

# Report of 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Maharashtra State Joint Conference of IAPSM & IPHA: MHIAPSMIPHACON 2024 Research Frontier: Public Health Always By Organizing Chairperson: Dr. Prasad Waingankar

The 25<sup>th</sup> Joint State Conference of Indian Association of Preventive & Social Medicine (IAPSM) Maharashtra Chapter & Indian Public Health Association (IPHA) Maharashtra Branch was successfully conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024 with Pre-Conference workshops on 4<sup>th</sup> January at Mahatma Gandhi Missions Medical College, Kamothe, Navi Mumbai. The theme of the conference was **“Research Frontier: Public Health Always”**.



The total number of 329 delegates from various cities of Maharashtra registered for the conference. Maharashtra Medical Council awarded 4 Credit Points for the delegates attending the conference.

## Pre-Conference Workshops

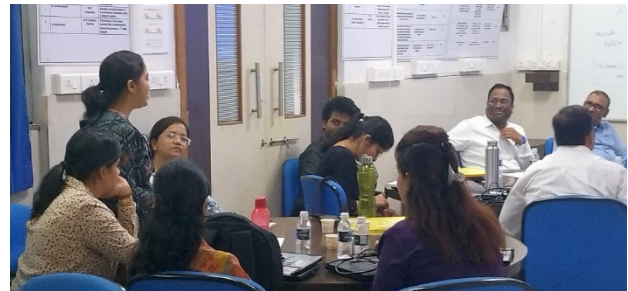
Four full-day workshops were conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> January as follows –

Workshop	Faculty
<b>Sample Size Calculations in Health Research</b>	Dr Pradeep Deshmukh Dr Sachin Mumbare Dr Madhavi Mankar
<b>Qualitative Methods in Health Research</b>	Dr Amol Dongre Dr Gajanan Velhal Dr Prasad Waingankar
<b>Operational Research &amp; Implementation Research</b>	Dr Shrikala Acharya Dr Maninder Setia Dr Mrunal Pimparkar
<b>Economic Evaluation of Health Programs in India</b>	Dr Dhanajay Mankar Dr Ratnaprabha Pedhambkar Dr Shraddha Kulkarni Dr Montu Bose Dr Ashlesha Tawde

There were 63 participants registered for workshops. The participants of workshops

were postgraduate students and faculty from Community Medicine departments and MPH students from various institutes all over Maharashtra.

The sample size calculation in health research is a complex topic for health researchers for deciding a sample size for any health-related study. The workshop included sessions on the importance of sample size calculations, and sample size calculations for cross-sectional, case-control and cohort studies.



Hands-on training for calculating sample size for superiority, equivalence, and non-inferiority trials and also calculation of ANOVA, Chi-Square test, correlation, and regression test. All students and faculty equally participated in calculating the exercises & successfully found solutions.

The Qualitative Methods in Health Research workshop included an introduction to the methods and theories of qualitative research. Types of qualitative research designs such as Grounded theory, phenomenal, historical, ethnographic, and narrative research were explained to the participants. Differences between qualitative and quantitative methods were explained. The sampling methods, significance, and advantages of qualitative



research studies were taught to the participants. Methods like focus group discussions, casework and analysis of qualitative research studies were explained. Case studies of qualitative research were practiced and analysed by participants. The sessions were interactive and informative.

The Operational and Implementation research workshop included Introduction to

Implementation and Operational Research, Terminology, definitions, conceptual clarity and detailed examples. Study designs in implementation and operational research including data management and analysis.



Advantages and Disadvantages of various designs. Application of Implementation research in National programmes with examples. In one Case study, the participants worked in small groups to develop research proposals for implementation/operational research. In the second Case Study, participants worked in small groups to discuss the design/ethics/implementation of research findings. The session on stakeholder Engagement & Social Marketing was an important aspect of the workshop. Practical implementation of research findings including advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and social marketing was discussed with participants.

