



MANIPAL
ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION
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AULA MAGNA

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



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A Decade of Global Academic and Cultural Exchange: MAHE and ScoTs



It has been a pleasure to be associated with MAHE for ten years now. My introduction to MAHE began when I met Dr. Vinod Bhat, Pro Vice Chancellor, during his visit to Edinburgh Napier University, where I was Professor of English and Creative Writing. Dr. Bhat expressed interest in establishing a Tagore Centre at Manipal University, inspired by our Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs). This led to my first visit to Manipal in 2013, where I delivered lectures and conducted poetry readings. By 2014, Dr. Bhat had inaugurated the Tagore Centre at Manipal Institute of Communication (MIC).

Our collaboration flourished with various conferences and lectures, including a 2016 event where my husband, Professor Neil Fraser, and I presented on relevant social and literary topics. In subsequent years, I contributed to international conferences at Manipal, joined the Doctoral Advisory Committee, and co-supervised doctoral candidates. Our partnership culminated in a 2019 international conference co-organized by ScoTs and MAHE, highlighting the

interdisciplinary synergy between arts and sciences.

I have admired MAHE's dedication to academic excellence and cultural heritage throughout our association, reflected in initiatives like the Yakshagana Centre. The efficiency and professionalism of Manipal's staff and its well-planned campus have consistently impressed us. I am grateful to MAHE for fostering this enriching academic and creative dialogue between ScoTs and MAHE. Looking ahead, I anticipate continued collaboration, particularly between the Tagore Centre and the Gandhian Centre for Philosophical Arts and Sciences at MAHE. Together, we can offer courses and research that connect contemporary students with the enduring ideas of Tagore, Gandhi, and their contemporaries, ensuring their relevance in today's world.

The success of the Tagore Centre at MAHE has paved the way for extensive interdisciplinary research and vibrant academic exchange. In 2021, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our collaboration thrived through remote engagements, including my address on "Tagore and Environment" at MAHE's online international conference. This period underscored the resilience and adaptability of our partnership.

Moreover, my involvement with MAHE's local culture, such as the visit to the KK Hebbar Art Galleries and the Yakshagana Centre, has deepened my appreciation for the cultural context in which MAHE operates. These experiences highlight the university's holistic approach to education, integrating arts and sciences to foster a comprehensive learning environment.

As we move forward, I envision strengthening the relationship between the Tagore Centre and the Gandhian Centre for Philosophical Arts and Sciences at MAHE. By leveraging ScoTs' resources, we can continue to explore the enduring ideas of Tagore, Gandhi, and other luminaries, ensuring their relevance for contemporary and future scholars.

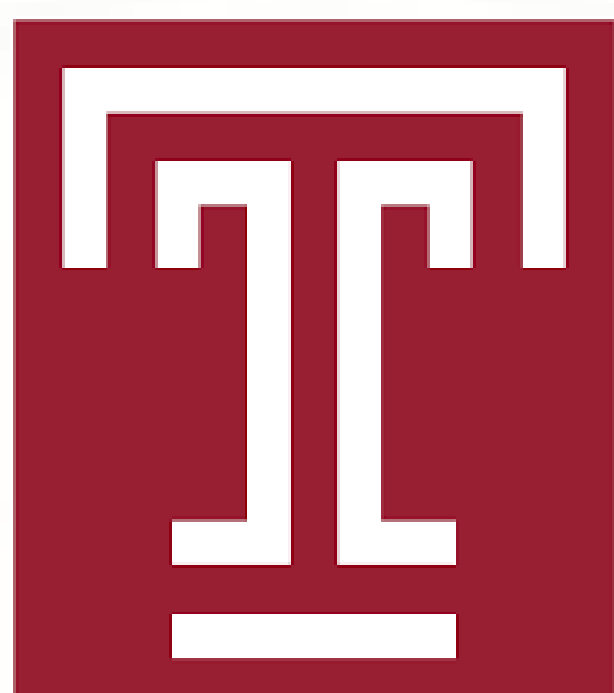
My association with MAHE has been immensely rewarding, fostering a thriving academic and cultural friendship. I look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration and shared achievements.

Dr. Bashabi Fraser, CBE, HonFASL

Professor Emerita of English & Creative Writing, Edinburgh Napier University

Director, Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs)

New Partnerships for this quarter



Experience MAHE

MAHE and UNB Launch Second Cohort of Dual Nursing Degree Preceptorship with International Collaboration

As part of academic collaboration established between Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, and the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada, the students from the second cohort comprising seven students visited UNB for the MAHE-UNB Preceptorship Program 2024, which is part of UNB's Summer Institute where the students earn a dual



nursing degree, qualifying them to practice in India and Canada. The preceptorship began with a warm welcome to the students and two faculty members, Dr. Linu Sara George, Professor and Mr. Vinish V, Assistant Professor- Senior Scale, of Manipal College of Nursing, (MCON), Manipal, at an opening ceremony on 17 June. Each cohort in MAHE will have 25 students taking the joint degree. The program accepted its first cohort in 2022. There are now two cohorts in the system and a third will begin this August, for 25 students, for the academic year 2024-2025. Graduated students from the dual degree program are qualified to work both in India and Canada and students from India are eligible to take their National Council Licensure Examination for RNs so their accreditation process in Canada will be much faster.

