Report on Exhibition stall and attending 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) – October 14th to 18th, 2024

The theme of the conference: Smart Regulation: Delivering Quality Assured Medical Products for All".

Introduction

The 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) and the Pre-ICDRA sessions held from October 14th to 18th, 2024, provided a platform to discuss advancements and challenges in global regulatory systems. The event offered valuable networking opportunities, particularly for private and public sector collaborations, fostering deeper insights into current regulatory practices and challenges. This report highlights our activities, key learnings, and outcomes of attending the event, including our experience as the only private educational institution represented at the ICDRA Yashobhoomi Exhibition Centre.

Participants

Faculty Members:

- Dr. K. Bangarurajan
- Dr. Balamuralidhara V
- Dr. Hemanth Kumar S

PhD Scholars:

- Ms. Deeksha. K.S
- Ms. Baviya Priyadharshini R

Pre-ICDRA Activities (October 14-15, 2024)

1. Inaugural Session

The Pre-ICDRA event began with an inaugural session on October 14, with Chief Guest Shri J.P. Nadda, Union Health Minister, GOI, addressing the significance of international regulatory convergence. This session set the stage for discussions on regulatory innovation and global health preparedness.

2. JSS Stall Installation at Yashobhoomi Exhibition Centre

Our stall, No. 277, represented JSSCPM as the sole privat e educational institution among 254 participants, showcasing JSS's role in regulatory research and training.

The exhibition saw a total of 311 stalls, with notable engagements from governmental bodies, the pharmaceutical industry, and alumni working in agencies such as CDSCO and WHO, who provided valuable feedback on the JSS curriculum's relevance to industry needs.

Sessions Attended

Faculty and scholars attended concurrent sessions, gaining insights on emerging regulatory frameworks, such as:

- Smart Regulation and reliance mechanisms
- Track and trace technologies in pharmacovigilance
- The African Medicines Agency's model for regional regulatory authority
- Regulation advancements in therapy, medical devices, and materials quality assurance

ICDRA Sessions (October 16-18, 2024)

1. Inaugural Session

The ICDRA inauguration, graced by Chief Guest Smt. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI, highlighted regulatory harmonization as a global priority.

2. Key Workshops and Plenaries Attended

Sessions focused on regulatory harmonization, quality management for regulatory bodies, and technological advances. Highlights include:

- **Good Regulatory Practices (GRP):** Emphasized the move towards WHO-listed authorities (WLAs) for global regulatory consistency.

- **Medical Device Regulation:** Discussed trends in regulation, emphasizing the need for adaptability in global health crises.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in SF Medical Products:** Underlined AI and machine learning's roles in improving traceability and efficiency in regulatory oversight.
- **Post-Approval Changes in Medical Products:** Explored efficient strategies for managing post-approval changes, a critical factor in lifecycle management.

Outcomes and Key Takeaways

1. **Enhanced Regulatory Knowledge and Best Practices**
   The sessions underscored the need for a flexible yet robust regulatory framework adaptable to technological advancements. Best practices discussed in pharmacovigilance, QMS, and good manufacturing practices (GMP) have direct applicability in refining JSS's curriculum and research methodologies.
2. **Networking and Industry Connections**
   Our participation enabled productive engagements with over 229 entities, including:
   - 30 government agencies
   - 69 medical devices/diagnostics companies
   - 31 contract research organizations
   - 99 life sciences and pharmaceutical companies

   These connections offer potential internship, research collaboration, and guest lecture opportunities, thus enriching JSS's industry engagement.
3. **Alumni Engagement and Feedback**
   Meeting JSS alumni working in agencies like CDSCO and WHO provided us with practical feedback on the skills and knowledge areas most relevant to industry demands. This information will guide enhancements in our Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs programs.

4. **Strategic Positioning of JSSCPM in Regulatory Education**

   As the only private educational institution present, JSS's commitment to fostering global regulatory competencies was reinforced. This unique positioning could attract prospective students and establish JSS as a leader in regulatory science education.

5. **Prospective Collaborative Research Opportunities**

   Areas such as sustainable production, medical device regulation, and AI applications in regulatory processes are potential focal points for future collaborative research initiatives between JSS and both governmental and private organizations encountered at the conference.

Conclusion

Participation in the 19th ICDRA has not only enhanced our understanding of global regulatory landscapes but has also strategically positioned JSSCPM for future collaborations. This exposure to the latest regulatory challenges and innovations will enable JSSCPM to continue delivering high-quality, industry-relevant education and research, aligned with international standards.

This event underscores JSSCPM's commitment to contributing to regulatory advancements, thus preparing our students and faculty for impactful roles in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors.

Dr. Hemanth Kumar S
Assistant Professor
JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru