



KERALA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, THRISSUR

ReCaB @ KUHS

A NEWSLETTER FOR RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

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In this issue:

[From the Vice Chancellor](#)

[From the Editor's Desk](#)

[Empowering Healthcare Innovation](#)

[Forthcoming Programmes](#)

[Call for Research Proposals/
Fellowships](#)

From the Vice Chancellor

Good quality health care depends on the quality of health-related information that we have. The knowledge creation depends on the manpower as well as infrastructure for research. Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS) recognizes the need for collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts in this direction. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres (IEDCs) in Health Science institutions can play a pivotal role in fostering research that can lead to better health outcomes. The initiative to establish IEDCs in Health Science institutions in Kerala is a welcome step. We are happy to be partners in this.

Dr. Mohanan Kunnummal
Vice Chancellor

From the Editor's Desk

Let us join hands to create a vibrant research ecosystem in our institutions. Administrators and policymakers should invest in building research infrastructure in their institutions. Trainees and their mentors can explore avenues for research funding. The availability of institutional research funding for early career research will help. Let me urge all institutions to earmark funds in their annual budget for intramural research. This will Promote innovation. Please read about the new developments in the next two pages.

Dr. Shaji K.S
Dean Research (Editor)



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1

Empowering Healthcare Innovation

EMPOWERING HEALTHCARE INNOVATION: THE IMPERATIVE OF ESTABLISHING INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTRES (IEDCS) IN KERALA'S MEDICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

By Rohit Philip, Senior Program Consultant, Kerala Medical Technology Consortium (KMTC)

[This article was prepared with the assistance of ChatGPT 4o, the latest and most advanced language model developed by OpenAI, which provided research support and initial drafting based on provided inputs.]

The landscape of medical education is evolving rapidly, driven by the rise of emerging technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Artificial Intelligence (AI). These technologies are set to revolutionize learning and innovation, particularly in medicine and healthcare. AR and VR can simulate real-life scenarios for medical training, while AI can assist in diagnostics, treatment planning, and personalized medicine.

This underscores the indispensable role healthcare providers play in driving medical innovation. By integrating entrepreneurial skills with clinical expertise, they can create solutions that address critical health challenges and improve patient outcomes.

What is an IEDC?

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres (IEDCs) are specialized units established within educational institutions to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculty. These Centres provide resources, mentorship, and infrastructure to support the development of innovative ideas into viable business ventures. IEDCs aim to bridge the gap

between academic research and industry application, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and practical problem-solving.

In Kerala, the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) plays the pivotal role in helping interested institutions setup and support IEDCs. KSUM is the nodal agency of the Government of Kerala for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities in the state. It provides the necessary infrastructure, funding, and mentorship to IEDCs, ensuring they have the support needed to thrive. As of now, there are over 425 IEDCs established across Kerala, catering to more than 10,000 students. These Centres have produced over 300 student-founded startups, with an initial seed grant corpus of INR 2.59 crores.

Opportunities for Kerala

Kerala, with its robust healthcare system and emphasis on education, is uniquely positioned to lead this initiative. The establishment of IEDCs in medical colleges opens up several opportunities:

1. Leadership in Medical Technology

Kerala can position itself as a leader in medical technology innovation, attracting investments and talent from across the globe.

2. Economic Growth

The development of innovative medical technologies can spur economic growth, creating high-value jobs and fostering a knowledge-based economy.

3. Improved Healthcare Delivery

By developing homegrown solutions tailored to local healthcare challenges, IEDCs can improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare services in Kerala.



The Role and Significance of IEDCs in Medical Education Institutions

To cultivate a culture of curiosity, problem-solving, and innovation among healthcare professionals, Kerala is taking a transformative step by establishing IEDCs within its medical education institutions. These Centres serve as incubators for novel ideas, where students, researchers, and healthcare professionals can collaborate to develop cutting-edge solutions. The significance of this initiative lies in its ability to:

1. Foster Innovation

IEDCs create an ecosystem where innovation is nurtured. They provide the necessary infrastructure, mentorship, and resources for students and professionals to transform their ideas into viable products and services.

