



# AULA MAGNA

*An initiative by the Office of International Affairs & Collaborations, MAHE*

## **Community Service by the Community Physicians** **Saluting our front line warriors**

The medical professionals at the Department of Community Medicine (Preventive and Social Medicine), Kasturba Medical College, Manipal have been in the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Department is functional under Kasturba Medical College, Manipal and has joined hands with Kasturba Hospital, Manipal – a tertiary care hospital affiliated to the University in providing community service to the local people during the crisis.

The postgraduates at the department conducted surveys in the vicinity and gathered inputs from students, faculty and staff of MAHE as well as general public. Educational programs were conducted and helpline numbers were set in place to create awareness and facilitate communication about the pandemic. Prior to the nationwide lockdown, FAQs were disseminated in the locality and timely updates about COVID-19 guidelines released by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Ministry of Home Affairs(India) were made available. The postgraduates and interns were involved in screening the suspected cases and contact tracing at the Screening Desk set up at the hospital.

The department team in association with the Directorate of Student Affairs, coordinated the quarantine requirements of students and faculty returning to Manipal. The postgraduates provided clinical services in its peripheral health centres during and post lockdown.

The Department of Community Medicine has procured a research grant from the University of Edinburgh to study the effect of tobacco use on COVID-19. All in all, the department has played an important role in maintaining the quarantine facility at MAHE and developing the SOP.



**Postgraduate students screening patients at screening clinic of Kasturba Hospital, Manipal**

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## Europe Day Celebration

*Ms Priya Poojary*

Each year, the Manipal Centre for European Studies (MCES) organises events to mark May 9 to commemorate the anniversary of the historical Schuman Declaration that initiated the process of European integration. Due to the coronavirus crisis and the suspension of all academic activities on campus, no events were organised by MCES. The current crisis leaves no room for physical gathering but in spirit, we remain committed. Marking this day, the newly established Association of European Studies in India (AESI) launched a membership drive inviting applications for membership to the association. AESI is a registered organisation aimed at promoting European studies in India. It aims to bring all EU studies' enthusiasts on a common platform. MAHE has been one of the founding members of AESI. The social media team at the Centre organized an online quiz on the theme 'Europe' on this day.

## COVID19 affects Students' International Study Plans

*Ms Pranjali Kirloskar*

The impact of COVID-19 has left the education sector in a state of tension and uncertainty. With the newly imposed limitations on student mobility, educational institutions across the world have begun to search for novel alternatives to ensure minimum disruption to the academic curriculums in place. Several universities have resorted to virtual learning platforms, webinars, and online submission and evaluation methods.

Over the course of the lockdown, faculty members of the Manipal Centre for European Studies at Manipal Academy of Higher Education were seen to engage students in online classes equipped with follow up e-mails and virtual doubt clearing sessions.

One of the fundamental implication of the pandemic, however, remains the detrimental impact that it has had on the the travel plans of the students.

This is particularly relevant for the students pursuing Master in European Studies, a course which is known to encourage students to spend a semester or an academic year at MAHE's partner universities in Europe. Under the

current circumstances, students and parents seem worried to take up international travel at this point. The degree of impact of the current situation on the academic rigour of the study programs in Europe is brought to question by the student community. Parents have expressed concern over the emotional turmoil their wards might experience given the unprecedented events that might follow. Scepticism has also arose with regards to this venture given the ongoing financial fluctuations in the world economy.

By and large, the higher education sector appeared unprepared to deal with these shortcomings. The universities seemed to have been caught at critical crossroads with regards to retaining old methodologies or look for alternative approach for teachers and students. It is important to note, however, that these unanticipated times have provided learning ground for teachers and students to adapt to novel methods of courses' execution.

While universities have undergone substantial derailment from it's original course curriculum and financial scheme, the recent popularisation of online learning courses and the 'internationalisation at home', so to speak, appears to be a promising approach to set up a defining pillar for modern international academic opportunities.

## Erasmus Information Office

Erasmus Information Office (EIO) was launched on 10 May 2019 to provide information for funding opportunities under the Erasmus+ program and other European Funding agencies.