The Economic Evaluation of Health Programs in India - workshop was Introduction to National Health Programs in India and Need for Economic Evaluation, the different health programs and the planning of the programs were described. Methods of Economic Evaluation of Health Programs such as partial and full evaluation methods, cost-effective, cost-benefit, and cost minimization were explained. QALYs, Cost analysis of disease treatment and comparative cost analysis calculation for different disease treatments were shown. The advantages and disadvantages of different methods of economic evaluation were presented in detail. The role of Economic Evaluation in Public Health Interventions in India topic



included identifying relevant costs of a health program, opportunity and accounting costs, Sensitivity analysis, and decision-making in public health programs. Steps of economic evaluation. Challenges in the Economic Evaluation of

Health Programs. Casework and economic analysis of the disease and survival rates were explained and discussed with the participants by the economist.

All the participants actively interacted with the faculty and practical applications of the research methods were discussed at length. The workshop presentations were shared with the participants. The workshops concluded with feedback from the participants and felicitation of the participants with certificates. Each workshop was awarded 2 Credit points by Maharashtra Medical Council.

### DAY 1: MHIAPSMIPHACON2024

The first day, 5<sup>th</sup> January started with Registration of delegates for the conference and providing Delegate Kit. Scientific Paper presentations started early in the morning.

The inauguration ceremony was held from 10 am to 12 pm. The dignitaries present for the Inauguration were Dr. Shashank Dalvi (Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MGMIHS), Dr. Sudhir Kadam (Medical Director), IAPSM & IPHA Maharashtra State office Bearers viz. Dr. Lalit Sankhe (President IAPSM MH), Dr. Purushottam Giri (Secretary IAPSM MH & Secretary General IAPSM), Dr. Gajanan Velhal (President, IPHA MH), Dr. Prasad Waingankar (Secretary IPHA MH & Organizing Chairperson - MHIAPSMIPHACON2024), Dr. Prakash Doke Ex-President IPHA MH), Dr. Madhavi Mankar (Organizing Secretary).

Dr Subhash Salunkhe (Ex-Director General Health Services Maharashtra State) was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Dr. Sanghmitra Ghosh (President IPHA), Dr. Kaushik Mitra (Secretary General, IPHA), Dr. Surjit Ghosh (President IPHA, West Bengal) & Padmashree Raman Gangakhedkar (Ex-Director, ICMR) graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra State, Shri Eknathji Shinde, sent a video message conveying his best wishes for the conference highlighting the importance of role of Research in Public Health.





After the lamp lighting and declaration of inauguration of conference by the chief guest, conference e-souvenir containing messages of dignitaries and details of scientific program was released.

After the inaugural speeches, the keynote address on the conference theme was delivered by Dr. Subhash Salunke. He highlighted the role of Public Health Experts with examples and reiterated the need of practical and need based research by Public Health Professionals. The session was chaired by Dr. Raman Gangakhedkar and Dr Prakash Doke.



Dr. Sulabha Akarte was conferred the prestigious **Padma Bhushan Dr. Banoo Coyaji Oration** by IPHA. She spoke on “Political Economy and Women’s Health in India” The Oration was chaired by Dr. Sanghmitra Ghosh and Dr. Gajanan Velhal.

Following lunch break, there were various sessions by Serum Institute, Pune, highlighting the recent advances in vaccination which was moderated by Col. Dr. A. L. Sharma and Dr. Balkrishna Adsul.

Dr. Chetanraj Bhamare spoke on “Monoclonal Antibodies in Rabies PEP-Rabishield: Latest update”. Dr. Vijay Kamale addressed “Changing the HPV landscape with an indigenous vaccine: CERVAVAC”. Dr. Anirudha Potey spoke on “Bivalent Typhoid Paratyphoid A Conjugate vaccine- Update on clinical development”.



