MD postgraduate positions in Family Medicine. 100 Family Medicine positions in DNB pathway (equaling to MD).

Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (2012-2017) quoted that Family Medicine trained doctors have always been the backbone of comprehensive healthcare. WHO recommends 20% Family Physicians. Project 92 submitted to Parliament in 2016 recommends 30 to 50% in Family Medicine. Even though Family Medicine is a recognized medical specialty in India since 1983, currently only 155 DNB Family Medicine seats are available.

Please include MCI regulations & make Family Medicine department like Medicine, Surgery Pediatrics etc.

Sincerely,

Gautam Samadder, MD
President, AAPI

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