

July - December 2024

Volume 33

Issue 2

PRINT ISSN: 2277-1867

ONLINE ISSN: 2277-8853



JOURNAL OF FORENSIC MEDICINE SCIENCE AND LAW

Official Publication of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra

Editor-in-chief

Dr Ravindra Deokar

Associate Editors

Dr Sadanand Bhise

Dr Sachin Patil

MULTISPECIALITY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY, NATIONAL
PEER REVIEWED, OPEN ACCESS, MLAM (SOCIETY) JOURNAL
Indexed with Scopus (Elsevier)

Editorial Office Address

Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Third Floor, Library Building, Seth G S Medical College & KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Pin-400 012. Email id: mlameditor@gmail.com Phone: 022-24107620 Mobile No. +91-9423016325.



JOURNAL OF FORENSIC MEDICINE SCIENCE AND LAW

(Official Publication of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra)

Email.id: mlameditor@gmail.com

PRINT ISSN:

2277-1867

ONLINE ISSN:

2277-8853

Short Communication

Executive Summary of the XXVI Annual State Conference of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (MLAM) - Forensicon 2023

Shailesh Mohite^a, Rajesh Sukhdeve^b, Sachin Sonawane^{c*}, Ravindra B Deokar^d, Shivkumar Kolle^e, Sarah Al Hinnawi^e

^aDean; ^bProfessor & Head; ^cAdditional Professor, ^eAssistant Professor, FMT; HBT Medical College and Dr. R.N. Cooper Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. ^dAdditional Professor, FMT, Seth GSMC & KEM Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

Article Info

Received on: 05.10.2024

Accepted on: 13.12.2024

Key words

Forensic Horizons,
Journey of Toxicology,
Crime Scene
Investigations,
Law.

Abstract

The XXVI Annual State conference of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (MLAM) - FORENSICON 2023 was organized by the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, H.B.T Medical College & Dr. R.N. Cooper Municipal General Hospital, Mumbai on the 28th and 29th October 2023. The conference convened experts, practitioners, and researchers from various fields to explore the critical intersections between forensic medicine, toxicology, and investigative sciences. More than 300 delegates attended the conference, which included experts from the forensic medicine field as well as medical officers, lawyers and law enforcement who were inclined towards Forensic Medicine. The release of the souvenir & MLAM Official Journal- Journal of Forensic Medicine, Science & Law was done at the same time. The conference provided a comprehensive platform for discussing the latest advancements, methodologies, and challenges in forensic investigations related to medicine and toxicology.

1. Introduction

The "XXVI Annual State conference of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (MLAM) - 'FORENSICON 2023'" was organized by Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, H.B.T Medical College & Dr. R.N. Cooper Municipal General Hospital, Mumbai on the 28th and 29th October 2023. The previous conference "25th (Silver Jubilee) Annual State Conference of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (MLAM) 'FORENSICON 2022', was held on 18th & 19th

November 2022 hosted by the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Dr. Vasant Rao Pawar Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre, Nashik (Maharashtra) India.¹ The objectives of the conference were to serve as a significant platform for advancing the understanding and application of forensic medicine and toxicology. The conference was held at the newly inaugurated medical college building of H.B.T Medical College & Dr. R.N. Cooper Municipal General Hospital,

How to cite this article: Mohite S, Sukhdeve R, Sonawane S, Deokar R, Kolle S, Hinnawi S. Executive Summary of the XXVI Annual State Conference of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (MLAM) - Forensicon 2023. J Forensic Med Sci Law. 2024;33(2):73-78. doi: [10.59988/jfmsl.vol.33issue2.13](https://doi.org/10.59988/jfmsl.vol.33issue2.13)

***Corresponding author:** Dr Sachin Sonawane, Additional Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, HBT Medical College and DR. R.N. Cooper Hospital, Bhaktivedanta Swami Marg, Juhu Scheme, Juhu, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India-400056. Email: sachinsonawane105@gmail.com
doi: [10.59988/jfmsl.vol.33issue2.13](https://doi.org/10.59988/jfmsl.vol.33issue2.13)

Mumbai, India under the eminent leadership of Hon'ble Dean Dr. Shailesh Mohite. The conference was attended by almost 300 registered delegates and above, from various states. The Delegates were the Faculty, Medical Officers, post graduate students and researchers as well as lawyers and police officers from various parts of the country. The Organizing

Photograph 1: Forensicon 2023 Organising committee.



