

Report of Dr Runa Jha
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Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India



I am extremely thankful to the World Pathology Foundation for granting me the Gordon Signy scholarship which helped me to cover expenses of my 1 year training in Hematology in India

I visited PGIMER on September 13, 2010. The Head of Department warmly accepted me and gave me orientation of the department. From the next day I officially joined the department and my schedule for 1 year training was prepared. I started with bone marrow reporting where I was part of team along with other residents. I actively participated in bone marrow aspiration/ biopsy procedures in adult and pediatric patients, staining slides and interpretation of results. There I got to see many new cases which I had not seen before in Nepal. Next I was rotated in flow cytometry for two and half months which I enjoyed maximum. Flow cytometry being a technology which I had not been exposed to before, I was trained from very basics of instrumentation to sample collection and processing, acquisition, data analysis and report interpretation of leukemia, lymphoma and paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria. Then I attended hemolytic anemia laboratory and learned the wide variety of tests being done there, particularly **high performance liquid chromatography** for thalassemia. I was also given opportunity to rotate in Antenatal Molecular Laboratory and Leukemia Molecular Laboratory where I got the opportunity to learn polymerase chain reaction and gel electrophoresis. I also spent one month in the Coagulation Laboratory where I got to observe and assist in variety of routine tests, factor assays, antiphospholipid antibody work up and platelet function tests. I also learned the approach to patients with bleeding and thrombotic disorders there. For one month I was also provided with chance to visit the blood bank which gave me opportunity to rotate through blood component preparations section, immunohematology laboratory and plasmapheresis section.

During my stay in PGIMER, I regularly attended the weekly journal clubs and seminars organized for residents. I also participated in clinicohematological meetings with Department of Clinical Hematology and Department of Pediatric Hematology/oncology which were held every fortnight. Also every week there would be a “softy” session where residents would be provided with 10 slides a day before to see and form opinion within a time frame and all those slides would be discussed by one faculty member the next day. The Department would organize guest lectures from reputed hematologists of UK and USA and attending those lectures was highly beneficial. I was also part of research project which is studying CD 152 and CD 200 expression in chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Overall, I was extremely satisfied with my one year training in PGIMER which made me familiar with the advanced technologies in Hematology that I will use in Nepal in the near future. I am grateful to The World Pathology Foundation for funding me for that.