

Minutes of the Meeting

A meeting between a team of faculties from the Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur and a team of researchers from the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla was held 12 Noon on 08.04.2021 at Medical Research Unit, VIMSAR.

The meeting's primary purpose was to:

- (1) Identify key areas of research on Geriatrics and Gerontology for possible collaboration between Centre of Excellence on Odisha Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology (GMU) and Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR), Burla
- (2) Discuss about the modalities to have a MoU with VIMSAR for implementation of the Geriatric Project.

Prof. Sibabrata Das, Dr. Santosh Kumar Sethi, Dr. Raghunath Satpathy, Dr. Pradosh Kumar Acharya from GMU and Dr. Atanu Thakur, Dr. Bimal K. Panda, Dr. Subrat Pradhan, Dr. Mamata Pandey and Dr. Sunita Patra from VIMSAR attended the meeting.

After a thorough discussion the following areas of collaboration have been identified:

1. Molecular genomics research such as identification of genes related to ageing process, epigenetic analysis and their expression pattern.
2. The study of diseases associated with old age, such as diabetes, chronic kidney diseases, Sarcopenia, muscular skeletal diseases and neurological and psychological disorders.
3. Effect of environment on the process of healing of diseases associated with ageing.
4. Phytochemical analysis of plants, such as Tulsi, Hemp and Curcuma, as these medicinal plants are being used to a greater extent by the elderly population.
5. Prevalence of endemic diseases in elderly population in the western Odisha.

It was decided to prepare a list of equipments required as per the research objectives. VIMSAR team has expressed their willingness to use medical records as well as laboratory equipments available with VIMSAR for research. In addition to the laboratory research, both teams have agreed to undertake community based research. To get an idea about the interface between socioeconomic backgrounds and prevalence of old age diseases a questionnaire survey will be conducted for the elderly patients visiting OPD. It was also decided to finalise a team of researchers from both GMU and VIMSAR to be involved in the collaborative research. Further, it was decided to prepare a draft of the MoU for future course of action. After the meeting both teams met Director, VIMSAR and apprised him of the decisions taken in the meeting.