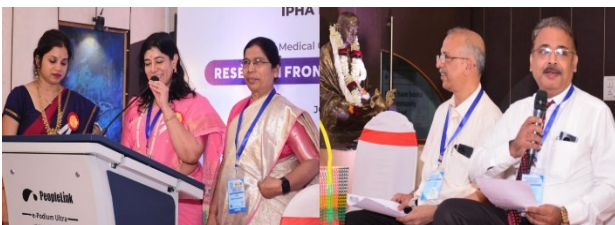
Dr. Muralidhar Tambe spoke on “Vaccine Research for Public Health Progress”.



This was followed by Panel discussion on “Research in Public Health”. The panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Shashank Dalvi, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, MGMIHS, Navi Mumbai and was Moderated by Dr. Madhavi Mankar and Dr. Nisha Relwani. The Panellists included esteemed speakers – Padmashree Dr Raman Gangakhedkar, Dr. Prakash Doke, Dr. Surjit Ghosh, Dr. Shyam Ashtekar and Dr. Harshad Thakur. The delegates found that the interactive panel discussion was very informative.



The session by CEHAT was on “Gender in Medical Education”, which was moderated by Dr. Mrunal Pimparkar. The session was taken by well-known speakers- Dr. Arjun Jakasania, Amruta Bavdekar and Dr. Priya Prabhu.



The prestigious **Padmashree Dr D N Pai Memorial Oration** was conferred to Dr Shobha Salve by IAPSM and was chaired by Dr. Lalitkumar Sankhe and Dr. Dinesh Samel. She enlightened on “Family Adoption Program (FAP) - Opportunity to Learn, Serve and Research” which was appreciated by the delegates.

The last session of Day 1 was by State TB Cell on “Tuberculosis Update” which was taken by WHO Co-ordinator Dr. Rajabhau Yeole and District TB Officer Dr. Sachin Jadhav and was chaired by Dr. Sanjeev Kamble and Dr. Swati Deshpande.



After the scientific sessions, General Body Meeting of both the associations was conducted which was attended by several members of IPHA and IAPSM. The day ended with Banquet at Hotel Devanshi. The delegates enjoyed the warm hospitality, dinner and musical performance of student’s band of MGM Medical College.

## DAY 2: MHIAPSMIPHACON2024

The second day of the conference started with session on “Public Health Research Beyond Borders” by international speaker Dr. Graciela Jaschek, Professor Epidemiology & Biostatistics, College of Public Health, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA sharing her experience. The session was chaired by Dr. Shrivalli Natrajan and Dr. Vaibhav Thakkar. It was a very interactive session.



This was followed by Panel Discussion on “Public Health approach to Occupational Health”. The Panellists included renowned speakers- Dr. R Rajesh, Dr Vijay Singh and Dr. Vandana Shinde.

The Panel discussion was chaired by Dr. Ratnaprabha Pedhambkar and moderated by Dr. Ashish Mishra.



Dr. Nitin Ambadekar was conferred the prestigious IPHA **Padmashree Dr Suhaschandra V Mapuskar Oration**, and he spoke on “Navigating Public Health Realities: Insights from the Field”. The Oration was chaired by Dr. Kaushik Mitra and Dr. Prasad Waingankar. The daughter of Dr. Mapuskar, Dr Shilpa Narayanan shared the memories of her father’s pioneering work.



The oration was followed by session by CIPLA on “Research in Respiratory Diseases in India” by Dr Sundeep Salvi and was chaired by Dr. Sachin Jadhav and Dr. Chandramani Pathak.



Dr. Seema Bansode Gokhe was conferred the prestigious IAPSM **Dr PSN Reddy Oration**. She spoke on “Role of Department of Community Medicine in the Management & Control of COVID-19 Disease Pandemic in Mumbai City-Our Experiences”. The Oration was chaired by Dr. Purushottam Giri & Dr Pradeep Sawardekar.



Dr. Subodh Gupta and Team spoke on “Learnings from Aarambh”. The session was chaired by Dr Malangori Parande and Dr Harshal Pandve.



After Lunch, Dr. Abhay Gaidhane was conferred the prestigious IAPSM **Dr D K Ramadwar Memorial Oration**, and he enlightened on “Community Engagement in Public Health Research & Practice: Learnings from the Stepping Stones Program”. The session was moderated by Dr Muralidhar Tambe & Dr Prakash Doke.



The oration was followed by session on “Community Benefits of Ayurvedic Research” by Dr. Gurudutt Anand Amin representing Madhavbag Centre of Dr Sane. The session was chaired by Dr Shekhar Padhyegurjar & Dr. Shyam Ashtekar.



The prestigious IAPSM **Dr Mrunalini Pathak Memorial Oration** was conferred to Dr Muralidhar Tambe and was chaired by Col Dr P S Chawla and Col Saibal Adhya. He enlightened on “Artificial Intelligence in Public Health”, which was appreciated by the delegates.



This was followed by session on “Quasi Experimental Studies” taken by Dr. Pradeep Deshmukh and chaired by Dr. Dipak Patil and Dr. Varsha Vaidya.



Dr. Sharmila Patil and Dr. Gauravi Mishra conducted a session on “Cervical Cancer Screening: Evidence & Opportunities” which was moderated by Dr. Mrunal Pimparkar and Dr. Priya Kulkarni. The delegates found the session informative and interactive.



## Poster & Paper Presentation:

MHIAPSMIPHACON2024 featured an array of scientific sessions, including oral paper and e-poster presentations. This session featured presentations by researchers and scholars on various subtopics within the conference theme. Topics covered included maternal and childcare, occupational health, disease surveillance, health education, primary healthcare delivery, social determinants of health & community-based participatory research.

The Scientific Committee oversaw the submission and review process, receiving a total of 175 abstracts, comprising 142 for Oral Papers and 33 for e-Posters. To recognize outstanding contributions, the conference introduced a new category - the "Best Paper Award for UG Students." A total of 136 oral papers and 32 e-Posters were presented during the sessions scheduled from 9-11 am and 2-4 pm on both days.

Presenters included various researchers and academics from across the state. They shared their latest findings, methodologies, and implications, sparking stimulating discussions and intellectual exchanges among the attendees. The presentations were well-organized with clear structures as communicated to all the delegates in advance.

Each session was efficiently managed by a team consisting of a session Manager, a resident/intern, and two dedicated Volunteers. Two judges/ chairpersons per session were selected to evaluate the presentations. To express gratitude for their invaluable contribution, all of them were felicitated with a bouquet, certificate, and memento during the respective sessions. Audience engagement was notable, with attendees actively participating in Q&A sessions and engaging in constructive dialogue with presenters.

The paper presentations at the state conference showcased a diverse range of research topics and fostered stimulating discussions among attendees. Presenters demonstrated a high level of expertise in their respective fields and effectively communicated their research findings to the audience.

Delegates who presented papers or posters received certificates from the judges in recognition of their participation.

The conference also acknowledged excellence through awards, including eight awards and one judge's choice award for oral papers, as well as best female and best male presenter awards for e-Poster presentations.