The students will be exposed to two weeks of practical training and observation called a preceptorship, during which they will work alongside nurses at Horizon Health Network and special care facilities operated by Shannex Incorporated.

The opening ceremony was highly solicited with the presence of UNB President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Paul Mazerolle. He addressed in his opening remarks that the dual degree program has received international attention in its short existence and has established a strong friendship between the two institutions. He noted that the partnership has already led to a joint publication in the Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership on developing the dual degree model.

Dr. Sharath K. Rao, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Health Sciences at MAHE, addressed the gathering from India via video link. He said healthcare challenges do not respect national boundaries and require collaboration between institutions in different countries. Dr. Rao said these challenges create opportunities, as MAHE and UNB grabbed an opportunity by creating the dual degree. He said besides this practical collaboration in nursing, there were also further joint research opportunities.

Mr. Siddhartha Nath, Consul General of India in Toronto, was also present during the opening ceremony. He said in his remarks that the consulate and Indian government were committed to making it work and that the students would be made aware that New Brunswick embraces its growing Indian community.

Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour, Mr. Greg Turner said in his remarks that recruitment and retention of nurses was a government priority, and the initiative between UNB and Manipal was an excellent example of a targeted initiative that would make a difference in growing the nursing workforce. He further said that the initiative would reduce barriers for immigrant nurses seeking employment in Canada and provide immediate employment opportunities for graduates.

Dr. Linu George joined Mr. Turner, Mr. Nath and Dr. Mazerolle in presenting each of the seven students with a red lab coat bearing the UNB logo.

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Fostering Global Ties: University of North Carolina and Manipal College of Nursing forge new collaborations

On 19 June 2024, Dr. Marie Lina Excellent, Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Leadership and Practice at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina (UNC), visited Manipal College of Nursing (MCON), MAHE. During the visit, Dr. Judith Angelitta Noronha, Dean of MCON, explained the programs offered, activities, and collaborative opportunities available at the college.



All the department heads of the college, the pillar heads, Dr. Anice George, Professor & Former Dean, and Dr. Tessy Treesa Jose, Associate Dean, were present. Dr. Marie showed great enthusiasm in establishing contacts with the School of Nursing and other disciplines. She also discussed the possibility of involving our graduates in quality improvement sessions and delivering an interactive session for students and faculty at MCON.

The Dean of MCON expressed her gratitude to Dr. Marie for visiting the college and showcased her eagerness to engage in collaborative activities with the University of North Carolina. The coordination of this collaborative meeting was facilitated by the Office of International Affairs & Collaborations, MAHE and Dr. Shashidhara Y N, Professor and Head, Department of Community Health Nursing, and International Students Coordinator at MCON.

Global Engagement and Learning Enrichment: Prof. VanSlyke's visit to Manipal



Prof. VanSlyke, a Teaching Professor at the University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing, visited Manipal College of Nursing (MCON), Manipal, from 15 April 2024 to 27 April 2024 as part of the Shastri Faculty Collaboration and Internationalization Project. During his visit, Prof. VanSlyke engaged in various activities aimed at enhancing collaboration and understanding

between the institutions. He began by meeting with the Dean, Associate Dean, Head of Departments, and Professors of MCON to orient them about the purpose of his visit. Prof. VanSlyke also interacted with students in their clinical areas to understand their clinical learning experiences and conducted orientation sessions for MAHE-UNB dual degree students.

Exploratory visits were made to the culinary museum, Yoga, Ayurveda, and Sidha departments, as well as to the village and Primary Health Centre to gain insights into community dynamics and student initiatives. Sessions on scholarly writing and NCLEX preparation were conducted during his tenure.

Additionally, Prof. VanSlyke visited the Mental Health Unit and Centre for Online Learning, contributing through a guest lecture on reflection for first year MSc Nursing students, emphasizing its significance in enhancing learning. His visit significantly fostered deeper collaboration and knowledge exchange between the institutions.

Dr. Avneesh's Collaborative Visit to Manipal Academy of Higher Education Enhances Research and Innovation in Dentistry

Dr. Avneesh works as a Senior Scientist in the Department of Periodontology, Oral Medicine and Oral Surgery, Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Sciences, Charité–University Medicine Berlin, corporate member of Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt–Universität zu Berlin, and Berlin Institute of Health, Berlin, Germany. Dr. Avneesh is collaborating with our faculty at Manipal Academy of Higher Education: Dr. Aditi Chopra, Associate Professor, Dept. of Periodontology at Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal, and Dr. Shama Prasada Kabekkodu, Head of the Department, Cell and



Molecular Biology, Manipal School of Life Sciences, Manipal. Together, they plan to undertake research projects in the field of genetics, oral microbiology, and periodontal diseases.

