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Dr. G. Parthasarathi, professor and Head of Department of Pharmacy Practice, JSS College of Pharmacy, JSS University, Mysore; Head of Clinical Pharmacy Services, JSS Medical College Hospital, Mysore; Visiting faculty at School of Medical Sciences, Univ. South Australia, Adelaide.

Completed M.Pharm, in Pharmacology 1989, Ph.D. in 1994; Graduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy in 1997 from University of South Australia, Adelaide. He received his training in Clinical Pharmacy at Repatriation General Hospital, Adelaide and was awarded “Weary Dunlop” Fellow in Clinical Pharmacy.

He started this new discipline, Clinical Pharmacy Practice and Education at JSS Medical College Hospital, Mysore in 1997. For his innovative thoughts and ideas in Pharmacy Practice in Indian set up he was awarded with “Young Teacher of year 2000”. He is recipient of “Distinguished Alumni 2002” of Kasturba Medical College, Manipal; ‘Shroff Memorial National Award’ for his initiatives in starting clinical pharmacy in Indian hospitals.

Dr. Parthasarathi has 49 research papers to his credit in national and international journals; has presented papers in national and international seminars /conferences; has been a lead editor for the textbook ‘A Textbook of Clinical Pharmacy Practice –Essential Concepts and Skills’; he has successfully guided 50 PG students and 05 PhDs; 13 of the research papers/presentations where he is a co-author have won the best paper awards. He was the principal investigator of Indian Council for Medical Research sponsored multicentric national task force project on establishing adverse drug reactions reporting systems in four teaching hospitals in the state of Karnataka.

Primary research area of interest is Pharmacovigilance. He was trained in ADR detection and monitoring at Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Sweden in May-June, 1999. He is

closely involved with and is currently member of the Strategic Committee of National Pharmacovigilance Program of India. His department is identified as Regional Training and Technical Support Centre for Pharmacovigilance Program of India.

Clinical Pharmacy in India – Present Status, Challenges and Future Prospects

Today more and more number of people globally has access to medicines that can treat and prevent disease conditions. There is obvious need for pharmacists to expand their roles in patient care. The concepts and skills of clinical pharmacy practice are relevant to all pharmacists to promote effective, safe and economic use of medicines.

In India, the pharmacists working either in the hospitals or in the community are 'drug focused' rather than 'patient focused'. The potential role of pharmacists as healthcare professionals is realized but they unfortunately are not trained.

Recognizing the need for training of pharmacists to assume practice roles, clinical pharmacy education and training program were initiated in India in late 1990's. The emphasis was that these teaching departments to be based at local hospitals with students participating in patient care activities. We have around 20 institutions offering postgraduate program in pharmacy practice. With the success of this academic program, Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D) was initiated in 2008.

India is a country with many drug use problems. There is a clear need to improve the drug use process by promoting the quality and safe use of medicines through the practice of clinical pharmacy in India. This presentation will discuss the present scenario of practice of clinical pharmacy in India, challenges faced and the way forward in India.