## List of Winners for Paper Oral/ Poster Presentation: MHIAPSMIPHACON2024

SN	Prize	Name of Delegate	Title of Paper	Institute's Name
1	IPHA Best Paper (UG Student) Prize	<b>DR GAIKWAD ROSHANI RAJESH</b>	PREVALENCE OF INTERNET ADDICTION AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG THE UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS OF A MEDICAL COLLEGE.	DR. SHANKARRAO CHAVAN GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL, NANDED
2	Dr Khergaonkar Prize (IAPSM)	<b>DR BASVARAJ SANGNATH LOHARE</b>	A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF TRENDS OF MALARIA CASES ADMITTED IN TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL IN A METROPOLITAN CITY	GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, BARAMATI
3	Dr M V Kulkarni Prize (IAPSM)	<b>DR ZAINAB WARISHA</b>	TRANSPORTATION USED FOR ACCESSING CHILDBIRTH SERVICES BY PREGNANT WOMEN DELIVERING AT A TERTIARY CARE CENTER IN MUMBAI: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY.	GRANT GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE & SIR J.J. GROUP OF HOSPITAL, MUMBAI
4	Dr Vijaya Bhalerao Prize (IAPSM)	<b>DR ROHINI DESAI</b>	INSIGHTS INTO MENSTRUATION: A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION AMONG ADOLESCENT BOYS	GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, NAGPUR
5	Dr Saroj Jha Prize (IAPSM)	<b>DR PRACHI BHARAT RAUT</b>	AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS TOWARDS PREMARITAL SCREENING AND GENETIC COUNSELLING WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE.	GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, NAGPUR
6	Dr Sonaji Jogdand Prize (IAPSM)	<b>DR ANJU GEORGE</b>	A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY ON SOCIAL-ANXIETY DISORDER AND SELF-ESTEEM AMONG UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS OF A TERTIARY HEALTH CARE INSTITUTE IN CENTRAL-INDIA	INDIRA GANDHI GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, NAGPUR
7	Dr Sharangdhar Kanhere Prize (IAPSM)	<b>DR MANDAR PADMAKAR BAVISKAR</b>	TEACHING UTILIZATION OF SPATIAL ANALYSIS TOOLS (EPICOLLECT 5 AND GOOGLE MYMAPS) WHILE CONDUCTING FAMILY ADOPTION AND SURVEY TRAINING [TOOLS-FAST]	PRAVARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, LONI
8	IPHA Best Poster - Female Presenter	<b>DR Wafa SHAMIM MOHAMMED SHAMIM KHAN</b>	EVALUATION OF MENTAL HEALTH STATUS OF ADOLESCENTS LIVING IN ORPHAN HOMES OF LUCKNOW CITY - A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY.	ERA'S LUCKNOW MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, UP
9	IPHA Best Poster - Male Presenter	<b>DR ANAND BHIDE</b>	A CONVERGENT MIXED METHOD STUDY TO ASSESS LONELINESS, COPING MECHANISMS AND GENERAL WELLBEING AND THEIR CORRELATION IN ADOLESCENT ORPHANS	DR VASANTRAO PAWAR MEDICAL COLLEGE, NASHIK
10	Best Free Paper - Judge's Award (Organizing Committee)	<b>DR ASHISH MATHEW JOHNSON</b>	PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT AND BURDEN AMONG CAREGIVERS OF CANCER PATIENTS IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL AURANGABAD: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY.	GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI NAGAR

## PATH NATYA SPARDHA

### (Street Play Competition)

As a new initiative of this year's conference MHIAPSMIPHACON 2024, a Street Play Competition (Path Natya Spardha) was held on 3rd of January 2024, prior to the commencement of the main conference as an innovative prelude to the academic feast.

The team of judges constituted famous veteran theatre and screen actors, who are popular in both Hindi and Marathi Film Industry - Mr. Pradeep Velankar and Mrs. Rajni Velankar and Professor and Head of Community Medicine Department of K J Somaiya Medical College, Dr Padmavathy Dyavarishetty.



The 'Path Natya' essentially means play performed on the street to create social awareness. It is said that street theatre started in 1940s in India and since been utilized as an effective means of generating national consciousness, health, and social awareness on variety of important topics.

The program provided a platform for talented students and faculties to showcase their creativity and academic and theatrical skills. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from various students and faculties of medical colleges and nursing college of Mumbai, Pune and Navi Mumbai. Total 9 teams participated in the competition. The competition began at 10 am in morning and continued till 4 pm, with each team getting not more than 20 minutes to present their skit. Each team consisted of around 15 participants.



