

Letter to the Prime Minister and Central Health Minister

To,

1] **Respected Shri NARENDRABHAI MODI,**

The Prime Minister
Government of India,
South Block, Raisina Hills,
NEW DELHI

2] **Respected Shri J P NADDA,**

Central Health minister,
Govt. Of India,
NEW DELHI-110051.

Respected Sir,

Jay Bharat.

We , as an academic society of our subject Physiology, usually do not raise issues concerning welfare or rights but this is an unusual situation where there is an attempt to degrade the whole subject of Physiology and weaken the very foundation of medical education in India! So we have to draw your attention towards a vital issue of reducing the requirements of medical teachers in subject of preclinical subjects like Physiology, Anatomy etc.in medical colleges of India and also issue of reducing number of years a medical student will spend in his/her study.

Sir, in 2009 A.D; the minimum requirements of teaching staff in pre-clinical subjects were reduced drastically by M.C.I. And also an additional staff requirement for P.G. was removed!

1] About reducing posts of physiologists in Department of Physiology in Medical colleges of India, at cost of standards of Medical Education!

Sir,

As a senior physiologist, I sometimes feel guilty when I see lot of my bright student physiologists do not get proper Jobs (even after getting P.g.degree) which they deserve!

Sir, the MCI requirements in terms of number of teachers in a medical college in subjects of pre-clinical subject like anatomy, physiology was drastically reduced on 15-07-2009 by a gazette notification! This was the result of unholy nexus between owners of Private medical colleges and few people in establishment! Because Private owners of Medical Colleges did not want to give salaries to Professors and other teaching staff members of preclinical subjects!

At that time, the arguments were that the teachers for pre-clinical subjects were not available easily! But since that time; lot of colleges have started P.G. Courses in Physiology,

Anatomy etc. and now there are lot of qualified people available now! So Government of India must take a decision to reverse the policy and again make requirements of teachers in pre-clinical subjects as earlier.

This move of decreasing the number of teacher's requirements and also reduction of number of years of Medical study in preclinical subjects has greatly harmed the very foundations of medical education! This is not just arguments for the sake of Physiologists! Please refer following fact:

❖ **Medicine at Oxford**

Brief information about a medical graduate degree from Oxford University, U.K. ranked as No.1 in world!

A Medical degree from Oxbridge?

The Times Good University Guide 2010 ranked **Oxford University 1st** for Medicine in the UK, with **Cambridge University** coming a very close **2nd**. Why the Oxbridge Medical courses are consistently ranked far above the rest for the quality of teaching?

Having been through the Oxbridge Medical degree all of our tutors will testify to the high quality of teaching received throughout their time at Oxbridge. As many of them have subsequently gone on to study at different medical schools they are ideally placed to answer question above. They can also help students to decide whether they would enjoy studying at Oxford or Cambridge over some of the other top UK Medical schools.

Although Cambridge and Oxford are similar in their traditional approach to studying Medicine, that is, to study the biomedical science as a subject in its own right before commencing on to the clinical applications, the courses are not identical. We have outlined both course structures for your information.

Oxford Medical Course:

Medicine at Oxford is a 6 year course starting with 3 years Pre-clinical studies followed by 3 years of clinical study. A-level students will apply for the course named A100 (Graduate entry and fast-track entry have slightly different course structures and numbers).

The Pre-Clinical stage consists of:

- The first BM (Bachelor of Medicine) including a course in Principles of Clinical Anatomy
- The Final Honours School (FHS) which leads to a BA in Medical Sciences

The Clinical stage consists of 3 years of clinical study in different placements in hospitals around the Oxfordshire area, with the John Radcliffe Hospital acting as the main teaching hospital. This course leads to a BM, B.Ch (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery).

This is taken from current official web-site of Oxford Medical School. You can confirm it!

The trends in world -over is towards emphasis on basic subjects and research. We are trying to go in a reverse direction!

Please take this issue seriously and Increase number of years to be spent in study of basic medical subjects during graduate medical study and increase number of minimum teachers required in basic preclinical subjects like Physiology, Anatomy etc. **The last hope is the Government of India! We hope you will study this in details and do justice to very foundation of medical education.** The traditional regulatory agencies are influenced strongly because of unholy nexus between Owners of Private Medical colleges and few people in these establishments!

2] About making M.D. Physiology degree holder candidate eligible for certain super speciality courses and permitting these courses to be started in Physiology department as super-specialist courses:

Sir,

courses like D.M.Endocrinology, Health check up specialists, Diabetes mellitus specialists, D.M. immunology, D.M. Rheumatology, Electrophysiology specialist, NON-Invasive cardiology, sports medicine, aviation medicine, Marine medicine, space medicine, Yoga and meditation specialists, infertility specialists etc., **In U.K. all Ultrasonography tests, 2-D. echo with color Doppler tests are carried out by Physiologists, as these tests fall in category of non-invasive procedures!**The courses of above specialties are needs in-depth knowledge of Physiology. These courses must be allowed to be started within Physiology Department which is a recognized P.G. Physiology department. Candidates who have passed M.D. Physiology must be eligible to appear in competitive exams for entrance tests in above super-specialist courses. I don't understand why physiologists cannot appear in competitive Examinations of above super-specialists? Are others afraid of merit⁵ of physiologists? We are not asking for any favors, but only permission for appearing in competitive Examinations! Please immediately give orders to allow M.D. Physiology P.G. degree holders to allow appear in above super-speciality courses. And at least some of them can be started within physiology department!

3] About banning representatives of Management/owners of private medical colleges within the M.C.I. management bodies/constitutional posts:

Sir,

Supreme court of India has strictly ordered that Education including medical education is strictly a non-profit service". **The owners of private medical colleges are constantly defying these guidelines of Honourable Supreme Court of India!** They are earning billions of rupees every year by under the table 'donations'! Such individuals who constantly defy Honourable Supreme Court of India; cannot have direct or indirect influence on M.C.I.! Otherwise, there will be no meaning of having any 'regulatory body at all'! There is a case of 'conflict of interest' in this case! Please remember that previously owners of private medical colleges "had managed" to reduce the requirements of physiology teacher's posts in department of physiology at medical colleges in India!

I hope you will give enough attention on above issues which are very important to maintain the quality and standards of medical education in India and solve above issues.

Thanking you in advance.

From:

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The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2014



John O'Keefe

May-Britt-Moser

Edvard Moser

One half awarded to John O'Keefe, Other half jointly to May-Britt Moser and Edvard I. Moser

"for their discoveries of cells that constitute a positioning system in the brain"