Manipal Centre for European Studies' (MCES) long experience with the management of grants/ endowments from the European Union and collaboration with other European organisations were what led to creating this initiative. Through the EIO, MCES hopes to share best practices and encourage more students and staff to explore the different prospects that could help in enhancing skills with a focus on academic progress. The primary objectives are as below:

- Point of Information for Erasmus+ program and other opportunities under EU initiatives
- Sharing of best practices
- Encouraging scholars at MAHE to apply and collaborate with other Educational Institutions
- Extending support in technical writing and information regarding documentation

The last year saw the EIO assisting eight project applications under the 2019 Call of the Erasmus+ program, all of which were made towards the project sub-category of Capacity Building in Higher Education. The Office's involvement varied per project, however, the office contributed by providing information regarding documentation, the EU participant portal and technical writing for all said projects. EIO also helped in the project application and design information for a project submitted by Prasanna School of Public Health, a constituent unit of MAHE.

Apart from this, the office assists scholars looking for funding opportunities, on a one-to-one basis. Due to the specificity of inquiries, EIO invests ample time in researching funding opportunities ideal for aspirants. The call window, i.e., October to February, sees a spike in queries, and thus, the office expects to cater to more student and staff queries in the upcoming months of 2020. The office has also created an introductory booklet on the Erasmus Program providing a summary of the funding program along with information specific to Indian Participants. EIO is currently designing an information seminar which is focusing on increasing MAHE participation for such initiatives.

## Student Testimonial

### Lockdown Insight at Manipal



*William M and Tshegofatso M from South Africa*

"With the nationwide shutdown prevailing, students are left with no choice but to stay at the host institution. Our experience in Manipal has been great but COVID has made it challenging. It is safe here but boring as there is no interaction with people outside and there is an uneasy feeling due to the fear of contracting the virus. We decided to stay in Manipal as going back home would have been risky. Back home, the lockdown has been eased, so our families are still going to work and our safety is not guaranteed. Also, there were zero cases in Manipal at that time and going back would mean attending classes at 5:30 in the morning due to the time difference. Although we do feel lonely without our family, we would rather stay back here than go back home. Here, we get to attend classes without distractions. And with the lockdown, we got to have more time to ourselves, talk to new people and even learnt how to cook."

## New Paradigms of Cross-Border Higher Education after the COVID-19 Crisis



*Professor K Baskaran,  
Pro Vice Chancellor,  
International Research Partnerships,  
Deakin University, Australia*

The current pandemic crisis has pushed higher education institutions across the globe towards an unknown future that impacts the economic, the social and the political environment institutions operate within. As leaders of higher education institutions, it is our responsibility to navigate this unknown path and create a sustainable future. The current crisis has also accelerated the implementation and acceptance of online, or “Cloud” learning environments. The traditional teaching only through face-to-face delivery has been challenged, and the limitations of this have been recognised by individual teachers, organisations and governments. During this period, solutions have been found to deliver a full semester of curriculum, as well as necessary assessment tasks through online platforms, all with varying levels of success. Australia has institutions, such as Deakin

University who have been delivering fully online learning programs for over 40 years. These institutions have moved rapidly, and successfully, to offering all elements of their higher education programs online during the COVID crisis. Over the past decade, Deakin University has made significant investment on digital technology to ensure blended learning and teaching model is available to all students, and this investment has paid off during these unprecedented times.

In the absence of vaccine for COVID-19 and limitation of international travel across various countries and regions, the future of cross-border higher education will enter a new paradigm. In this new paradigm, partner institutions Deakin University and MAHE have the unique opportunity to develop innovative and sustainable strategies that incorporate global, digital and virtual opportunities for collaborative learning and teaching, research and student mobility. Such strategies have to be flexible enough to adopt to the ever changing environment as well as to meet future student ambitions for cross-border education and graduate employability. For universities like MAHE and Deakin, surely the most obvious opportunity in leveraging established partnerships into strong collaborations in research, educational and mobility programs that utilise the digital environment while also blended a limited valuable and affordable amount of on-campus or face-to-face activity. Partner institutions in one country can also form an excellent stepping stone to facilitate experiences for students in another country who are reluctant or unable to travel abroad to study. As the lockdowns translate into a substantial global economic downturn, it is likely that enhancing employability by developing transversal skills abroad will become an increasingly attractive option for many people, and partnerships are a key way to

deliver this to the future global workforce.