During his visit from 15 to 17 April 2024, he visited various constituent units of MAHE. He was cordially welcomed by Dr. Manesh Thomas, Manipal - Government of Karnataka Bioincubator-Manipal Universal Technology Business Incubator . Dr Manesh personally discussed the various facilities at MUTBI and the Advanced Research Centre, Manipal, with Dr. Avaneesh. Dr Monica Solomon, Dean of MCOADS, Manipal, Dr. Vidya Saraswati, Associate Dean, MCOADS, Manipal, interacted with Dr. Avneesh and provided an overview of the Dental College's functioning and workflow. He visited the dental clinics at Manipal and Manipal School of Life Sciences, to have an overview of the infrastructure, and discuss his research proposal with his collaborators. Dr, Avneesh also delivered a guest lecture at Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal, on 17 April afternoon on the topic: “Research opportunities in Germany for dental students”. The program was organized by the student research forum and the undergraduate research vertical of MCOADS, Manipal. Dr. Avneesh also met Dr. Karunakar Kotegar, Director of International Collaboration and Dr Sharath Rao, Pro Vice Chancellor, Health Science, MAHE. Dr. Avneesh has been appointed as foreign faculty for MCOADS, Manipal with the aim to enhance collaborative research and innovation in the field of dentistry.

Building MAHE

Faculty news and milestones

Multi-Generational Community Housing in Holöm, Sweden



Aaditya Kuyyamudi, a student of MAHE, Manipal, collaborated with his colleagues Isabelle, Karl and Nora, to develop and work on a project that focuses on achieving a multigenerational community living by providing a social semi-urban settlement layout in Homön islands, located off the coast of Umeå, in the Baltic Sea. The collective concept of the design is to achieve “Collectiveness throughout the seasons”, by creating spaces that aim to bring the community together and live in a collective, circular and sustainable approach.

The group’s design aims to accommodate elderly couples, families with children, and single individuals, with spaces carefully designed to each users requirements.

His contribution to this project involves designing spaces for an elderly couple and two studio apartments while his colleagues have designed the other parts.

Ms. Sanya Anklesaria shines at the 10th European Stroke Organisation Conference

Ms. Sanya Anklesaria is a Dr. TMA Pai Ph.D. scholar in the Department of Physiotherapy at Manipal College of Health Professions, MAHE. She is pursuing her Ph.D. under the guidance of Dr. Preetha R. and has presented a scientific poster at the 10th European Stroke Organisation Conference.

The conference was held from 15 to 17 May 2024 in Basel. She presented a scientific poster titled - "Exercise Interventions for Pelvic Floor Dysfunctions in Women with Stroke – A scoping review. "

She also received a travel grant of 1,000 Euros from the European Stroke Organisation for presenting her work.



C A Ashitha’s Transformative Insights: My Journey at INSAR 2024 in Melbourne

As a PhD scholar from the Department of Speech and Hearing at Manipal College of Health Professions (MCHP), I had the incredible opportunity to attend the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) 2024 Annual Meeting in Melbourne, Australia, from 15 to 18 May 2024. This experience was both academically enriching and personally inspiring.

The INSAR 2024 Annual Meeting brought together over 1,200 attendees from more than 20 countries, showcasing a dynamic array of autism research topics. From clinical insights to social perspectives, the event highlighted the breadth of current research. Workshops covered cultural diversity in autism research and career transitions, while Dr. Wenn Lawson's keynote on 'Monotropism' captivated the audience.

Networking events fostered connections and lively discussions, enhancing the overall experience.

On 18 May 2024, I had the privilege of presenting my research on 'Expert Perspectives on Early Autism Detection in Infants.' The poster presentation allowed me to engage in meaningful discussions with researchers, practitioners, and families affected by autism. The feedback I received provided invaluable new insights and perspectives. Receiving the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre (OTARC) Travel Award was a great honor. The award included a generous stipend and an invitation to visit OTARC at La Trobe University in Melbourne. The visit featured a tour of their cutting-edge facilities and an opportunity to meet the dedicated research team.



Reflecting on my experience at INSAR 2024, I am struck by the profound impact it has had on my professional and personal growth. The networking opportunities allowed me to connect with peers, mentors, and professionals from diverse backgrounds, fostering collaborations and expanding my academic network. Engaging in workshops and panel discussions deepened my understanding of autism research and introduced me to innovative methodologies. Additionally, the cultural exchange in vibrant Melbourne enriched the experience with unique perspectives. Overall, attending INSAR 2024 was truly transformative, inspiring me to pursue excellence in my research endeavors and reinforcing the significance of my work in autism research.

MAHE's Yakshagana Documentary Shines at World Culture Film Festival

A documentary on Yakshagana, a traditional art form from coastal Karnataka, has achieved notable international recognition. Produced by the Centre for Intercultural Studies and Dialogue (CISD) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), the film has been selected as a Semi-Finalist at the prestigious World Culture Film Festival 2024 in Los Angeles, USA, scheduled from 27 to 28 July, 2024. Part of the CISD project "Discerning India: Living Cultures of Tulunadu," the documentary was chosen from submissions spanning over 40 countries, underscoring its cultural significance and heritage value.



The project, an initiative by Manipal Academy of General Education, aims to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding. Directed by Dr. Praveen Shetty and Mr. Nitesh Anchan, the film delves into the vibrant Yakshagana art form, native to Karnataka and Kerala's Kasaragod district. It highlights its multifaceted relevance, adding to the CISD, its broader goal of creating a repository of local cultural knowledge. Previously, the

documentary won the Jury Award at the Sixth International Short Film Festival on Cultural Tourism in Varanasi (December 2023) and the Best Scriptwriting Award from the Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC)-UGC, New Delhi (April 2023). The selection at the World Culture Film Festival underscores the documentary's excellence in capturing Yakshagana's essence and its global appeal. This recognition highlights MAHE's commitment to cultural preservation and promotion, showcasing India's rich cultural heritage to the world.