The conference was conducted under the chief patronage of Dr Sudhakar Shinde, Hon. Addl. Municipal Commissioner, MCGM along with patronage of Mr Sanjay Kurhade, Hon Deputy Municipal commissioner, (PH) MCGM, Mumbai & Dr. Neelam Andrade, Director, ME & MH, BMC.

Photograph 2: Forensicon 2023 Lamp lighting ceremony.



The theme of the conference was **Forensic Horizons- Exploring the dimensions of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology²** as the name suggests aimed at broadening the scope of the knowledge of Forensic

team was presided by Dr Shailesh Mohite (Organising President), Dean, and HBTMC and guided by Dr Rajesh Sukhdeve (Organising Chairman), Professor & Head of Department, FMT, HBTMC & Dr. Sachin S. Sonawane (Organising Secretary), Addl. Professor, FMT, HBTMC, Juhu, Mumbai (**Photograph 1**).

Medicine among the various delegates present and inspire the various post graduate students about the avenues in the field. The inauguration ceremony held at the auditorium at the newly constructed five storey college building. The eminent personalities like Dr Mohan Joshi Dean LTMMC, Dr. Suhas Warke, IG law and order of government of Maharashtra.

Photograph 3: Forensicon 2023- Organising President's address.



The inauguration was started with lamp lighting (**Photograph 2**) by the dignitaries Sarswati vandan

and then Organising president’s address (**Photograph 3**) and MLAM Secretary’s address (**Photograph 4**). This was followed by release of the MLAM official **Photograph 4: Forensicon 2023- MLAM Secretary’s address.**

journal titled **Journal of Forensic Medicine, Science and Law** (Editor-in-chief- Dr Ravindra Deokar)³ as well as souvenir of conference (**Photograph 5**).



Photograph 5: Forensicon 2023 – Journal of Forensic Medicine Science and Law current issue release.



2. Conference Proceedings

The first day of the conference, i.e.28th October 2024 commence with the **keynote address named after an eminent personality in Indian forensic milieu Dr. C.A. Franklin⁴**. Dr. V.V. Pillay, Professor & Head, FMT, & Chief of Poison Control

Centre, AIMS, Cochin, Kerala captivated the audience with the topic **Journey of Toxicology in India: from Obscurity to Clarity.**

The first of the scientific sessions titled **Forensic Medicine** featured three insightful lectures that explored the intersections of medicine, judiciary

and investigating authority. It also included other key areas related to forensic field i.e. law in forensic investigations and crime scene reconstruction. The first lecture was **Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Administration of Justice** delivered by Dr. Abhay Joglekar, Hon'ble Addl Sessions Judge, City Civil Court, Mumbai; **Crime Scene Reconstruction and Trace Evidence in Homicides** by Dr. Harish Pathak, Academic Dean & Prof & Head, FMT, GSMC, Mumbai and lastly **CBME curriculum of Forensic Medicine and its implications** by Dr. Sandeep Kadu, Controller of Examination, MUHS, Nashik. Each lecture provided delegates with deep dives into key aspects of forensic medicine, discussing new challenges, and case studies.

The next sessions were focused on **understanding the critical role that various stakeholders play in healthcare** and how healthcare professionals can navigate potential medicolegal challenges. Dr. Sharvari Mhapankar and Dr. Subita Patil provided an insightful discussion on **the importance of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD)**. They emphasized its role in accurate documentation of death and its legal implications. The session also reviewed the MCCD forms, focusing on the proper completion of these forms to ensure accuracy and prevent legal challenges. This was followed by lectures on **Collection, Preservation, And Transportation of Biological Evidence in the Medicolegal cases** by Dr Sangeeta Ghumatkar, Director, Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory, Govt. Of Maharashtra, Mumbai who discussed the critical procedures involved in handling biological evidence in forensic investigations; **Crime Scene Investigation Van** by Dr Sandeep Chetti, Deputy Director, Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory, Govt. Of Maharashtra, Mumbai; **Role of Forensic Medicine in Emergency Medical Services** by Dr Manish Shrigiriwar Medical Superintendent, Prof. & Head FMT, AIIMS, Nagpur who discussed how forensic medicine integrates with emergency medical services; Dr. Shailesh C. Mohite, Dean of HBT Medical College, Mumbai, spoke on the crucial skill of giving evidence in a court of law in his talk on **Art of Giving Evidence in the Court of Law**. The session concluded with a lecture by Dr. Amit Patil, Professor & Head of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology at AIIMS Patna, on recent **amendments to the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses) and MTP (Medical Termination of Pregnancy) Acts**. He also covered the salient features of the Child Welfare Committee and