A wide range of themes were explored during the competition, like violence against doctors, adolescent mental health, Universal Health coverage, Health Insurance schemes, De-addiction, Health awareness of non-communicable diseases, etc. The street play was judged on the criteria of-theme, content, acting,

performance, continuity, stage utilization, direction, and overall impact of the skit.



All the performances were characterized by their creativity, relevance, and impactful storytelling. Each street play captured the audience's attention through its dynamic performances, thought provoking narrative and innovative use of



props and settings. The artists demonstrated exceptional talent in conveying complex messages in a concise and engaging manner, utilizing the power of theatre to evoke emotions and provoke reflection. The judges gave their expert remarks and critique on the performances, they explained nuances of acting, stage utilization skills as also on the essence and importance of Path Natya as an effective skill building activity for students especially for those working in healthcare delivery sector for bringing about behaviour change in the common population.



The Path Natya competition at the State Conference was a resounding success, highlighting the power of theatre as a medium for social transformation and artistic expression. The event not only entertained but also educated and inspired audiences, reaffirming the importance of cultural initiatives in addressing contemporary challenges and promoting positive change in society.





We recommend that to build on the success of the event, we need to organize similar competitions and cultural events on a regular basis to sustain momentum and engagement. Incorporating feedback from participants and audience members to enhance future editions of the competition and ensure continued relevance & impact.



Overall, the Path Natya competition was an was a vibrant and engaging event held during the State Conference, aimed at promoting social awareness and artistic expression through the medium of street theatre. It served as an innovative start to the Conference which left a lasting impression on all those who participated and attended.



The team from Topiwala National Medical College and B Y L Nair Ch. Hospital, Mumbai won the competition for presenting skit titled 'Sanghat' on Violence against doctors. Dr Rujuta Hadye, Professor & Head Community Medicine, TNMC who had written the script won the award of Best Scriptwriter. Team from Grant Government Medical College & JJ Group of Hospitals, Mumbai was runner up who presented the topic of Universal Health Coverage. The Director of this Path Natya Dr. Swapnil Sangle won the Best Director award. The judges suggested a special award for the team from Terana Medical College who presented the topic of Skin grafting as a Best Concept Award.



Dr. Swapnil Sangle, Dr. Vishal Chaudhary, Dr. Quincely Pareira and Mrs. Ujwala Chorghhe won the individual awards for Best Acting Performance.

The winning team performed again on the second day of the conference before the valedictory function, in front of conference delegates and esteemed guest Dr Harivansh Chopra, a public health expert who has an expertise in Path Natya skills and has conducted many workshops for students on Path Natya all over India.

The judges of the contest sent video message and congratulated winners and all participants.

### Valedictory Function:

Valedictory function was graced by Dr. Harivansh Chopra, immediate past president of IAPSM as Che



IPHA Maharashtra Branch Padavidhar & Padvyuttar Sanshodhan Prakalp Anudan Awardees present in the audience as delegate were felicitated on this occasion.



The winners of Path Natya Spardha and winners of Oral Paper and Poster Presentation were awarded with cash prizes, medals and certificates and books of community medicine.



Dr Madhavi Mankar, Secretary, MHIAPSMIPHACON2024 recognized efforts and role of various members of various committees in organizing the conference successfully and thanked all advertisers of e-souvenir and participants of scientific exhibition, stalls in which, were visited enthusiastically by all the delegates.

Dr Harivansh Chopra in his speech appreciated the innovative and unique approaches in conduction of the conference declaring it as a grand success. He congratulated and wished best to the state units of IAPSM and IPHA. The event ended with National Anthem.



Report prepared by:

Dr. Prasad Waingankar, Professor & Head  
 Dr. Mrunal Pimparkar, Professor  
 Dr. Nisha Relwani, Associate Professor  
 Dr. Ratnaprabha Pedhambkar, Assoc. Professor  
 Dr. Ashlesha Tawde, Associate Professor  
 Dr. Noopur Kulkarni, Assistant Professor

Community Medicine, MGM Medical College,  
 Kamothe, Navi Mumbai.