

Press Release

**(National Medical Laboratory Professionals' Week 17th to 23rd July, 2018) -
At PGIMER, Chandigarh, dt.23.7.2018**

On the call of **Indian Confederation of Medical Laboratory Sciences (ICMLS)**, an umbrella organization of more than 25 medical lab. science associations, **National Medical Laboratory Professionals' Week** was celebrated throughout the Country from 17th to 23rd July, 2018. The Medical Laboratory Professionals from all major government health care institutions like AIIMS, New Delhi, ESIC Hospitals, Railway Hospitals and dispensaries, CGHS dispensaries, OFB Hospital, Central Hospitals and institutions, and private laboratories throughout the country actively participated and organised multiple programmes/activities, and so was it celebrated in PGIMER, Chandigarh too.

During the week long programme, many Scientific, Social and cultural programmes like Scientific Workshop, CME, Symposium, Blood donation camp, Eye donation awareness camp, Organ donation awareness camp and screening camp were organised by the medical laboratory professionals across the country. The Importance of medical lab Profession and professionals were highlighted by holding such programmes.

ICMLS is a national representative confederation of more than 50 thousand medical laboratory technologists and scientists working under various government and private health care establishments. ICMLS is also an affiliate of International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Sciences (IFBLS).

The Medical Laboratory Sciences and its professionals, who often work behind the screen, have made significant strides and contribution during the last few decades in the development of diagnostic medical sciences. There is no mechanism to regulate the professional education and practices of medical lab profession. Neither the state governments nor the Centre have shown seriousness to tackle this situation. In the absence of any regulatory legal mechanism to oversee the educational and professional standards, illegal educational institutions have been mushrooming unabatedly across the country, only to earn profit that lack even basic requirement for such sensitive aspect of medical education. Not only that, Medical Technology staff, whether in the government sector or in private sector face a plethora of problems since there is no statutory law to address their anomalies e.g despite their high qualifications in respective fields there is no licensing system to work on their own, they do not have recognized positions in the hierarchy for identical works, there are no proper rules for recruitment, service conditions, salaries and allowances etc.

Central government has been insensitive and indifferent to the plight of the medical laboratory professionals. With the result decades old demands raised by allied health professionals to have a "**Central Council of Medical Laboratory Science**" is still awaited. In the past too, ICMLS carried on various programmes, to emphasize the need to create a mechanism for managing medical lab professionals. It is a matter of regret

that the government assurances on these issues remain still unfulfilled. Furthermore, recently on the pretext of Clinical Establishment Act-2010 and without any comprehensive view point, Ministry has notified Clinical Establishment (Central Government) Amendment Rules-2017 for clinical laboratories, which are neither feasible on practical ground nor tenable on legal ground.

However, the primary aim of **National Medical Laboratory Professionals' Week** was to share all professional developments, celebrate professional achievements and to plan for future goals and objectives for the betterment of medical lab profession and professionals. Nevertheless, ICMLS has also highlighted all the above mentioned professional challenges and issues during the week to invite the attention of Central and State Governments.

In this context, a blood donation camp was organised as a symbolic programme on concluding day i.e 23rd July, 2018 at Zakir Hall, PGIMER, Chandigarh, to aware the general public about the role of medical laboratory services and its professionals in modern health care delivery system. Prof. Jagat Ram, Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh inaugurated the camp and appreciated the efforts taken by ICMLS in organizing events of public interest and patients in particular. He gave away prizes to the winners of **“Good Laboratory Practice and Biomedical Waste Management”**. **Deptt. of Clinical Parasitology bagged first prize while Deptt. of Haematology and Deptt. Immunopathology PGIMER were the first and second runners up respectively. Milkfed and S&G Lab. Supplies were the main sponsorers of the Blood donation camp.**

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