Juvenile Justice Board, focusing on legal frameworks for child protection and juvenile justice, and the role of forensic professionals in cases involving minors.

The conference had also received about 75 abstracts. A total of 42 oral scientific presentations and 33 E-poster presentations were presented by various faculty, post graduate and undergraduate students over a period of the two days event. The presentations were appreciated by all the delegates. The Annual General body meeting (**Photograph 6**) of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra was conducted from 05:15 pm on 28th October 2023. Various issues related to faculty of Medicolegal association of Maharashtra were discussed. This was followed by another much-awaited event, i.e., banquet to enable the delegates to interact with the eminent academicians and researchers. As guests enjoyed their meals, the highlight of the evening was the performance by a live orchestra. The combination of rich food, live music, and fine company created a memorable experience for all attendees.

Photograph 6: Forensicon 2023- MLAM Executive committee at Annual General Body Meeting.



Day 2 scientific sessions were started with a lecture series on Medical Jurisprudence. Dr. Ravindra Deokar, Professor of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology at Seth G. S. Medical College, Mumbai and Senate member, MUHS, Nashik, provided a detailed **overview of the legal and regulatory frameworks surrounding organ transplantation** in India⁵, including the Human Organ Transplantation Act (HOTA), and the roles of various organizations like the National and Regional Organ & Tissue Transplantation Organizations (NOTTO, ROTTO, SOTTO), as well as State and District-level Transplantation Coordination Committees (ZTCC, NTORC).; **Recent Judgments in Relation to Medical Negligence** by Dr Mukesh Yadav Principal, Government Allopathic Medical College, Banda, Uttar

Pradesh, India discussed recent judicial decisions related to medical negligence, shedding light on how the courts have interpreted and applied legal principles to medical practice in India.; **Legal Challenges in Telemedicine and Digital Health**^{6,7} by Adv. Mahendrakumar Bajpai, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Hon. Director, Institute of Medicine & Law, Editor Emeritus, Medical Law Cases- For Doctors focused on the emerging legal complexities surrounding telemedicine and digital health platforms. He explored regulatory, privacy, and malpractice issues that healthcare providers face as telemedicine becomes more widespread in India and globally; **Laws in Relation to Violence Against Doctors: Patient Rights and Professional Safety** by Dr Rajesh Dere, Prof. & Head, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, LTMMC Sion, Mumbai In-charge Dean, BKC Jumbo Covid Center, Senate Member, MUHS, Nashik addressed the growing issue of violence against healthcare professionals.^{8,9} He discussed the legal safeguards available for doctors' safety, patient rights, and the role of law enforcement and government in protecting medical practitioners from violence while ensuring quality patient care.

Photograph no.7: Forensicon 2023- Post-valedictory function memoria.



This was followed by lecture series on "Recent Advances & Disaster Management". It included a wide range of lectures by esteemed speakers. Virtual autopsy Comparative Analysis: Traditional Autopsy vs. Virtual Autopsy, Its

The session of the panel discussion on the **Upgradation of Medicolegal Services in the State** brought together a range of experts who discussed key initiatives and challenges in improving the quality and efficiency of medicolegal services in Maharashtra. The esteemed panellist included Dr. Abhinav Deshmukh (IPS) (Additional Commissioner of Police, South Zone, Mumbai), Dr. Sangeeta Ghumatkar (Director of the Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory, Maharashtra), Dr. Mandar Karmarkar (Principal and Dean of Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College, Pune), Dr. Ashok Nandapurkar (Deputy Director of Health Services, Konkan Division, Thane), Dr. Kapildeo Patil (Police Surgeon at Nagpada Police Hospital, Mumbai), Adv. Roopshree Kanojia (Public Prosecutor at Dindoshi Sessions Court, Mumbai), Mr. Santosh Shinde (Child Rights Activist, Mumbai). It was moderated by Dr Shashank Tyagi, Asst. Prof., FMT, MAMC, New Delhi. This session explored how diverse stakeholders, including police, healthcare professionals, legal experts, and activists, are working together to enhance medicolegal services in Maharashtra, aiming for a more integrated and effective system.

