



# AULA MAGNA



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





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## Partnership Beyond Borders: Leibniz Universität Hannover and MAHE



**Dr Birgit Barden-Läufer**

Director, International Office, Leibniz Universität Hannover

(Photo Courtesy: Roland Schmidt)

It is an honour for me to be invited to feature in the newsletter of MAHE in speaking about the long-standing successful engagement between Leibniz University Hannover (LUH) and MAHE. It all started in May 2013 when Dr Manjula Mundakana from German Consulate in Bangalore contacted the International Office of LUH regarding a potential partnership with MAHE. It was mainly to explore potential tie-up for twinning programs in the field of Engineering. I was impressed by the very clear communication behaviour and the professionalism of the exchange because this meant that resources were used efficiently from the very beginning, be it time or finances. On the invitation from MAHE, together with my colleague Dr Bala Ramani, who is responsible for the co-operations with Indian universities, I visited Manipal in November 2013. This first visit gave me a long-lasting memory, which I never will forget, of highly organised planning, very good impressions about the strengths of MAHE and very honest discussions on what is possible and what is not. By visiting Manipal Centre for European Studies (MCES) and Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), I knew during the first visit, it will be a very strong value-based partnership between MAHE and LUH. I wish to thank Dr H Vinod Bhat, the then Pro-Vice-Chancellor, MAHE who laid the ground stone for the centralised internationalisation of MAHE. My vivid memory also was the morning walks to the top point of the hillock enjoying the Arabian Sea view, the green campus, the chirping of birds and not to forget the finest teaching department of Indian cuisine, where later I could lay hands a style of Indian sambar (a dish with lentils and mix of vegetables). Anyone who knows me closely easily identifies my closeness to India, its philosophical culture and cuisine. After my visit in 2013, professors from LUH visited MAHE for further discussion, visits to institutes and labs, interaction with students and professors. LUH delegation was highly impressed by the facilities let be student care centres, research labs and very decentralised administration with high autonomy to the individual institutes as we have in Germany. This created a mutual bond between both institutions. Around April 2014, Ms Shantala Pai was selected to be part of the DAAD funded Dialogue on Higher Education Strategies - Management of Internationalisation (DIES-MoI) training course coordinated by the International Office of LUH. As of 2015, MAHE is hosting a dedicated centralised International Office which LUH can take pride in being instrumental through its DIES-MoI training course. This is a special milestone as from that point there is no turning back on cooperation between MAHE and LUH as it moved from level to level successfully in building a strong base for long term friendship between the institutions. In June 2014, Dr Prof H Vinod Bhat

and Dr Prof Mohini Gupta visited LUH to further concretise the agreements on student exchange and joint research. Two agreements were signed on 21 October 2014, one general and one student exchange agreement. Currently, the student exchange happens in the field of engineering, physics, mathematics and participation in summer school. MAHE serves as regional partner for DIES-MoI training courses since 2016 where regional workshops take place for one week with participants from Asian countries. In April 2018, Prof Dr Raghu A R, Director of International Office visited LUH to review the cooperation and discussing new avenues of further cooperation. At the end, all I wish to say is academic cooperation takes decades or even more for successfully cementing but also it's a continuous process and LUH is deeply honoured to be a trusted friend and partner of MAHE. I wish MAHE continued success in their pursuit for excellence in research and teaching in maintaining a world-class university. All the best.

## Commemorating the Polish Science Day at MAHE

The Polish Science Day, celebrated on Nicolaus Copernicus' birthday, is the day to follow and celebrate the achievements of Polish researchers and strengthen interest in the field of science.

On 19 February 2021, the Office of International Affairs and Collaborations (OIAC) and the Department of Languages had organised the Polish Science Day celebration, and announced the inauguration of the National Agency of Academic Exchange



Celebration of Polish Science Day at MAHE

(NAWA) office at Manipal Academy of Higher Education. The chief guest for the evening was His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Poland's Ambassador to India. The Guests of Honour were Dr Grażyna Żebrowska, Director General of NAWA, Lt Gen (Dr) M D Venkatesh, VSM (Retd) Vice Chancellor, MAHE and Mr Raghu C Rajappa, Honorary Consul of Republic of Poland in Bengaluru. The Office will be headed by Ms. Justyna Guziak, Faculty of Polish Language at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education. An MoU was signed with Adam Mickiewicz University, by Professor Rafał Witkowski, the Vice-Rector, Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU), Poznan and Lt Gen Dr M D Venkatesh, Vice-Chancellor of MAHE. .



**POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY  
FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE**

## DIES MOI - Paving the Path for Internationalisation

Manipal Academy of Higher Education in association with Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany organized the DIES Training course on Management of Internationalisation. The event was held from 15-22 February 2021 at Manipal. The program was designed to train international office staff to manage processes and tasks of



internationalisation in the area of higher education. Leibniz University along with The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany and German Rector's Conference (HRK), Germany organized this training course with its three regional associates Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Africa, Universitat de Guanajuato, Latin America, and Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India.

The inaugural event was presided over by Dr Katja Lasch, Director DAAD Regional Office, New Delhi as the Chief Guest, and Lt Gen Dr M D Venkatesh, Vice-Chancellor, MAHE as the guest of honour. The International Office Directors Dr Birgit Barden Läufer and Dr Raghu Radhakrishnan from Leibniz University and Manipal Academy of Higher Education, respectively were present. The program highlighted interactive sessions related to internationalization in the Indian and Southeast Asian context and had international speakers addressing the participants from Germany, Vietnam, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Iran, and India.



Manipal Academy of Higher Education had the rare distinction of being a co-host to the historic event welcoming the Biden-Harris Administration. The US Mission to India is using these first 100 days of the Biden administration to engage robustly with youth across India through meaningful conversations about the future of the US-India relationship. The Honourable Vice-Chancellor of MAHE, Lt Gen (Dr) M D Venkatesh, flagged off the 100 in 100 campaign in a high-profile virtual event on 11 March 2021 which was attended by the students and teaching staff of Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal Institute of Communication and the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations.

Ms Cori Bickel, Press Officer, US Consulate General in Chennai, held a presentation on Indo-US relations, Ms Anita Bose Natarajan, the Adviser at Education USA Bangalore elaborated on opportunities in the US for prospective doctoral students. Dr Raghu Radhakrishnan, Director, International Collaborations, concluded the meeting by expressing his gratitude to the US Consulate General in Chennai, and Education USA Bangalore at Yashna Trust and lauded the efforts of the US Mission to India for engaging students in the event.

# New Partnerships



## MAHE Alumni Giving to WGSHA



**Nicholas Machado,**  
Head Pastry Chef at Au79 Cafe, Australia  
Alumni, WGSHA, MAHE

Chef Nicholas Machado, the Head Pastry Chef at Au79 Cafe, Victoria, Australia and accomplished alumnus of Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration (WGSHA), has started a scholarship program for his alma mater called the Lourdes Scholarship, named in honour of his mother. Chef Machado seeks to pay Rs 1,00,000 per annum in tuition fees for one passionate student enrolling into the BHM course who isn't financially capable of meeting the fees and mentorship for the student throughout their course. The introduction of the scholarship was commemorated by the students and faculty of WGSHA through an online event that was live streamed through Zoom and Facebook Live Streaming with

Dr Rohit Singh, Director Alumni Relations, MAHE present as the Chief Guest. This is the first contribution of this stature by an alumnus from the college and could inspire other alumni to start similar initiatives for the betterment of students and the institutes.

## MSF International, JIPMER Puducherry and KMC Manipal Collaborate for Global Health Training

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International initiated the Global Health and Humanitarian Medicine (GHHM) course to address the issue of high costs associated with the specialisation in Tropical Diseases. The program aims to provide high quality training in tropical medicine and public health in order to improve patient care in areas

where it is needed most. The course structure includes weekly seminars conducted at the following institutions - Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Christian Medical College, Vellore, and JIPMER, Puducherry in South Asia by various experts. The MoU with Manipal Academy of Higher education was initiated in 2017.

For the academic year 2020-21, the Department of Microbiology, KMC Manipal collaborated with JIPMER, Puducherry, and MSF International to conduct a successful Parasitology training workshop for international students from 7-9 January 2021. The training of 32 international participants, representing 14 nationalities, was done on virtual laboratory training mode with the permission of Royal College of Physicians (UK) which was spearheaded by Dr Vinay Khanna, from KMC Manipal and Dr Nonika from JIPMER, Puducherry with Dr Ankur from MSF International as the moderator.



## Cambridge collaborates with Enteric Diseases Division, KMC Manipal



Enteric Diseases Division, headed by Dr Mamatha Ballal under the Department of Microbiology, Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal is involved in various projects in collaboration with international institutes. In February 2021, a member of the Enteric Diseases Division, Dr Vignesh Shetty was appointed as a Research Associate at the University of Cambridge, UK for a joint project on Adaptive Molecular Diagnostics. In January 2021, Dr Mamatha Ballal joined the Expert Team representing India in the FAO United Nations – One Health Project.

Research scholars at Enteric Diseases Division have been engaging in Journal Clubs with various institutes in India and Cambridge University. Dr Ankur Mutreja, Senior Lecturer from the Department of Medicine at Cambridge is an adjunct faculty at KMC Manipal and a co-guide for PhD students. Ongoing PhD projects under this collaboration includes "Characterization of Gut Microbiome and its Antimicrobial Resistance Pattern in Infants" and "Role of Infant Feeding Practices in Shaping the Gut Microbiota of Infants from a Rural Population – A Longitudinal Cohort Study".

## The Rotary Foundation Global Grant for TMA Pai Rotary Hospital in Karkala

The Dr TMA Pai Rotary Hospital began its services in 1988 as a 10-bed health facility to provide maternal and child care. It was set in the land acquired by the Rotary Club Karkala for this purpose. Over the years, along with assistance from Rotary International and its affiliate clubs, the hospital has grown in size to become a 100-bed facility with services like Ophthalmology and Community Cardiology being added. With the rising number of non-communicable diseases in the community, there has been an increase in the number of patients requiring dialysis in Karkala over the past few years. Keeping in mind the need to establish an early detection and treatment centre for chronic kidney disease, the hospital approached Rotary Club Manipal to fund a Dialysis Unit and Community Screening and Health Education project at Dr TMA Pai Rotary Hospital Karkala. The club members graciously agreed and partnered with the Stavanger International Rotary Club, Stavanger, Norway under The Rotary Foundation Global Grant to fund the project. A total of USD 34,803 has been sanctioned to procure three dialysis machines and conduct several screening camps in the community over the next year.



## MCOPS Hosts the Sixth International Conference on Redefining Pharmacy Practice

The Sixth International conference on clinical pharmacy was held during 7-9 January 2021 virtually on the theme “Redefining Clinical Pharmacy Practice and Education: Rising to the Pandemic Challenge”. The inaugural address was delivered by Lt Gen (Dr) M D Venkatesh, Vice Chancellor, MAHE. Over 170 national and international delegates participated in the event. A total of 118 scientific abstracts were received from various categories of pharmacy discipline.

Dr Coney Kang (University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, USA), Dr Rohan Elliott (Senior Pharmacist at Austin Health, Adjunct Associate Professor, Monash University, Australia) and Dr Dennis Thomas (Early Career Research Fellow, Priority Research Centre for Healthy Lungs, Hunter Medical Research Institute) were the eminent speakers for day one. Dr Rajesh Nayak (Associate Professor, Pharmacy Administration & Public Health College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, St John’s University, USA), Dr Ng Yen Ping (Deputy Dean of Academics & International Affairs & Head of Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy, AIMST University, Malaysia), Dr Raghavendra Pai (Director, Regional Pharmacovigilance Lead, AbbVie, Singapore) and Dr Thiyagu Rajakannan (Research Associate, IMPAQ International’s Health Division, Maryland, USA) were speakers for the second day.

## Exploring New Academic Frontiers through Indo-Japan DAILAB-CAFÉ Program

The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST, Japan) and Department of Biotechnology of India (DBT) has established a new joint research laboratory, named DBT-AIST International Laboratory for Advanced Biomedicine



(DAILAB) at AIST Tsukuba, Japan and Regional Centre for Biotechnology, DBT, Government of India. Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE, has been in collaboration with AIST from 4 August 2016 with the intent to cooperate in academics and research. The collaborative academic activities and research offer training for research students, collaborative research, joint organization of conferences/symposium/workshops which are regularly conducted. The faculty members and research scholars of MAHE are also the beneficiaries of these events. With the CAFE (Classroom for Advanced and Frontier Education) initiative under the Indo-Japan DAILAB collaborative program, a total of seven DAILAB-CAFÉ webinars were organized.

The presentation was given virtually to overseas institutions from the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Tsukuba, Japan. It was arranged to benefit graduate, postgraduate students, researchers and faculty members of MAHE and researchers from AIST, Japan, Peking Union Medical College, Tsinghua University, China, Brawijaya University, Indonesia, Hanyang University, South Korea, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Speakers from various institutes from all over Japan delivered their research work to the audience. This platform also provided researchers and students the opportunity to interact with these speakers.

## MSLS Exploring Plant-Environment Interactions and Sustainable Productions

An international Webinar on “Plant-Environment Interactions and Sustainable Productions” was held on 10 February 2021 at Manipal School of Life Sciences (MSLS), MAHE. The webinar was inaugurated by Prof K Satyamoorthy, Director, MSLS, MAHE and featured nine talks in two sessions by eminent scientists from across the globe on various topics related to plant environment interactions and sustainable production covering the molecular and species level interactions of plants with animals, microbes and environment.

With a preamble by Dr Satyamoorthy, the webinar started with a presentation by Dr Sindhuja Sankaran (Washington State University, USA), followed by Dr Ramesh Bhat (University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, India), Dr Vinita Gowda (IISER, Bhopal, India) and Dr Subhadeep Chatterjee (CDFD, Hyderabad, India). The afternoon session saw further lectures by Dr Rakhi Chaturvedi (IIT, Guwahati, India), Dr P Venkatachalam (Periyar University, Salem, India), Dr Anna-Maria Botha-Oberholster (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Dr Nox P Makunga (Stellenbosch University, South Africa) and Dr Prakash P Kumar (National University of Singapore, Singapore). The webinar also covered sustainable production, through innovation and technology and to reduce food loss and waste.

## Conference with University of Alabama on Multiculturalism and Diversity

Manipal Institute of Communication, in association with the University of Alabama and Centre for Intercultural Studies and Dialogue, MAHE virtually organized the 26th International Conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS) on 12-13 March 2021. The theme of the conference was ‘Diversity and Multiculturalism in Contemporary Times’ with the underlying understanding that issues of diversity and multiculturalism have become increasingly complex in the current times.

The virtual inaugural session witnessed the esteemed presence of Lt Gen (Dr) M D Venkatesh, (Vice-Chancellor, MAHE), Dr Mark Nelson (Dean & Professor, College of Communication & Information Sciences, University of Alabama), Dr Margaret D’Silva (President IAICS, Professor & Department Chair for Communication Studies, University of Alabama), and Dr Padma Rani (Director & Professor, Manipal Institute of Communication, MAHE). The keynote speeches were delivered by Professor Keith S Lloyd (Kent State University) and Professor Joanna Radwańska Williams (Centre of English, Macao Polytechnic Institute). The valedictory session was addressed by Dr Professor Mayank Kumar Golpelwar (HSB Hochschule Bremen, City University of Applied Sciences).

The 26th IAICS had a total of 24 presentations in 8 panels spanning across two days. The conference garnered participation from academicians and researchers from India, China, USA, Japan, Netherlands and South Africa.

## Fashion of Wearable Art by Esteemed Professor Ms Wendy Yothers

An online guest lecture was held by Ms Wendy Yothers (Professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York) titled "From Inspiration to Wearable Art. Using our passion, our cultural heritage, and the spirit of our times to create expressive, wearable art", on 27 February 2021. Professor Yothers' invaluable inputs on the design process, from concept to design and product development, gave the participants a clear idea about the design development process as well as the art of integrating novelty and creativity into designs.



**Ms Wendy Yothers**  
FIT, New York

## MSAP Reviews for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



**Ms Karishma Asarpota**  
Junior Officer,  
Climate and Energy  
Action at ICLEI,  
Germany

Manipal School of Architecture & Planning (MSAP) alumna Ms Karishma Asarpota, Junior Officer, Climate and Energy Action at ICLEI, Germany and a co-coordinator of the Cities Working Group under YOUNGO (the youth constituency of IPCC) introduced MSAP to a valuable opportunity. A 22 member team from MSAP participated in the group review of two chapters under the WGIII and gave constructive suggestions on it. The WGIII report focuses on climate change mitigation, assessing methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

This report comes under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is responsible for providing information relevant to understand the scientific basis of the risks of human-induced climate change which in turn contributes to the goals of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

## Real World Solutions to Combat Climate Change

Solar Decathlon India is an interdisciplinary competition for undergraduate students from Indian institutions to join forces to combat climate change. Two teams (each comprising 13 students) from Manipal School of Architecture & Planning (MSAP) and Manipal Institute of Technology participated in designing multi-family housing and office buildings. This helped students introduce innovative and affordable market-ready solutions and allowed them to design net-zero-energy-water buildings, contributing to real projects, while partnering with the leaders in real estate development. The competition was conducted by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and the Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE) under the aegis of the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF). Mr Prasad Vaidya ( Adjunct Professor, MSAP) is the Director of Solar Decathlon India and a Senior Advisor at AEEE.



