

HISTORY

FROM PAST TO PRESENT...

The forerunner to MCOPS was the College of Pharmacy, founded in 1963. It was Dr TMA Pai's foray into the world of pharmacy after his signal success in founding the medical and engineering colleges. Started as an institution, offering Diploma in Pharmacy, it upgraded itself as a degree college (BPharm) in 1965. Then in 1970, the post-graduate program (MPharm) was started.

For several years since inception, the college was a part of Kasturba Medical College [KMC], Manipal and the dean of KMC was the overall in-charge. The head of the institution looking after the day-to-day activities was the Director. This arrangement continued up until the late eighties when the college got independent status as a full-fledged College of Pharmaceutical Sciences (COPS). Although Manipal got the deemed university status as Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in 1993, it was only in 2001 that COPS became a constituent college of MAHE. COPS became Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences [MCOPS] afterwards.

Despite being housed in rather modest premises, from the very beginning the college had men of repute to guide and nurture it. Of course, the benevolent founder Dr TMA Pai was a constant source of inspiration. The facilities of various departments of KMC- infrastructure and staff of physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology etc., were available for the fledgling institution.

Professor Nitai Krishna Basu was the first Director, a medicinal chemist by specialization. His leadership qualities and experience in teaching and administration were the much-needed tonic for the college in its infancy. After being at the helm for two years between 1963 and '65, he demitted office. Mr N Krishnamurthy took over the reigns of the institution, until the arrival of Dr P Gundu Rao in 1967. Dr Rao brought with him a lot of fresh ideas and dynamism. It was during his period that MPharm was started with

pharmaceutical chemistry specialisation. It goes to Dr Gundu Rao's credit that pharmaceutical management as a specialisation for MPharm was first introduced in India at Manipal in the early seventies. He left Manipal in 1978 on an overseas appointment for six years.

Dr S Sankara Subramanian, who retired from JIPMER, Pondicherry, was the next director. A renowned phytochemist, Dr Subramanian was very keen to do research on the rich flora of this part of the world comprising the Western Ghats. The voluminous research that has been carried out on medicinal plants at MCOPS since the early eighties owes a great deal to Dr Subramanian's encouragement and guidance. His doctoral student, Dr K K Srinivasan has the distinction of being the first PhD from MCOPS.

Dr Gundu Rao rejoined the college in 1984 after his Ethiopian stint and served the institution until his retirement in 1995. It was during his second tenure that the college was upgraded into an independent college, separate from KMC. Dr. Rao became the first principal and the college was renamed, as College of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He has the enviable record of serving as Organizing Secretary for two IPCs, the first one in 1972 (23rd) and, the second one in 1990 (42nd) coinciding with the Silver Jubilee of the College.

Prof N Krishnamurthy played a quiet, but significant role in the scheme of things at MCOPS. It was he who steadied the ship during the period 1978 to 1984 through his selfless and hard work in the company of a few members of the staff and supporting staff. This unassuming professor was a repertory of knowledge, be it in pharmaceuticals or in administration. As Director or Deputy Director he served with dignity and devotion for nearly three decades.

Dr M N A Rao was the principal from 1995-'97 after the retirement of Dr Gundu Rao.

Dr Nayanabhirama Udupa was the principal from 1997-2013. In the last decade, with Dr N Udupa at the helm, there has been a tremendous growth of this institution with the addition of more branches of specializations at MPharm level and enhanced intake of students.

Since 2013, it is Dr C Mallikarjuna Rao, who is heading the institution.

MCOPS has come a long way since 1963. It boasts the highest strength of faculty and supporting staff in comparison with other pharmacy colleges. The college has DPharm, BPharm, MPharm (11 specializations), PharmD, PharmD Post Baccalaureate and PhD programs running successfully. MCOPS also helps the university in the designing and conduct of several MSc programs. New buildings and extensions have been made to keep pace with the newer initiatives and courses that were launched in the last few years. MCOPS has received significant financial assistance from AICTE, DST, UGC and other funding agencies helping it to modernize its laboratories and remove obsolescence. A significant number of post-graduate students are recipients of GPAT scholarship.

Workshops, quality improvement program and seminars to hone the skills of PG students and faculty are routinely conducted with financial assistance from AICTE and other funding agencies. Like in other institutions of Manipal University, teaching and research are given a lot of importance. This can be gauged from the number of publications coming from MCOPS every year in national and international journals of repute. Recognized as a centre for Quality Improvement Program, many teachers from pharmacy colleges across the country have been able to carry out their doctoral work at MCOPS. The college has so far produced 138 PhDs as young faculty members seek to improve their qualification. One of the spin offs from the research activity is the filing of patents. Until now the college has 9 patents to its credit. Many young researchers and students receive travel grants to attend conferences in India and abroad. MCOPS alumni are spread worldwide occupying senior positions in industry and academia. Many have become industrialists and run highly successful ventures.

An Industry-Institute Partnership Cell that was put in place a few years ago ensures good interaction with pharmaceutical industries.

MCOPS has a placement cell that helps its graduates to get rewarding jobs in industries. The 62nd IPC in December 2010, the third held at Manipal, brought close to 9000 delegates to this township. For Manipal, this meet was a record in terms of number of

delegates. The preparations for the mega event started one year ahead. The entire staff and students of MCOPS lent their full support to the principal for the conduct of 62nd IPC. The delegates, resource persons and VIPs showered praise on the organizers for the event management. It was a shot in the arm for the institution.

MCOPS celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2012-'13 through yearlong academic and non-academic programs. Six conferences/conventions, a cricket T20 tournament, national pharmacy quiz and a number of workshops, staff development programs and summer training school were held.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), MHRD, Govt of India placed MCOPS at Rank # 1 in 2014. In 2022, the institute has attained a phenomenal position of QS world ranking in the range of 101-150 in the subject category of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, with a steep leap every year, which is a true testimonial for quality education, infrastructure and research at MCOPS. Now in the 59th year of its existence, MCOPS is the destination for all those who aspire for quality education in pharmaceutical sciences in India.

Nothing would have pleased the Founder of Manipal more!

Alumni Strength: 7,710

Programmes	Till 2021
DPharm	1,382
BPharm	3,421
MPharm	2,402
PharmD	227
PharmD - Post Baccalaureate	80
PhD	198
TOTAL	7,710