

EDITORIAL

THE RATIONALITY OF “DIGITALIZED MEDICINE: A PHYSICIAN PERSPECTIVE

We are all too familiar with the word ‘digital’ used like household item in our daily lives, all but fewer medical professionals in the late nineties of twentieth century thought that the contour of the Medical sciences would not change to any major degree given the rigidity of nomenclature and the scientific precision associated with this science. But in 2018 the science of Bu Ali Cenna and Alexander Flemming is no more a Holy Grail. In fact digitalization has pervaded into the field of medicine in a proportion equivalent to that of the parent computer sciences itself. All the present day consultants in the field of Medicine in its various specialties would recall how consultants at the time of their training would grill them during the ward rounds or in a symposium on a scientific question that has been raised in the latest edition of British Medical Journal that was published last week to which only he had access, he being the prescriber. They would all look at the lips of the consultants with awe and surprise as to what next pearl would be spelt out by him, they having no clue whatsoever!! Not anymore of this, rather the moment consultant for example asks about a novel topic, the apparently disinterested post graduate at the tail of the ward round or a backbencher in the Clinical Presentation Conference through his i-phone has the latest update on that subject published even this morning. To move a step further if it is a group discussion everybody irrespective of his interest or hard work can join in the active discussion at two minutes’ notice using his easy to use smart phone. You now rarely need to move miles and burn your petrol, time and money to reach the archives of the Royal Library in London to get your needed topic. This obviously cannot be a substitute for quality research work or literary publication but for every day knowledge and application this is what the people call Science Made Ridiculously Simple! Health Care Professionals can now access text books, various scores calculators, drug information anywhere and anytime in a fraction of seconds. The subscription for online portal services and access for facilities like PubMed or Google Scholar will make you feel like a member of elite

among the educated lot in Medical Profession. This will not only enhance the self-confidence brought about by knowledge but also improve the quality of services and benefit to the humanity for those practicing practitioners. One can simply check the required and relevant information without having to leave patient’s bedside or go to another room to have a look at his text book.

It may sound queer in our setup but the availability of Digital Pharmacology guide during the ward round is a routine practice in advanced countries usually carried by a Pharmacist. All that the Consultant needs to remember is the name of a generic based on his knowledge and practicing experience, the detail about the updated doses, routes of administration, duration, various brands and their prices is one tick apart on the online messaging services of the guide. This not only can help rationalize the therapeutics but is a significant milestone in quick dispensation of services in consonance with the socioeconomic status of the patient.

Needless to say however, these quick and cheap access to Medical information as already mentioned can be adopted without an audit and scientific rigor, necessitating the ultimate need of a teacher and quality advances to be quoted and adopted in the scenarios mentioned above. As part of the scientific protocol, the need for caution and scientific dexterity cannot be overemphasized. The newer information and protocols need to be put to the test of recommended protocols before being recommended for implementation. The deviation from these can be disastrous in long term as one of the pitfalls of this above scientific machinery is the complacency and rusting of the clinical senses and expertise as a result.

Foreboding is forewarned.

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