Therefore, a sustainable post-COVID internationalisation effort will need to embrace the digital technology in learning and teaching; establish virtual research networks; and online student mobility and internship opportunities. This level of active engagement between our institutions will enable us to recover from the impact of COVID crisis. While internationalisation will continue to offer numerous benefits post-COVID, it can only continue to flourish if universities embrace the challenges and adapt quickly to the new world we are entering.

## World Health Day

*Dr Asha Kamath,  
Associate Director, Prasanna School of Public Health  
Professor and Head, Department of Data Sciences,  
MAHE*



**“Health is a relationship between you and your body”**

**~Terri Guillemets**

From 1950 onwards, April 7 has been World Health Day, a UN and World Health Organisation observance meant to raise awareness of the need to improve global health. Aiming at globally protecting human health and well-being, this special day has become a collective action. Each year, a topic highlighting the year's priority area of concern is selected.

In this International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, current health status of nursing around the world is the highlight of the World Health Day 2020 with the theme: **Support nurses and midwives**, apt in this pandemic scenario, the frontline warriors in dealing with the millions affected by COVID-19. WHO and its partners are charting out a series of recommendations to strengthen the nursing and midwifery workforce.

The evidence to the importance of the role of these frontline warriors during the COVID-19 pandemic is seen leading to the emphasis that in a country like India there is a need to culture a new breed of Nurse Physicians to support the medical system. These are the first point of contact to patients of all ages. The strengthening of this professional category is vital to achieve local, national and global goals in health. They support not only in disease and illness but also in wellness of the community.

The academic and research training of the nurses has improved over time, but the level of attention to the clinical placements of nurses has not caught the same pace yet. Increased migration and mobility has led to a greater demand.

World Health Day may be just one day, but it is a reminder to us regarding the importance of health as something that needs to be a part of everything we do. Let us appreciate and encourage the untiring services rendered by this workforce.



## Australian Virtual Masterclass Series

### *An Austrade Initiative to combat the COVID crisis*

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) is Australia's leading trade and investment agency. One of their strategies being promoting Australia and its international capability, Austrade joins hands with Australian universities to develop a roadmap towards promoting global education and capacity building. Austrade is responsible for international marketing and promotion of Australian education and has contributed for sustainable growth of the international education.

Ms Neha Grover, Education Manager, Austrade at New Delhi gives us a brief overview on how Austrade, off late, in collaboration with the Australian universities is supporting internationalisation by offering virtual sessions online.

"As part of our Australian government efforts during this challenging start to 2020, Australian Trade and Investment Commission has launched 'Australia Virtual Masterclass Series' for students and educators to experience Australian education from the comfort of their home. This is an opportunity for students and educators to learn from Australian academics where they share their expertise and knowledge in niche areas, demonstrate Australia's support to students, and share information on the services, resources available to them throughout the COVID-19 crisis. The masterclasses are delivered to students and teaching faculty at the institutes, colleges and schools, providing the latest industry knowledge, and enabling educators to smoothly transition to online teaching.

The Australian Government reached out to Australian universities for their expression of interest and have been able to confirm 21 masterclasses with 9 Australian universities showcasing their best academics and niche areas. These series have started from 12 May 2020 and each session is a 60-90 minute masterclass with content delivered by the academics.

Topics such as biology of viruses, data analytics etc. are some of the topics that Australia's world-class education sector will present in partnership to India."

## MIT Covid19 Challenge

A team of three students **Akshatha Kamath** (CSE Batch of 2021), **Shubham Rateria** (CCE Batch of 2019) and **Adri Rajaraman** (ECE Batch of 2019) from Manipal Institute of Technology along with three professionals Melia Watson, Washington DC (Respiratory Therapist, MBA), Hsiang Wei Hu, Taiwan (Cofounder of Acusense Biomed), and Mariane Melo, UK (MD) won the Massachusetts Institute of Technology COVID-19 challenge event.



MIT hosted a 48-hour virtual hackathon aimed at addressing the COVID-19 outbreak.

**The problem:** Overcrowded hospitals with inappropriate admissions, whereas less than 5% of the average population under 50 years of age require hospitalization.