Dr. Nithya Annie Thomas wins a laurel at the 4th International Pediatric Dentistry Conference

Dr. Nithya Annie Thomas, Assistant Professor, Pediatric & Preventive Dentistry, Manipal College of Dental Sciences (MCOADS), Manipal, attended the 4th International Conference organized by the South Asian Association of Pediatric Dentistry between 9-11 February 2024.

Dr. Thomas was awarded with the Best Research Paper award (Faculty) - Competitive category for her Research Paper titled “Comparative evaluation of the clinical and radiographic evaluation of Indirect Pulp Capping using Calcium Hydroxide, MTA, and Theracal LC in primary molars; an in vivo study”.



MCODS Professor made ‘Honorary Professor’ at The University of Sheffield

Dr. Raghu Radhakrishnan, Professor, Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology, Manipal College of Dental Sciences (MCOADS), Manipal, has been conferred with the title of ‘Honorary Professor’ at School of Clinical Dentistry, The University of Sheffield, UK, and is currently working as Wellcome Trust DBT IA Fellow on the Research project “Epithelial Reprogramming of HOX genes by Epigenetic Mechanisms and its implication to Oral cancers”.



MCHP Alumnus awarded Fulbright Nehru Fellowship for Cancer Research

Dr. Stephen Samuel, PT Alumni of Manipal College of Health Professions (MCHP) and Assistant Professor- Senior Scale at the Department of Physiotherapy, Kasturba Medical College (KMC) Mangalore, was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Nehru Postdoctoral Fellowship. Dr. Samuel pursued his post-doctoral fellowship in Exercise Oncology at the Peak Human Performance Science Clinical Research Lab, University of Rochester Medical Center, New York. During his two year fellowship, he was able to work with some of the world leaders in oncology and supportive care in cancer at the Wilmot Cancer Institute. He was able to work



with cutting edge technology for the assessment of muscle function and sleep dysfunction in patients with cancer receiving chemo-radiotherapy. Dr. Samuel also spent time analyzing data from large randomized controlled trials that assessed the role of exercise in improving various health related outcomes in cancer survivors.

Dr. Marie Lina Excellent's Visit to Manipal Academy of Higher Education: Strengthening Global Collaborations for Community Health

Dr. Marie Lina Excellent, MD, MPH and Fulbright alumna is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Leadership and Practice at the University of North Carolina-Gillings School of Global Public Health, USA. In June 2024, Dr Excellent, travelled for the first time to Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal in India to explore areas of mutual interest at various institutions within MAHE. Dr. Excellent actively engaged in meetings and tours with Deans, faculty, students, and staff to learn more about their vision, mission, accomplishments, potential gaps and areas for improvement through collaborations in teaching, research and the practice of community-engaged scholarship. Dr Excellent describes her experience as outstanding and inspiring given the warm welcome, the level of expertise, commitment to excellence, and global partnerships demonstrated by the MAHE, Manipal team. Marie Lina had the privilege to be educated on the diversity and authentic Indian culture at the Intercultural Studies Center. Her journey has been both educational, humbling and insightful. Dr. Excellent delivered a lecture on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) at the Manipal College of Nursing. Marie Lina's visit underscores the power of global partnerships for healthier communities. She articulated her immense gratitude for the support received from UNC, Public Health Leadership Program, Carolina Asia Centre and Office of International Affairs and Collaboration, MAHE. Dr. Excellent is committed to cultivating her relationships with MAHE, Manipal, which aligns with her philosophy: Learn to Better Serve Others in Need with compassion and Humility!



Life at MAHE

Internationalization at Manipal Academy of Higher Education

The Fulbright-Pai Fellowship Experience : Dr. Donna Howard's Journey at MAHE

Dr. Donna Howard is a public health practitioner, with training in global health and the social behavioral determinants of health.

During her sabbatical year at the University of Maryland (UMD) in 2008, she received a Fulbright-Pai Fellowship to travel to India as a visiting scholar within the Department of Community Medicine at Manipal University, now known as Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE). Her responsibilities included providing lectures to students on public health in the USA, facilitating discussions with faculty and administrative

leadership on how to more fully/formally integrate public health into the academic curricula, co-mentoring students, participating in university and local conferences, and immersing herself in the culture and community at MAHE.



While being a Fulbright-Pai Fellow at MAHE, she had enriching and immersive educational and cultural experiences, and developed a deeper appreciation of the strengths, as well as the shortcomings, of the U.S. public health system. Her interactions with faculty and students at MAHE broadened her understanding of the public health issues that affect our global community. She returned as a more insightful and sensitive teacher/mentor/researcher as a result of her Fulbright experiences. She also published an article with colleagues at MAHE on merging public health case studies of community based service learning practices from India and the U.S. It was semi-titled “Borrowing from the East to strengthen the West”. Of note, in 2009 MAHE created a Department of Public Health and then launched its very own Prasanna School of Public Health in 2017.

Her Fulbright experience was much better than she expected. Regardless of where she went, whether it be in rural communities or urban housing developments, people would openly express warm wishes, offer hospitality and extend authentic kindness in ways that touched her profoundly. What also surprised and inspired her, continuously, was the extent of the campus-community partnerships and commitment by MAHE to collaborate with surrounding villages and urban communities to establish programs to enhance the health and well-being of its members.

Upon returning to UMD, she was determined to expose students to the insights and enriching experiences that she gained while in India, and so she developed a winter study abroad program. This program: "East Meets West: Contrasting Public Health Priorities, Pragmatics and Polemics in the U.S. and India" has become a yearly tradition, beginning with its inception in 2010. The course is designed for students who are interested in public health in a global context, and exposes them to policy and programmatic frameworks for the delivery of public health services in both the USA and India.

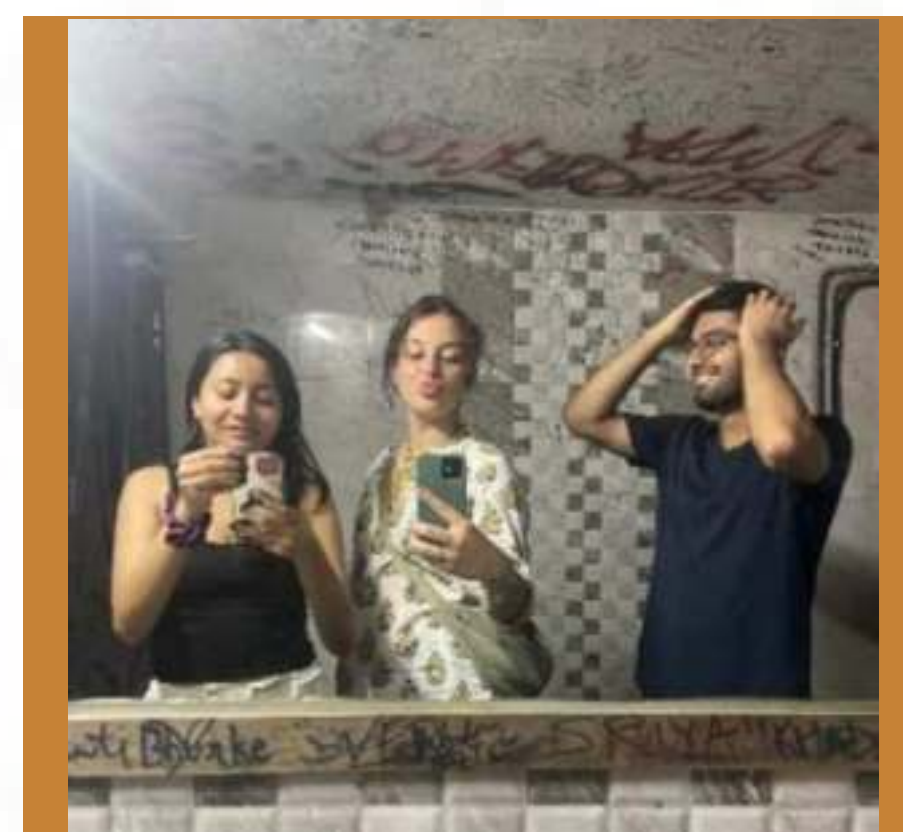
The factors that went into Dr. Howard's decision-making regarding where to apply for a Fulbright included the length of stay, the discipline in which she would be affiliated, and the ability to teach and engage without formal training in a language she had limited competency.

Dr. Howard has to say that the Fulbright Scholars program provides an unparalleled opportunity for students to immerse themselves in another cultural context, participate in programs, both academic and community based, and immeasurably expand their cultural humility and appreciation for the richness of our global community. She also feels that in the early stages of considering a Fulbright, it's also important for students to spend critical time authentically appraising their interests/intentions, strengths and assets, what they hope to gain, how they hope to contribute to the global community and how the Fulbright experience fits in with their career plans.

*This article was originally published on **Maryland Global** and has been adapted for this newsletter. We gratefully acknowledge **Maryland Global** for providing the original content.*

A Life-Changing Exchange: Yadira's Vibrant Journey at MAHE

My exchange at Manipal Academy of Higher Education has been an unforgettable experience! On my first day, I had no idea what to do or where to go. Thankfully, I was assigned a campus ambassador, Sanit Kumar, who has been an incredible help and quickly became a great friend. Through him, I met many wonderful people and felt welcomed into the MAHE community. Sanit kept me in the loop on campus activities and introduced me to the best spots for dinner, drinks, parties, beach outings, and even arcade games. Having someone to help me navigate Manipal and its vibrant culture, including celebrating holidays,



made my first weeks much easier and more enjoyable. Without the campus ambassadors, my initial experience would have been completely different. With Sanit by my side, my stay was incredibly comfortable and filled with happy memories made with new friends. I highly recommend MAHE Manipal as a top choice for your exchange. The campus is huge and bustling with activities, from cultural events to music and food festivals. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Sanit and, of course, MAHE for making my stay so memorable and smooth

Representing MAHE

MAHE Students and Faculty beyond campus

MCODS Mangalore Students Broaden Horizons with Observership in Malaysia and by attending the International Dental Symposium

The intern students of Manipal College of Dental Sciences (MCODS), Mangalore, participated in an observership program at dental schools in Malaysia from 18 to 22 April 2024. A total of 11 students participated in this program, of which five students were placed in the Faculty of Dentistry, Melaka Manipal Medical College (MMMC), and six students were placed in the Faculty of Dentistry, Universiti Teknologi (UiTM) MARA, Malaysia.