2. Enhance Medical Education

Integrating entrepreneurship into medical education equips students with a holistic understanding of the healthcare industry.

3. Bridge the Gap between Academia and Industry

IEDCs act as a bridge, facilitating collaboration between academic institutions and the medical technology industry. This synergy accelerates the translation of research into practical applications, benefiting the healthcare system as a whole.

The Role of Healthcare Providers and Professionals

The success of IEDCs hinges on the active involvement of healthcare providers and professionals. These professionals can:

1. Identify Real-world Problems

Healthcare providers are uniquely positioned to identify pressing issues that need innovative solutions. Their insights ensure that the innovations developed are relevant and impactful.

2. Mentor and Guide

Experienced healthcare professionals can mentor students and budding entrepreneurs, providing practical advice and helping them navigate the complexities of the healthcare industry.

3. Champion Innovation

By actively participating in IEDC initiatives, healthcare providers can champion the cause of innovation within their institutions and communities, fostering a culture that values and pursues continuous improvement.

The Imperative Role of All Partners

The successful implementation of IEDCs initiative requires the concerted efforts of all partners, including academic institutions, healthcare professionals, industry leaders, and government agencies. Along with KSUM and KMTC, the Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS) and the Indian Medical Association (IMA) have pivotal roles to play in this initiative.

1. Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS)

KUHS is responsible for ensuring high standards in medical and health sciences education, research, and training. The university can facilitate the integration of entrepreneurship into the medical curriculum, promote interdisciplinary research, and provide administrative support for IEDCs.

2. Indian Medical Association (IMA) – Kerala Chapter

The IMA is a national voluntary organization of doctors, which aims to promote and advance medical and allied sciences in all their different branches. The IMA can support IEDCs by providing mentorship from experienced practitioners, advocating for policy support, and facilitating industry connections.



Support from Kerala Medical Technology Consortium (KMTC)

The Kerala Medical Technology Consortium (KMTC) is an initiative aimed at establishing Kerala as a prominent hub for medical technology and devices. KMTC focuses on bringing together all stakeholders in a vibrant, inclusive and interactive ecosystem that supports innovation and entrepreneurship in the medical technology sector. KMTC collaborates with research and academic institutions, industry leaders, and government agencies to provide resources, mentorship, and funding for medical technology startups.

KMTC can play a crucial role in connecting these IEDCs to surrounding clusters, facilitating industry interactions, and helping deserving ideas to scale up and set up manufacturing in the state. By integrating the support of KMTC, IEDCs can ensure that the innovations developed within academic institutions find the necessary pathways to commercialization and practical application.



Forthcoming Programmes

1. Faculty Development Program-for the faculty of the Pharmacy colleges - Phase 2-Batch 3 on 21st, 22nd and 23rd August 2024 at KUHS Vigyan Bhavan.
2. Skills Lab Training Program – Faculty of Dental Sciences (phase 2) from 30//8/2024 to 31/8/2024 at Govt. Dental College Kottayam

Call for Research Proposals/Fellowships

1. Eol for Evidence-Based Guidelines on the Empirical Use of antibiotics (Upper Respiratory Infections, Acute Undifferentiated Fever, and Community-Acquired Pneumonia)
Link: https://main.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/seminars/Eol_Empirical_use_of_antibiotics_MK.pdf
2. ICMR invited Eol for Evidence-Based Guidelines on the Empirical Use of antibiotics (Meningitis, Intra-abdominal Infections, and Skin & Soft Tissue Infections)
Link: https://main.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/seminars/Eol_Empirical_use_of_antibiotics_VD.pdf
3. ICMR invited expression of interest for ICMR Collaborating Centre of Excellence (ICMR-CCoE) – 2024
Link: https://main.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/seminars/CCoE_Call_for_Interest_2024.pdf
4. ICMR invited Eol for transfer of technology of "A CRISPR Cas based TB detection system (last date revised)
Link: https://main.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/seminars/Revised_EoICRISPR_19072024.pdf
5. GBD Collaborator Network has announced a new call for collaborators to join the GBD Collaborator Network. They are now accepting new applications. Please visit the websites for details.
Website link: <https://www.healthdata.org/research-analysis/gbd/collaborator-network>