**The solution:** To build a TeleHealth platform for non-contact monitoring of vital signs such as heart rate, respiratory rate, and blood oxygen concentration using just a phone camera or webcam at home.

The team pitched their idea and was declared the winner of its track – 'Who to test and when' under 'How to protect vulnerable population from the effects of COVID-19?'. There were a total of 10 tracks.

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## KMC Manipal receives VALIDATE Pump Priming Award



### ***KMC Manipal gets the prestigious VALIDATE Pump-Priming Awards November 2019 from Oxford***

VALIDATE is an international network of researchers developing vaccines against globally significant diseases caused by complex intracellular pathogens with an initial focus on tuberculosis (TB), leishmaniasis, melioidosis, and leprosy, which cause substantial mortality and morbidity across the globe, particularly in low and middle income countries (LMICs). The VALIDATE Network's priorities lie in bringing together researchers from different specialities, different countries, different institutes and who work on different pathogens, with the aim of together making significant progress towards vaccines against our focused pathogens. They also provide a central hub website that highlights job and training opportunities in the field and organise workshops, seminars, a mentoring scheme, and training grants.

VALIDATE grants are awarded for pump-priming projects of up to £50,000 (at 100% FEC), via competitive application to the Network Management Board (NMB).

The projects run for a maximum of 12 months and should lead to relevant and useful data for the field, or produce pilot data that will lead to a larger grant application to an external funder. NMB is associated with University of Oxford. Dr Chiranjay Mukhopadhyay, Associate Dean and Clinical Microbiologist, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal is one among the eight awardees to receive the prestigious Validate Pump-Priming Award for his project 'Characterizing the cellular immunity and metabolic responses to Mtb and Bps in Indian patients for vaccine design'. The award was announced in November 2019. Dr Mukhopadhyay has been working on Melioidosis extensively, and is the lead member of International Melioidosis Network ([www.melioidosis.info](http://www.melioidosis.info)) and Indian Melioidosis Research Forum ([www.melioidosisindia.com](http://www.melioidosisindia.com)).

He holds Dr TMA Pai Endowment Chair and Center for Emerging and Tropical Diseases. He has been associated with NMB and University of Oxford, UK for research activities.

He is collaborating with Dr Susanna Jane Dunachie, who is Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at University of Oxford and working on immunopathogenesis of tropical bacterial infections, with a special interest in the interaction between Type 2 diabetes mellitus and melioidosis, and global infection including antimicrobial resistance. Other than VALIDATE, they have collaboration on flagship Global Research on AntiMicrobial resistance (GRAM) Project of the Oxford Global Burden of Disease (GBD).

## MCHP Global Alumni Series

*Dr G Arun Maiya,*

*DEAN, Manipal College of Health Professions, MAHE*

### **How did the thought of connecting with alumni come up?**

I had directed each department to engage the global alumni through online continuing professional development programs. Thus emerged, the concept of the Global Alumni Series as a strategy to enhance alumni relations and engagement, in the spirit of the theme “by alumni, through alumni, to alumni”. This series has dual objectives of increasing the alumni visibility and providing a platform for young graduates to interact with their senior alumni peers thereby expanding the network of alumni relations.

### **What has been the impact of these interactions on the current students?**

The webinar series proved to be an effective platform for the current students to interact and connect with their senior peers. This has facilitated the alumni to share not just clinical and theoretical aspects of various domains of health professions but also industry expectations of the graduate. In the process, both students and alumni shared unexplored ideas and innovations in their respective fields and also their personal experience.

### **What has been the response of the alumni who are on board sharing their experiences?**

Manipal College of Health Professions has conducted about 30 alumni webinars from the US, UK, Middle East, Nepal and Nigeria during Jan-May 2020. The global alumni found the concept of a global alumni webinar series interesting and showed enthusiasm in joining this initiative. Many volunteered to be the resource faculty for topics related to their expertise or occupation, thereby providing help and tips beyond textbook knowledge. Through this series, the alumni, who haven't been involved with university activities since graduation felt connected and committed with their alma mater,

improved self-visibility in their respective fields and had a sense of responsibility in mentoring the current students. Most importantly, our alumni who are frontline healthcare professionals working with COVID-19 affected patients across the globe shared their clinical experiences and provided useful clinical practices practiced in the facilities they are working for.