During the observership program, the students got the opportunity to learn from other students and faculty, experience the clinics and the cultural festivities in their respective colleges.

After the observership program, the students participated in a two day conference titled '14th International Dental Symposium' at UiTM MARA. Several students won awards during the conference which included:

1. Mr. Yash Kamat, won the Best International Research award in the category 'Mental health and wellbeing' for the research paper titled "Evaluation of the treatment in geriatric population in a tertiary dental hospital in coastal Karnataka".
2. Miss Laksmipriya Varathkumaran, won the first prize in wire bending competition under the category of international students.
3. Miss Lavangi Sehgal, won the first prize in the soap carving competition under the category of international students.
4. Miss Swati Solanki and Miss Aaska Bajaj, won the consolation prize for the suture competition.

Discovering excellence: Observership in Taiwan



Six postgraduate students from Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Mangalore, participated in the observership at National Cheng Kung University Hospital (NCKUH), sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan. This program was facilitated by Voice of HealthCare, India, and International Affairs in collaboration with MAHE. The program took place from 19 to 24 May 2024, during which the students visited the School of Dentistry, including the preclinical laboratory and research facility laboratories, and participated in observational activities within the Department of Prosthodontics.

SPARC - PSPH PhD Scholars visit to Australia

As a part of the SPARC project titled "Promoting Adolescent's Resilience: Evidence-based Integrated Approach to parenting and adolescent mental health", two scholars from Prasanna School of Public Health, Manipal Academy of Higher Education - Ms. Dezma Savina Fernandez and Ms. Nikitha Sibil Rebello visited two Australian universities: University of South Australia, Adelaide and the campuses of James Cook University at Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns between 16 April and 21 May 2024. The Principal Investigator of the SPARC project is Dr. Lena Ashok, Professor, Department of Social and Health Innovation, and Co-Investigators Dr. Teddy Andrews JJ, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Health Innovation, and Dr. Varalakshmi Chandra Sekaran, Associate Professor, Department of Health Policy, Prasanna School of Public Health, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal. Dr. Kalpana Goel, Lecturer, University of South Australia (UniSA) – Justice & Society, and Dr. Abraham Francis, Associate Professor, Social Work and Human Services, James Cook University, Australia are the International Investigators.

Engaging intellectually with administrative and faculty members, who radiated passion and competence in their disciplines, was one of the highlights of the scholar's visit to UniSA. The collaboration with UniSA resulting from the SPARC project led to opportunities to participate in research proposal writing workshops by Dr. Wendy Bastalich, Research Education Advisor, and continued working on the systematic review with Dr. Kalpana Goel, Lecturer and Elvis Munyoka, Ph.D. Scholar. This was followed by experiences of visiting community organizations such as Community Outreach Centre UniSA, Mind Australia, Multicultural Aged Care, Uniting Communities, and The Men Shed. The scholars observed how different organizations extended their support with compassion and dedication in uplifting vulnerable individuals from various communities across Australia

The research scholars participated in the Australian and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Perspectives, a hybrid symposium between Adelaide – Cairo on 18 April 2024 at Flinders University College of Business, Government and Law, with support from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its esteemed Council of Australia-Arab Relations (CAAR). The scholars learnt about the importance of supporting agedcare providers to deliver culturally appropriate care to older people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities, as well as to help older CALD people and their families make informed decisions about their aged care needs. Additionally, the city of Adelaide offered plenty of opportunities to experience the vibrant Australian culture by visiting tourist attractions such as St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Morialta Conservation Park, Glenelg beach, Mount Lofty, The Cleland Wildlife Park, Harbor Town, Rundle mall and Victoria square.



The visit to the James Cook University campuses at Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns was supervised by Dr. Abraham Francis, and guided by faculty members – Dr. Hyacinth Udah, Dr. Albert Kuruvila, and Ms. Jo Bentley Davey. The scholars were one of the facilitators for the workshop titled “Women and well-being: Connections, conversations and collective flourishing,” organized by United Malayalees of Queensland (UMQ), on 5 May 2024 at Holland Park Library, Brisbane. They addressed the gathering on issues related to the mothers of adolescents on ‘Navigating life’s transitions: Strategies for enhancing women’s well-being’ and ‘Staying connected: Strengthening parent-adolescent relationship,’ backed by research evidence. This provided a platform to several women, living in different parts of Brisbane and having diverse professions/ occupations and personal interests, to come together to connect and converse with each other. The scholars then attended the panel discussion on collective flourishing facilitated by Dr. Abraham Francis at the QLD Parliament House, Brisbane. Hon. James Martin MP – Member for Stretton, Senator Paul Scarr – Senator for QLD, Cr Emil Kim – Councilor for Calamvale, Mr. Palani Thevar – Social worker & patron of Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland (FICQ), and Mr. Ashish Katta – Entrepreneur & patron of Indian Council of Australia Queensland (ICAQ) were the panelists. It was noteworthy that the panel included political leaders from three different tiers of the government, community leaders and entrepreneurs. The scholars were able to connect and discuss with the government officials at great lengths about their respective research areas.

