



Asian School of Nuclear Medicine – An Emerging Platform of Nuclear Medicine Education.

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The history of modern Nuclear Medicine is considered for last 75 years only but the actual history may be of 2400 years old! Credit of early nuclear medicine may be given to two ancient Greek philosophers, Democritus and Hippocrates who lived between 460 and 370 BC. Democritus gave the theories that led the discovery of radioactivity and Hippocrates formulated the basics of practicing medicine according to rules and ethics. The fusion of these two theories may be the first step of nuclear medicine specialty. (Savvas Frangos, Nuclear Medicine: Fusing the ideas of Democritus and Hippocrates; 25 years of EANM).

We have seen rapid development of nuclear medicine in last few decades. Many newer radiopharmaceuticals have been developed for both diagnostic and therapeutic use in nuclear medicine. A revolution has also been occurred in nuclear medicine instrumentation. From Anger camera we have entered into positron emission tomography (PET) with fusion technology like PET-CT or PET-MRI.

Nuclear Medicine is unique from other specialties or branches of medical science. However promotion of nuclear medicine is not homogeneous throughout the world. In North America and Europe nuclear medicine is contributing significantly. Growth of nuclear medicine in those countries are also tremendous. But thing is not same in Asia. Except Japan the other counties in Asia are far behind in nuclear medicine activities in comparison to American or European countries. Very recently Republic of Korea and China are coming up but rest of the Asia needs to go far ahead.

For promotion and development of nuclear medicine practice and scientific activities in developing countries of Asian region, a new organization ‘Asian Regional Cooperative Council for Nuclear Medicine’ (ARCCNM) was formed in February 2001. The newly formed council felt the necessity of educational activities for promotion of nuclear medicine in the region and a school named ‘Asian School of Nuclear Medicine’ (ASN) was founded in February 2003 in Dhaka with Dr. Felix Sundram as its first Dean.

Like European School of Nuclear Medicine (ESNM) which was founded in 1997, ASN also started its activities in organizing or accrediting the national seminars and training programmes in the region. However in less than 10 years ASN has emerged as a very vibrant organization when Prof. Gang Huang of China took the office as its 4th Dean. The school in collaboration with AOFNMB & ARCCNM organized the first Asia Oceania Board of Nuclear Medicine (AOBNM) examination in November 2014 in Osaka, Japan where 26 young nuclear medicine physicians from different countries of Asia got their first fellowship of AOBNM.

Asian School of Nuclear Medicine has now three permanent campuses in Osaka, Shanghai and Seoul. ASN is emerging as a new platform for nuclear medicine education. It is hoped in near future the school will be the centre of attraction not only for Asia but also for other continents of the world. Society of Nuclear Medicine, Bangladesh (SNMB) is proud of ASN being an active part of it since its birth in Dhaka.