### **How long would this series be?**

This alumni webinar series began as part of continual alumni engagement during COVID lockdown. Owing to the enormous success and positive impacts on current students and alumni, this webinar series will be integrated with several other initiatives of ongoing alumni relations and engagement. Henceforth, these webinars will be a regular feature and the departments will have an annual calendar of the same, both theme and non-theme based.

### **Does MCHP have plans for similar initiatives in the near future?**

MCHP is committed to continue similar initiatives to promote alumni relations and engagement. It's through these means that an alumna of MAHE can bring back and contribute to their alma mater. The Institution Alumni Relations of MCHP is planning for theme or topic based interprofessional alumni webinars, first of its kind globally.



## First Indian on the International Advisory Council Of AHIMA

Dr Sabu Karakka Mandapam, Professor of Health Information Management and Associate Dean of Manipal College of Health Professions (MCHP), MAHE has been selected as an expert member of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) International Advisory Council. This International Advisory Council consists of members from a wide range of backgrounds and countries and Prof Sabu, is the first representative from India in this prestigious council. He is a member of the Doctoral Committee as well as the Board of Studies. He is also a PhD guide in Health Information Management Domain, MAHE.



*Dr Sabu Karakka Mandapam,  
Associate Dean, Manipal College of  
Health Professions, MAHE*

AHIMA is a global non-profit organization based in Chicago, USA, established in 1928 by the American College of Surgeons. AHIMA is a leading professional organization dedicated to Health Information Management education, accreditation, professional credentialing, and policy making.

AHIMA International was established in October 2016 with a mission to carry out various AHIMA professional and educational activities outside the United States. For nearly a century, AHIMA has helped improve health record quality by taking a leadership role in the effective management of health data and information and delivering quality healthcare to the public.

Dr Sabu's formal association with AHIMA started in April 2014 as a member representative (South East Asia region) in Global Health Workforce Council (GHWC) formed under AHIMA Foundation. This association with AHIMA has provided him a platform to establish professional collaboration with many AHIMA members and officials as part of various global HIM professional activities. In February 2020, AHIMA International had started deliberations with Prof Sabu to build strategies for commencing AHIMA professional activities in India.

As a recognition of his knowledge, insights and contributions provided to AHIMA International, they have offered him a seat on the International Advisory Council to represent India. This voluntary position is for a tenure of two years and his role as a council member would be providing strategies, advice and counsel to the international work and professional activities of AHIMA, especially in India. He would actively participate in virtual and face-to-face meetings of the Council.

Through the cooperation of the Council, Prof Sabu envisages opportunities to expand the global HIM practice and professional activities in India. He would be also facilitating sustainable collaborations between AHIMA and leading educational and healthcare organizations in India, like MAHE and Manipal Healthcare Enterprises for various professional and business activities.

# WHO and WHF Research Experience

*“From dreaming big to thinking beyond”*

*Mr Abraham Samuel Babu,  
Department of Physiotherapy,  
Manipal College of Health Professions, MAHE*



Being a part of international professional bodies is a dream come true for any young professional. The opportunity to be a part of and serve with two such organisations has indeed been a truly rewarding and humbling experience for me. The first, being selected for the international 25-member group of varied professionals to the Salim Yusuf Emerging Leaders program of the World Heart Federation (WHF) and the second, being selected to be a part of the 16 member development group of the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) Package of Rehabilitation Interventions (PRI) for ischemic heart disease.

WHF is the global cardiovascular society working along with various cardiology societies of the world to promote cardiovascular research and quality of care. To promote the next level of leadership in cardiovascular research, eminent cardiovascular researcher, Dr Salim Yusuf, instituted the Emerging Leaders Program under the aegis of the WHF. From its conception in 2014, each year has focused on various cardiovascular diseases. The 2019 cohort, which I was privileged to be a part of, focused on heart failure. The group met in the UK for 10 days to learn advanced research methods in heart failure and formulate a research plan for implementation in a low resource setting, with funding from the WHF. This exercise gave me the opportunity to interact with professionals from all over the world and gain insight into the various healthcare delivery models around the world. This program has fostered team building skills and development of new collaborations which has made me embark on new research projects, with a more global and impactful focus.