**Solar™  
Decathlon  
India**

## Overcoming the Hurdles in the Internationalization of Pharmacy Education

Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences organized an AICTE sponsored Faculty Development Program (FDP) virtually in two phases on 4 January 2021. The program was inaugurated by Col B Venkat, Director, Faculty Development Cell, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. Phase I of the program was organized from 4-16 January 2021 and Phase II was organized from 25 January to 06 February 2021.

The objective of the event was to explore the opportunities in the field of Internationalization in Pharmaceutical Sciences and to define strategies to overcome the hurdles in internationalization of pharmacy education and collaborative research across countries. Around 650 faculty members from 120+ AICTE approved pharmacy colleges from around India had participated in the two phases of the FDP. The keynote address of FDP Phase I on “Internationalization of Higher Education in India” was delivered by Dr H Vinod Bhat, Executive Vice President, MAHE and the keynote address for Phase II was delivered by Dr Neeta Inamdar, Head, Manipal Center for European Studies, MAHE on “Internationalization and the Changing Education Ecology: A need analysis”.

## Post-Pandemic Planning in the Field of Hospitality



**Prof Arend Hardorff,**  
Hotelschool The Hague,  
Netherlands

WGSHA has created a central place where academicians could gain new insights and knowledge by interacting with acclaimed leaders of hospitality industry and higher education. These expert sessions on post-pandemic planning, strategizing and executing new academic processes to stay ahead truly supports in improvising quality of education. At the same time, the use of technology in education has led to the rise of a new approach towards blended learning as a continuation of emergency remote teaching. Professor Arend Hardorff addressed faculty members on online and blended learning, evaluations, and shared his personal leadership experiences as a hospitality educationalist.

## A Moment of Pride for IAESTE LC MANIPAL

Fariha Rahman, a remote research intern of MAHE, has gotten her work published in the Q3 SCOPUS Index-Journal under the supervision of Mr Srinivas G (Assistant Professor, Department of Aeronautical & Automobile Engineering, Manipal Institute of Technology). The article titled “Aerodynamic Performance Enhancement of Electromagnetic Gun Projectile Using Numerical Techniques” got published in the Journal of Advanced Research in Fluid Mechanics and Thermal Sciences. Ms Rahman expressed her gratitude to IAESTE LC Manipal for their support with the internship procedures that helped her gain an opportunity to learn valuable things beneficial to her in her future.



## Faculty Grants and Achievements

### Dr Anitha J recipient of the Prestigious Northern Pacific Global Health Fellowship

Dr Anitha J, Assistant Professor, Manipal Institute of Virology, received the Northern Pacific Global Health Fellowship in January 2021. This fellowship is a 12-month clinical research training program for post-doctorate fellows, which includes funds to support research activities in addition to the stipend amount for the post-doctoral fellow. The fellowship is to commence in July 2021, tentatively.

National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center, US sponsors the Global Health Fellowship Program, responsible for extending an opportunity to carry out research activities under the collaborative mentorship of two scientists, one from India (Manipal Institute of Virology, MAHE) and the other from the US (University of Minnesota)



**Ms Anitha J,**  
Assistant Professor,  
MIV, MAHE

### Global Health Equity Scholars Fogarty Fellowship Awarded To Dr Arathi Rao



**Dr Arathi Rao,**  
Coordinator-MPH  
Program & Manipal  
Health Literacy Unit

Dr Arathi Rao, the coordinator of the MPH Program and Manipal Health Literacy Unit at Prasanna School of Public Health, MAHE has been selected for the Global Health Equity Scholars (GHES) Fogarty fellowship program for postdoctoral research by the University of Berkeley, California. Dr Rao's fellowship is affiliated with the University of Arizona and the research will be conducted at MAHE, Manipal, between August 2021 to July 2022. The research grant covers funding of \$15000 for research purposes and overhead charges of \$ 4000 to MAHE. Dr Rao's research will be focusing on studying the lived experiences of women with a double burden of cardiac disease and COVID-19 using a qualitative approach. Dr Purnima Madhivanan (University of Arizona) and Dr Judith Noronha (MAHE) will be mentors during the research.

