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Orthopaedic Rheumatology Forum

Proceedings of the convocation of the first batch of Fellowship in Orthopaedic Rheumatology (FEIORA)

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The rapidly burgeoning medical specialty with allied disorders - Orthopaedic Rheumatology has created traction amongst orthopaedic surgeons in this field. The Indian Orthopaedic Rheumatology Association (IORA), is the registered body of medicinal practitioners who aim to combine two different specialties i.e. Orthopaedics and Rheumatology to harness optimal disease management. Whilst, this combined approach is reserved for patients for whom a singular approach is not effective, the patient-doctor ratio remains unbalanced. The nascent field of Orthopaedic Rheumatology is urging doctors to be able to specialize and provide the most beneficial care plans for certain patients.

The need for this combined approach not only creates an opportunity for doctors but also nudges at various clinical questions. Especially in India, there is a call for the integration of combined health care services to lessen patient effort. Oftentimes, in rural and semi-urban areas patients with joint problems come to orthopedic surgeons due to a lack of awareness of the rheumatological aspect of their specific condition. This combined approach not only improves the timely access to appropriate care providers but also a well-rounded care system.

Nearly 1 percent of the Indian adult population suffers from Rheumatoid Arthritis of which only 50 percent reach an orthopedic surgeon due to lack of awareness. The IORA works as an ecosystem integrator to encourage awareness and provide rheumatoid arthritis patients with

early intervention to address the issue on time thereby decreasing the need for end-stage surgeries. Such an approach to treatment would mark a new wave in medical intervention in the near future.

With all these principles and motives in mind, Prof. Manish Khanna paved a way for nudging this field with a powerful tool to help the society and patients with a super-specialty branch through the formation of a fellowship opportunity called “FEIORA”. A seed sown is a plant reaped with more fruits, in that way Prof. Manish Khanna has mentored a batch of energetic orthopedic surgeons inclined to his motto to undergo a certification course affiliated with Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University and two major organization namely, Indian Orthopaedic Rheumatology Association (IORA) and Indian Stem Cell Study Group (ISCSG).

Its first batch comprised of 10 fellows and a detailed comprehensive module prepared to overcome all issues in orthopedic rheumatology formulating it into a comprehensive course. The lecture sessions were delivered online by the experts in their respective fields. The offline contact program of the first batch of fellows was planned at a later date due to the pandemic scenario in the country.

At the end of the 6 month course period from July 2020 to Dec 2020, fellows made their presentations in all subjects of orthopedic rheumatology along with the masterclasses from the experts in the individual field every Saturday and

Sunday, which made the fellowship a grand success. To ensure the quality of the training and knowledge imparted in the fellowship period all the fellows were assigned to a publication topic and were tested with a written theory exam and viva voce conducted at the university campus in Lucknow on 5th and 6th December 2019. Every fellow who took the banner of FEIORA was assessed for their knowledge, performance through the course, and skills developed through the course. All candidates who cleared the examination and published their research topic in a peer-reviewed and indexed journal were given the torch of FEIORA to light the lives of people in need of their service.

The list of fellows who were awarded the FEIORA in 2020 were as follows:

- Dr. Madhan Jeyaraman
- Dr. Sathish Muthu
- Dr. Anil Gowtham Manivannan
- Dr. Girinivasan Chellamuthu
- Dr. Kuldeep Malik
- Dr. Bushu Harna
- Dr. Parvez Ahmed Ganie

- Dr. Arun Gulati
- Dr. Madu Sridhar
- Dr. Vijay Patel
- Dr. Vijay Gupta



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