I learnt no matter what you achieve professionally, it is important to continue to “Dream big, think beyond”. The expansion of the research network, both nationally and internationally, has been a support to my next steps of research. These experiences have taught me to be a better researcher, with a much broader outlook. All these experiences are equipping me to answer a question a senior scientist asked me “where do you see yourself 5-10 years from now as a researcher?”

# MAHE- MENA FAIMER Global Webinar Series



A Collaborative Effort by MAHE-FAIMER India and ASU-MENA FAIMER Regional Institute, Egypt during COVID times



## Competencies for Online Teaching Mohammed Hassanien

Advisor for Vice President for Educational Affairs, KAU, SA, Core Faculty ASU-MENA FRI



## Development of Rubrics for Online Assessment Samar Ahmed

Director, ASU-MENA FAIMER Institute, Egypt



## Online Assessment of Clinical Competence: Approaches and Methods Mohammed Hany Shehata,

Professor of Family Medicine, AGU, Bahrain, Core Faculty, ASU-MENA FRI



## Handling Volume, Variety and Veracity of Data – COVID 19 as Context Seena Biju

Dean, School of Management and Business, MIU Malaysia and Core Faculty MAHE-FAIMER



## Interprofessional Collaboration during COVID time John HV Gilbert

Professor Emeritus, UBC, Canada & Dr TMA Pai Chair in IPE, MAHE, Manipal



## Teaching during Turbulence: Changing paradigms in Faculty Development Ciraj AM

Director, MAHE-FAIMER Institute, Manipal, Chair, IndIPEN & Secretary AHPE, India

In a collaborative effort by MAHE-FAIMER Institute for Leadership in Interprofessional Education, India and Ain Shams University – Middle East North Africa FAIMER Regional Institute, Egypt, a Global Webinar Series was organized to discuss aspects of teaching learning, assessment and academic leadership during the trying times of COVID 19.

Six webinars each of about 90 to 120 minutes were conducted, including a fair share of Q&A that helped participants clarify their doubts and concerns. The talks were facilitated on the Microsoft Teams platforms.

Despite the challenges of the significantly different time zones, the webinar series were attended by a large number of participants including members of the FAIMER institutes across the globe mainly from India, Egypt, USA, KSA, UAE, Malaysia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Bahrain, UK, and Pakistan to name a few. The participants described the webinars as engaging, relevant and timely as it helped them develop knowledge and skills for implementation in their own settings.

Given the challenging situation of remote learning that the academia is passing through as a fraternity, these webinars were timed to encourage proactive learning to benefit all the members of the FAIMER family and invited guests. The Webinar series which began on 4th May concluded on 30th May 2020.



## Sakura Science Exchange Program



*Mr Vinod Kamath,  
Assistant Director, Alumni and International Relations  
Assistant Professor, Department of Media Technology  
Manipal Institute of Technology, MAHE*

Sakura Science Exchange Program, an initiative by Japan Science and Technology (JST) has opened up a unique academic platform for bilateral research and academic collaboration between India and Japan. Under this initiative, a delegation involving top quality researchers and visionary administrators from Indian academia (representatives from 23 universities in and scientists from DST) visited Tokyo from 25 January to 01 February 2020.

The Orientation was held at the Japanese Embassy, New Delhi on 24 January 2020 where His Excellency Mr Satoshi Suzuki, Japanese Ambassador to India, highlighted the modalities and expectations from the participants. The exploration of opportunities for collaborations began with Indian delegation in Tokyo on 26 January. Visits to National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), University of Tokyo, Azuba University, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Fujitsu Ltd. showcased the commitment and leadership of Japanese in future technologies involving Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Realty, Life Science, Bio Technology, Autonomous mobile robots, Cyber security etc.

Experiencing the cultural ethos of Japan with memorable visits to Japan Olympic Museum, Asakusa Temple, city of Tokyo and Mount Fuji transformed the learning to a new scale. The possibility of collaborative work in diversified areas, inter disciplinary projects, opportunities for students, faculty and researchers, various scholarship availability and the first hand exposure to intensity of academic endeavour are invaluable experience for the entire Indian delegation. I thank MAHE for providing me with an excellent opportunity.



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## MIT Hackathon



*Here are few excerpts from our conversation with the MIT Hackathon winning team*

### What was your idea for the Hackathon?

Our idea was to build a non-contact vital estimation method, based on a webcam or any camera attached to a mobile. We did this using a front-end application, which was platform-agnostic, meaning we can use it on any platform like an iPad, iPhone, etc. It is called remote photoplethysmography.

### How did you come up with this idea?

My teammates Shubham Rateria and Adri Rajaraman were my seniors in Robo-Manipal, both being my batchmates. It was Shubham's idea to start given his prior experience in Stanford Hackathon. Hospitals have been crowded throughout this Pandemic and during Hackathon, the case in Italy was terrible. Doctors had trouble prioritizing patients, hence we envisioned that it would fit into telemedicine because in Stanford and few other places doctors were making the diagnosis using this platform. And since doctors cannot diagnose without knowing the heart rate, respiration rate etc., this proved to be an excellent tool.

### How was your team formed?

Our idea was related to medical science. For the concept to work, we needed someone from the medical field to help us analyze the impact on the healthcare system, and how we can intervene in the existing process to validate our ideas. We pitched our plan in the pitch session and put the word out that we were looking for healthcare workers and a businessperson. We had a diverse team starting from a Brazilian doctor and CEO

of Medical Innovation company, UK, an American therapist with Business knowledge, a PhD student from Vietnam having worked on overseas research.

### Did you have a mentor or coach who led the team?

We did not have a mentor or coach per se as people meet each other and register as a team. Robo Manipal and the Hackathon itself are the sole reasons for our team selection. The tech team was developed keeping business and domain expertise in mind.

### How did you feel once you realized you had won?

We were sleep-deprived for 48 hours because it was a nonstop Hackathon that happened according to the US time. We had to stay up because we were the tech team and were also doing the business part of it. We slept through the prize distribution. We did not make a big deal because we just wanted to get back to sleep. It was undoubtedly unexpected because it was such a huge platform. There were so many people all over the world. We exclaimed, "Oh! We won" and then we slept. Soon, we received an overwhelming response from college. The idea was not to limit us to the win. I felt that it was not such a big deal because there is a long way to go in deploying the solution if you want to get it out to the real world. A lot of companies also wanted to collaborate with us. We talked to people to deploy the solution, test our algorithms, improve them, and implement them.

# Dhruv Suri bags the Knight- Hennessey Scholarship at Stanford University



## CEO AND FOUNDER OF CANDELA ENERGY

*Graduate in Aeronautical Engineering, MIT, Manipal (2015-2019)*

*Knight-Hennessey Scholar at Stanford University*

### How did you prepare for Stanford and how challenging was the entire process?

To be fair, preparing for Stanford wasn't just a short term project. I set the target a year and a half ahead, and worked on everything I thought would have an impact on my application. I carried out research in the fields of Energy, Social science and Aerodynamics and focused on the real world application of my research. I worked with a non profit organisation to understand my community and to make a small impact on it. In addition to this, I dedicated six months to prepare for GRE, revising my statement of purpose and personal history statement, and making sure that I give it my best efforts. We tend to have a lot of misconceptions about college applications, which makes the entire process challenging and tiring. But it's really not. You need to focus on what you want your application to look like when reviewers are reading it and emphasize on how you would stand out from the crowd.

That said, don't do something just because it looks good on your resume. Frankly, if you do anything that you are passionate about, you will always be ready to go the extra mile!

### What is the purpose behind Candela Energy?

Candela Energy is a social enterprise that addresses the needs of marginalized communities in refugee camps, villages and peri-urban slum dwellings. We help communities gain access to essential commodities like water. We also help businesses increase their outreach to rural regions by offering a last-mile network and serve as frontline sales agents in their local community.

### What research work are you undertaking at this moment?

At the MIT D-Lab, my work is focused on the nexus of energy and technology and its impact on issues like climate change and poverty. I'm currently designing low-cost energy systems that can help communities in sub-Saharan Africa transition towards renewable energy sources.

### What is the biggest takeaway from your time at Manipal?

Manipal gave me the freedom to organize my time to my liking. I remember when I had started a research group, I was also working for two external projects, playing on the football team, and managing academics. Every single experience taught me something valuable. If there's one thing that stands out-it's hustling. Manipal teaches you how to be a hustler – to work towards generating your opportunities, and then cashing in on them. I miss the place so much!