### Dr Mamatha Balachandra appointed as ICSDS Governing Board Member for India

International Cyber Security & Data Mining Society (ICSDS) was founded in 2008, under the leadership of Professor Dr Paul S Pang of Federation University Australia. It has gradually grown into a full-fledged research association with 15 governing board members in 10 regions: New Zealand, Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and Canada.

Dr Mamatha Balachandra, Associate Professor Senior scale, Department of CSE, Manipal Institute of Technology, MAHE has been recently appointed as Governing board member for

India. ICSDS seeks more active participation from researchers and professionals specially in the Asia Pacific region, aiming at promoting more active interactions of researchers, scientists, and industry professionals.

ICSDS collaborates with MAHE to promote academic and technical activities related to Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence and Data Mining. We believe that the continued strength of this collaboration will provide a unique opportunity for our institutions to work together to address some of the biggest problems of our time.



**Dr Mamatha  
Balachandra,  
MIT, MAHE**

## International Grant Under the India-South Africa Joint Call

Dr K Satyamoorthy, Director, Manipal School of Life Sciences (MSLS), MAHE, Manipal got a research grant from the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India under the India-South Africa Joint call for proposals along with Dr Janine Scholefield from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa. The team will develop genome-engineered stem cell toxicity models for developing countries.



**Dr K Satyamoorthy (L) & Dr Janine  
Schofield (R)**

## A Triad of Success Strengthening SICI-MAHE Collaboration

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) invited proposals for online conferences and lecture series from its Indian member institutions and 39 Canadian member institutions on various fields of expertise. Since its inception in 2018, SICI's Golden Jubilee Conference and Lecture Series Grant (GJCLSG) aims to encourage students, faculties, researchers and scholars from Indian and Canadian institutes to collaborate with each other and discuss on topics of importance. MAHE is honoured to be listed as a award recipient for the GJCLS Grant in three prominent research areas.

**01** Dr Krishna Sharan, Head, Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, KMC Manipal recieved the SICI Golden Jubilee Conference and Lecture Series Grant for his project "Practice of Oncology after the pandemic: what could be adopted, and what cannot". The Department of Radiotherapy, KMC Manipal conducted an online lecture series "Practice of Oncology beyond the pandemic" under Lecture Series Grant on 20-21 February 2021 in collaboration with Cancer Care Manitoba, Canada. Eminent faculty from both Canada and India were involved in the program. The topics discussed included change of practices that were forced into the Oncology healthcare delivery system in both the countries by the Covid-19 pandemic, and practices that could be safely continued beyond the pandemic. More than 100 participants from the two countries, and delegates from Uganda and Sri Lanka attended the program over a period of two days.

**02** Dr Sameep Shetty received the SICI Golden Jubilee Conference and Lecture Series Grant for his project on "Artificial Intelligence in Head and Neck Cancer Robotics in Head and Neck Cancer". The Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, MCOCS, Mangalore in association with SICI conducted a Lecture series on "Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Oral Cancer: New Horizons in Cancer Research" under GJCLSG on 26 February 2021. The resource persons were Dr Vishal Rao, Associate Dean, HCG Hospital Bengaluru and Dr Akshay Kudpaje, Department Head, Minimally Invasive Head and Neck Surgery, HCG Hospital, Bengaluru.

**03** Dr G Arun Maiya, Dean, Manipal College of Health Professions (MCHP), MAHE has been awarded the SICI Golden Jubilee Conference and Lecture Series Grant for 2021 for a virtual conference titled, "Indo-Canadian perspectives on the application of the United Nations Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in different policy domains" funded by the prestigious Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI), Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The inauguration was held on 11 March 2021 with Lt Gen (Dr) M D Venkatesh, Vice-Chancellor, MAHE presiding over the conference as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour, Dr Prachi Kaul, Director, SICI and Ms Angela Campbell, Associate Provost, McGill University joined virtually for the ceremony. Dr G Arun Maiya, Organising Director and Dean, MCHP, Ms Sidhiprada Mohapatra, Assistant Professor, MCHP, Dr John Solomon and Dr Vinita A Acharya from the Department of Physiotherapy & Occupation Therapy, MCHP, MAHE were present at the occasion. 25 speakers from various disciplines and over 218 people from several countries virtually attended the conference.

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