

COLLABORATION: TENS' STICKS FOR SHARING ONE'S BURDEN

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In this issue of the JCMCTA there is an article on collaboration of research and training between Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMC & H) and Mahidol Oxford Research Unit (MORU) of Thailand. The collaboration has been spanning over near a decade and the article narrates how in an add-on manner from scratch a success story of achieving the aims in the field of research and development have been evolved leading to operational data to credible publication and at the same time transfer of knowledge, skill and attitude. Obviously the beneficiaries of these exercises are the people and the profession not only here but also beyond the boundary of the country in reshaping the clinical and other managements.

Collaboration is a recursive process where two or more people or organizations work together in an intersection of common goals. To accomplish any work with credible outcome and output there is a balanced need of setup, personnel, logistics, funding and scholastic operational leadership. For medical research this is more essential in contemporary period when scientific and technological advancement have made every aspects more critical and demanding mostly of advance expensive exercises that is not always possible in a resource limited set ups like that of ours. Notwithstanding the necessities and over all scarcity of availability of them even then everywhere there is at least one or other resources that are abundant at its credit but may not always focused. A successful collaboration discovers untapped resources.

Collaboration is something like that of fitting jigsaw puzzles that can be done only placing the pieces in proper alignments. Appropriate alignment is the key to success. Scattered pieces may represent each attribute; setup, personnel, logistics, funding, and scholastic operational leadership. In our setup there are so many abundances of various attributes usually that are over looked, these may be the welcoming setup, hard working personnel, research subjects and access. The lacking is logistics, technology,

sometimes skill and funding. A win-win fitting of all these attributes and opportunities between collaborators should end up in a success. A successful outcome begets another one through collaboration. Beginning with simple observational studies the CMCH and MORU have been cruising through pathophysiological researches, drug trials and others. More and more are adding with making of credible publications. In addition this collaboration is enriching the knowledge, skill and attitudinal aspects of our students, doctors and nurses through training, skill transfer visits, real time exercises and hence capacity enhancing and not to speak of 'learning by doing'. CMC has been entrusted by the nation for producing 'Safe Doctors and Scientists for the Nation', and this collaboration no doubt has been raising this entrustment to a new high.

In our own culture it has been said traditionally that 'Tens' sticks for sharing one's burden'. In fact the burden is the cherished work for the well being of fellow humankind through enriching the science and technology in the field of maintaining the health, prevention of morbidity and mortality and customizing the applied aspects. CMCH and MORU collaboration surly is reflecting this. Spanning near a decade also underscores that 'Together is beginning, working is the progress and staying is the success'.

Conflict of interest: The editor is a co-author of this article discussed.

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