The research scholars participated in the Labor Day celebrations observed on 6 May 2024 – a day to celebrate the achievements of workers within, and for, their community. This provided an opportunity to interact with Premier of Queensland - Steven Miles, Deputy Premier of Queensland - Cameron Dick, State Member for Mansfield - Corrine Macmillan, MP Bart Mellish, Mr. Palani Thevar- community leader and other prominent political leaders. The scholars participated in the community leader’s dinner forum hosted by Multicultural Australia & QPASTT at the Brisbane Multicultural Centre and had the opportunity of meeting and greeting multicultural community leaders along with minister for Multicultural Affairs – Hon. Charis Mullen. The research scholars also visited the University of Queensland – St. Lucia Campus, Cathedral of St Stephens, Festival of chariots by Hare Krishna Food for Life, Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane Riverwalk, and the tourist attractions on South Bank Parklands.

At the Townsville campus of JCU named ‘Bebegu Yumba,’ the scholars attended learning sessions on ‘Therapeutic approaches’ by Dr Albert Kuruvila, ‘Research Writing and Publication’ and ‘Social Psychology and Human Behavior: Lifespan Development’ by Dr. Hyacinth Udah, and ‘Community Development: Challenges and Limitations’ by Dr. Jacek Zuchowski. A research meeting for early career researchers attended by the research scholars was facilitated by Dr. Tamra Jones, Lecturer



with a purpose of understanding the innovations happening in research within the JCU campus, and for collaboration. The research scholars toured the campus facilities, with the Eddie Koiki Mabo library and the terrarium being the main attractions. The scholars met with Dr. Shashidhar Venkatesh Murthy – Associate Professor and Head of Pathology, College of Medicine and Dentistry, James Cook University – who has been an alumnus of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal. The scholars toured the museums, art gallery, the dam, the beaches, and the cathedral of Townsville.

The visit to JCU Cairns, Smithfield campus ‘Nguma-bada’ offered an enriching experience of learning through sessions on ‘Working with Culturally and Diverse (CALD) Communities’ facilitated by Jo Bentley Davey. Visiting community organizations like Centacare FNQ, Centacare Thomas Street, The Junction Clubhouse, provided an insight into offering mental health support to the community within clinical and non-clinical spaces. As a part of cultural immersion, the scholars attended the Eddie Koiki Mabo lecture presented by Prof. Ngiare Brown, Chancellor, James Cook University at Bulmba-ja Arts Centre. The Esplanade Lagoon, Palm Cove, Fitzroy Island, and the Kuranda Village offered a breathtaking view of the tropical landscape of Cairns.

All in all, the scholars had a holistic experience of research, capacity building, conducting workshops, teaching, understanding of social service organizations through visits as well as immersion into the Australian way of life. Setting out on a voyage across borders - from India to Australia - was a life-changing event that broadened perspectives, disproved assumptions, and encouraged lifelong learning.

Empowering Nursing Leaders: Manipal College of Nursing’s impactful CNE in Al- Salam Al-Assima Hospital, Kuwait

Manipal College of Nursing conducted six days of Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) on leadership in Nursing in Al Salam International Hospital, Kuwait, from 27th April 2024 to 2nd May 2024, Dr. Mamatha S Pai, Professor, Department of Child Health Nursing, and Mr. Renjunal Yesodharan, Assistant Professor- Senior Scale, Department of Psychiatric (Mental Health) Nursing, MCON, took the sessions.



35 middle-level nursing Managers (Ward in charge and team Leaders) completed the CNE and obtained certificates. The major topics covered were effective leadership styles in Nursing, team building and collaboration - strategies for fostering effective interdisciplinary teamwork, change management in Nursing, ethical decision-making in nursing leadership, nursing empowerment, implementing evidence-based practices to enhance patient outcomes and safety, cultural competence in nursing leadership – DEI principle, emotional intelligence, strategic planning and resource management, communication skills, appreciation and motivation skills, patient-centered care, performance improvement in nursing leadership, cost reduction and containment and Nurse as an innovation leader.

The CNE incorporated hands-on learning in effective communication, team building, improving motivation skills and usage of the Pareto chart in cost reduction. A pretest was conducted before the CNE, and the scores were analyzed and later compared with a post-test after the CNE.

A Transformative Exchange Semester Experience in Sweden: Chanasya Kommalapati

I recently received recognition for Best Studio Project at the South regional rounds for Saint-Gobain Transparence 18.0. It was an honor, reflecting my dedication and the transformative experiences I gained at Manipal School of Architecture and Planning (MSAP), and through its exchange program. The impact of my recent exchange semester (Spring Semester 2022-23) at Umea School of Architecture, Sweden, had a substantial role in my achievement.



The exchange semester in Sweden offered me the immersive academic environment of Umea, fostering creativity and encouraging the exploration of new perspectives. Collaborating with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds enriched my understanding of architecture and profoundly shaped my design approach. The emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and sustainability principles instilled a profound responsibility towards creating designs with positive societal impacts.

Umea's supportive faculty and collaborative atmosphere empowered me to delve deeper into my creative process, resulting in innovative and meaningful projects. My exchange semester was a transformative experience, catalyzing my professional development and inspiring me to strive for excellence. This journey underscores the immense value of international exchange programs in fostering creativity, cultural understanding, and personal growth.