Advantages and Limitations by Dr Rajesh Bardale Prof. & Head, Department of Forensic, Medicine & Toxicology, Government Medical College Miraj discussed the emerging field of **virtual autopsy** (or "virtopsy"); Designing Modern Postmortem Complex

by Dr Shailendra Dhawane Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, GMC, Nagpur spoke about the design and infrastructure of modern **postmortem complexes**, emphasizing the need for well-equipped, hygienic, and efficient spaces for conducting postmortem examinations.; Artificial Intelligence and Biomedical Engineering in Medical Education and Healthcare Services by Dr Sachin Sarate, Assistant Professor & Campus Doctor, Dept of Biomedical Engineering, SSN Trust, Kalavakkam, Tamil Nadu explored the role of **artificial intelligence (AI)** and **biomedical engineering in medical education and healthcare services**. His demonstration enthralled the audience. Dr. Sachin S. Sonawane, Additional Professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology at HBT Medical College, Mumbai, addressed the importance of a well-structured **Hospital Disaster Management Plan** and concluded the conference.

Photograph no.8: Forensicon 2023- Organising team



The **Forensic Medicine Quiz for Undergraduate Students ForensiQUEST 2023** was an engaging and educational event designed to test the knowledge and understanding of medical students in the field of forensic medicine. The quiz format was both **interactive** and **stimulating**, encouraging students to think critically and apply their theoretical knowledge to hypothetical scenarios as well as seeing forensic medicine in pop culture. It was conducted in a friendly competitive spirit, allowing students to engage with each other, exchange ideas, and learn from the experience.

The **Valedictory Function** of the conference marked the conclusion of the event, bringing together key highlights from the sessions and expressing gratitude to all the speakers, participants, and organizers. Prize distribution to the various winners were also done in both oral and E-poster presentation for faculty and post graduate students.

The function concluded with closing remarks that emphasized the importance of **knowledge-sharing**, **professional development**, and **continuous learning** in addressing the evolving challenges in the fields of **forensic science**, **medicolegal practice**, and **healthcare law**. Delegates were urged to apply the insights gained at the conference in their respective fields and to continue fostering collaboration between medicine, law, and technology. A vote of thanks was delivered, recognizing the valuable contributions of all involved in the event's planning and execution, and wishing everyone success in their future endeavors and the function ends with post-valedictory photo session (**Photograph 7 & 8**).

Contributor ship of Author: All authors equally contributed. **Conflict of interest:** None to declare.

References:

1. Varma NM, Pawar MN, Deokar RB. Executive Summary of the Forensicon 2022 - 25th Annual State Conference of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (MLAM). *J Forensic Med Sci Law*. 2023; 32(2):80-4.
2. Deokar RB, Patil SS. Avenues in Forensic Medicine. *J Forensic Med Sci Law* 2023; 32(2):1-3.
3. Deokar R, Bhise S, Patil S. J. of Forensic Medicine, Science & Law 2023; 32(1): 1-109
4. Dere RC, Kukde HG, Deokar RB, Patil SS, Kumar NB. Executive summary of the XXIV State Annual conference of Medicolegal Association of Maharashtra (MLAM): Forensicon 2021. *J Forensic Med Sci Law* 2022;31(1):84-8.
5. Deokar RB, Patil SS. Issues Related to Cadaver Organ Retrieval in Medicolegal Cases. *J Forensic Med Sci Law* 2022;31(2):1-3.
6. Singh SN, Singh D, Dev K, Mittal AK, Srivastava A. Anti-Forensics: Tool Against Cyber Forensic. *J Forensic Med Sci Law* 2023;32(1):68-73.
7. Amrita A, Deokar RB. Clinical Forensic Psychology: It's Emergence, Significance and Application in India. *J Forensic Med Sci Law* 2022;31(2):80-83.
8. