

The Spice Route Movement (SRM) South Asia Region



Report 2017-2018

Executive team

Regional Chair- Santosh Kumar Dhungana
Secretary- Zakiur Rahman

National chairs

Bangladesh- Md Innamin
Bhutan- Kinley Bhuti Dorjii (contact person)
India- Md Idris Shariff
Maldives- Ali Shareef
Nepal- Santosh K Dhungana
Pakistan- Rabeeya Arsalan
Sri Lanka- Sanka Ranadhikumara

Activities of the Spice Route Council

1. First Spice Route pre conference.

The first full day SRM preconference was held in Kathmandu on the 24 November, 2017 in the seminar hall of the Department of General Practice and Emergency Medicine, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Maharajgunj, Nepal.

The program was a huge success. Eminent speaker and a huge proponent of GP training in Nepal, Dr Mark Zimmerman set a stage for the day, highlighting the importance of GPs in countries like Nepal. His talk was followed by exemplary GPs working in various places within Nepal, who shared their work and show- cased the importance of GPs' role in the healthcare delivery of this country.

Luminaries from WONCA world attended the pre-conference and motivated young GPs. Prof Amanda Howe, Dr Garth Manning, Prof Kanu Bala, Prof Pratap Prasad, Dr Raman, Prof Bharat- were present and appreciated the presentation.

SRM council meeting was conducted on the 26 November, 2017 at the Radisson hotel, Kathmandu.

2. Participation in the WONCA Rural conference.



SRM council members, executives and general members attended the WONCA Rural conference held in Delhi from April 26-29, 2018.



The participation by young doctors from within the region and the world was immense. Young doctor delegates from more than 40 countries participated in the event. Many young doctors presented in the conference. Many YDM members from the SRM were actively involved in the WONCA rural council and the conference.

The SRM council meeting was held in the Mahogany Hall, India Habitat center on the 27 April, 2018. The new SRM logo and the constitution were ratified by majority of the attendees.



The program was attended by delegates from many SAR region member countries. It was made more special by the presence of Dr Sonia Cheri, the founding president of SRM.

3. Jyoti and Ramnik Parekh Scholarship

At the WONCA South Asia Regional Conference Chennai 2014, Dr Jyoti Parekh and Dr Ramnik Parekh, senior colleagues from Mumbai, announced a special gift for the young family doctors of the South Asia region. The couple committed Indian Rupees 100,000 every year to support the Spice Route Movement (the South Asia region movement for young family doctors). The scholarship is to be awarded every year to deserving young doctors in South Asia region towards supporting their participation in regional exchanges, global exchange program FM360 and WONCA conferences.

This year the scholarships have been awarded to young GPs from South Asia member nations and beyond who attended the WONCA Rural conference, 26-29 April, 2018.

4. Montegut Scholarship:

This scholarship is awarded by the American Academy of Family Physicians to the members for joining regional and world conferences of WONCA. During 2017 year, two young doctors from Pakistan – Dr Veena Kumaree and Dr Sanam Shah were awarded this scholarship. For 2018, SRM regional chair, Dr Santosh has been awarded this scholarship to attend the WONCA world conference in Seoul, Korea.

National activities

Bangladesh - Family Doctor day- 19 May 2018- celebrated, in collaboration with Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians and Primary care and rural health Bangladesh. The national Spice Route workshop- February 2018 with huge enthusiasm.

WONCA CEO Garth Manning was there. Spice Route Bangladesh gave a crest and warm reception to Spice Route Secretary Dr Zakiur Rahman. Preparations are underway for November 18 Dhaka- Rural health conference.

India- As noted above, the group made a huge contribution to the WONCA RURAL conference, Delhi in April this year

Nepal- Prof Kanu Bala, WONCA South Asia President in invited by the General Practitioners Association of Nepal to visit and discuss with the GPAN Executives. The date is decided in August 2018.



Pakistan - Preparing for the next WONCA SAR conference , 22-24 November 2019 in Lahore, Pakistan

Sri Lanka - Another CPD program was organized in February 2018. The first Speaker for the evening, Dr Maulee Arambewela a Senior Registrar in Endocrinology, spoke on 'Interpretation of a DEXA scan, and the pitfalls and management of Osteoporosis'. The second speaker Professor Shalini Sri Ranganathan Professor in Pharmacology, Specialist in Paediatrics spoke on 'Rational antibiotic prescription for common infections encountered in General Practice. The CPD Program ended with a sumptuous Dinner and fellowship at the Rooftop Of Asiri Surgical Hospital. There are several activities planned for the year ahead. We have already started designing a poster on the concept of "My family Doctor" and we plan to launch the poster in the near future. This poster will be published in all three national languages Sinhala, Tamil and English.