Dr. John Solomon M's Global Impact: Keynotes, Symposia, and Leadership in Stroke Rehabilitation



Dr. John Solomon M, Coordinator of the Centre for Comprehensive Stroke Rehabilitation and Research, Head of the Department of Physiotherapy, Manipal College of Health Professions, presented an invited lecture at the European Stroke Organization Conference. The lecture took place at the European Stroke Organization Conference, focusing on 'Fulfilling recommended dose of post-stroke rehab in LMICs'. The conference was held from 15 to 17 May 2024. He also delivered a talk on 'Complementary Approaches to Improve Stroke Rehabilitation Quality in LMICs' at

the World Congress of Neurorehabilitation (WCNR) 2024, held between 23 to 25 May 2024. He chaired three scientific symposia and also presented a scientific poster on 'Perineal Hygiene Practices Among Women Stroke Survivors in India'. Dr. John Solomon M is also an executive board member of the International Stroke Rehabilitation and Research Alliance. As part of his role, he coordinated a think tank meeting on the topics 'Accelerating Translation of Evidence-Based Stroke Rehabilitation Practice to LMICs' and 'Towards Quality Rehabilitation Standards'. The meeting took place at the University of British Columbia, Sauder campus, on 26 and 27 May 2024.

World Wide MAHE

Internationalization at Manipal Academy of Higher Education

MAHE Dubai Psychology Students Gain Hands-On Experience at Manipal College of Health Professions



Three students of M.Sc. Psychology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, MAHE Dubai campus, visited the Department of Clinical Psychology, Manipal College of Health Professions (MCHP), MAHE, Manipal, for their clinical observership from 20 May to 1 June 2024.

Bridging Continents: India-Dalhousie students tackle common challenges through Research and Innovation

Student researchers from Dalhousie University and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), met and interacted in a virtual symposium India-Dalhousie Student Research Symposium: Addressing Common Challenges via Research & Innovation on 3 and 4 April 2024. This symposium aimed at exploring innovative research solutions to common challenges. Students got the opportunity to network and showcase their research.

In addition to MAHE, other Indian universities who participated in this symposium included Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G), Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar (IIT-R), Indian Institute of Technology, Tirupati (IIT-T), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli (IIM) Trichy and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali. The symposium Coordinator from MAHE, was Dr. Bharti Chogtu Magazine, Deputy Director-Research (Health Sciences).

The research symposium was a two-day virtual event. It commenced with a keynote address by Dr. Naveen Salins, Associate Dean-Research, Kasturba Medical College Manipal, Manipal Academy of Higher Education on Interdisciplinary Integration of Health Research.

This was followed by presentations from research students focusing on six broad thematic areas: Precision Agriculture; Computer Science; Medicine; Energy; Water Science & Technology; and Management from Dalhousie and Indian partners. Dr. Priyanka Upadhyai, Associate Professor, Medical Genetics, Kasturba Medical College, MAHE, served as India Co-Chair for Medicine thematic track. Four students from MAHE, presented their research in the areas of Medicine and Precision Agriculture to the august audience. All the presenters were presented with a Certificate of Participation, in recognition of their efforts.

Bridging Cultures: MCHP Occupational Therapy Students Shine in OsloMet Peer Project

During the International Peer Assignment Project, which was sponsored by OsloMet - Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway, from January to April 2024, 32 first-year undergraduate occupational therapy students from Manipal College of Health Professions (MCHP) embarked on a life-changing experience. Among participants from universities in the United States, Canada, and Europe, MCHP stood out as the sole representative from the Global South. Throughout the project, students engaged in virtual exchanges with their international peers, exploring various dimensions of occupational therapy education and practice.

These interactions culminated in insightful presentations in May 2024, where students discussed the impact of cultural contexts on their occupational therapy experiences. The project provided MCHP students with invaluable insights into global occupational therapy practices, fostering a deeper understanding of cross-cultural dynamics in healthcare. This experience not only enriched their academic journey but also underscored MCHP's commitment to international collaboration and excellence in occupational therapy education.

World Health Summit 2024 Regional Meeting: Shaping the Future of Health Across Asia and the Pacific

The World Health Summit is the international platform for global health. It brings together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society from around the world to set the agenda for a healthier future and well-being for all. The World Health Summit strengthens exchange, stimulates innovative solutions to health challenges, fosters global health as a key political issue, and



promotes the global health debate in the spirit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The World Health Summit as a conference and strategic forum, is held each October in Berlin with around 3,000 participants on-site and more than 10,000 online. In addition to the main conference, there are annual World Health Summit Regional Meetings in different parts of the world, where local and regional topics come to the forefront. The respective meeting is hosted by the M8 Alliance member holding the World Health Summit International Presidency, which rotates every year. The Regional Meeting 2024 focused on shaping the future of health across Asia and the Pacific. Over three days, leaders from diverse sectors, disciplines and cultures will share knowledge, catalyze new partnerships, inspire new research opportunities, and explore policies that can deliver measurable and meaningful impacts on health outcomes. Participants were challenged to consider the questions: What would it take to achieve and sustain better health and wellbeing for people in the Asia-Pacific over the next 5-10 years? What are the strengths to build on? And what are the systems that need to change or evolve?

Guest Visits



Touro University, California



University of North Carolina



Australian Consulate General



University of Liverpool, United Kingdom



Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, Pennsylvania & Central Michigan University, US



MANIPAL
Office Of International Affairs & Collaborations, MAHE
MAHE Fellowship for 12 meritorious MBBS students for Global Experience

Gallery

World Environment Day



International day of Yoga



Namma Angadi



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