## MAHE to Oxford

*MAHE student makes it to Oxford- A journey from East to West*



**Rashmi Samant**

**Graduate in Mechanical Engineering from MIT , Manipal (2016-2020)**

**Recently got selected to pursue Masters program in energy systems at the University of Oxford, Oxford, England**

**Looking back, how would you recollect this journey?**

Honestly, it was very challenging to get in, and I had planned plenty of backup universities. The screening process for Oxford aspirants goes beyond the standard process of

admission followed in almost every other universities in the world. The various rounds culminate into a sit-down interview with a panel of committee members elected as fellows of the Royal Society and are awarded other such decorated medals for their academic contribution to the world. It comes down to proving one's worth to the panel in over 20 minutes of discussions over the issues revolving around the major chosen for studies at Oxford, reflecting the accumulated experiences over time.

**In view of the global pandemic, what are your expectations from the future?**

The ongoing pandemic has challenged my ability to join the course on time, but there is always light at the end of the tunnel. I hope to work with the United Nations on the climate change task force after graduating from Oxford University.

**A piece of advice you would like to share, that everyone should keep in mind.**

I would like to urge all budding aspirants of any premier institute to work on their originality of thought process and hold on to it through admissions and past the mass of million applicants.



## Mars Rover Manipal (MRM)

MRM is a multi-disciplinary student team from MAHE striving to build next-gen rovers for exploration of extraterrestrial environments and applications of robotics in interplanetary missions. Their work is divided into five subunits: Electronics & AI, Mechanical, Science Cache, Management, and Research. In the qualifying round for University Rover Challenge 2020, MRM scored a 91.6 out of 100 which places them 7th in the world and 1st in India. They have submitted their System Acceptance Review for the University Rover Challenge 2020.



## Social Media



Spread across Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, social media has been our way of bringing transparency and extending the committee's role of reaching to the populace, a testament to this student body's very name. From general information about our activities/programs to showcasing photos of our diverse campus, it helps project an honest look at the MAHE campus.

## MAESTRO



A multitude of colleges across MAHE culminate on your screen through CAM's online portal MAESTRO, as the members work whole-heartedly to bring forth projects of the highest caliber from each of the institutes in the university. MAESTRO aims to bring together this generation's brightest minds from over the world to pursue a new E-NDEAVOUR through research, innovation, and imagination.

## Project E-ndeavour

Internships are considered one of the most important aspects of academic curriculum. Keeping it in mind, MAHE believes this learning should not stop. Presenting Project E-ndeavour, an ambitious initiative by MAESTRO in line with MAHE's efforts to expand the learning horizon.

Project E-ndeavour aims at providing quality internships online for international students which can be accessed and worked on from the comfort of one's home. It includes an extensive variety of projects ranging from Engineering Studies, Pharmaceutical Science to Health Sciences. All the projects and internships are offered by various colleges across MAHE, thereby assuring top-notch quality and zero compromise on value. For more information and other numerous offers, log in to the MAESTRO Portal.



## Culturals



The Cultural department of Campus Ambassadors organizes events and campus tours to allow the students to familiarize themselves with the student town. Among these is the much-awaited International Students Day, Kairos, organized every August. The event provides a forum for students around the world to introduce a part of their culture through music, dance, and themed stalls.

## Newsletter



The Newsletter team has an assortment of talented writers and graphic designers who work together to present Aula Magna to the international student body. It is a gateway into honing your designing and writing talents while simultaneously cultivating team spirit when working with other departments in CAM. It presents an individual with multitude of opportunities to interact with a wide range of professionals and to learn from the enriching experience.

## Board Transfer Process



As the current committee of Campus Ambassadors Manipal is on the verge of completing their tenure, the baton needs to be passed on to several fresh faces. For this, the application procedure for the board transfer to the various senior and junior board positions has started. The applicants were interviewed by the various department heads based on their interest in MAESTRO, Cultural, Newsletter, Internal Affairs or Public relations respectively, about their experiences and the changes they would like to see in CAM. The chosen candidates from the working committee will be assuming their various positions in the board for a term of one year starting in July 2020.

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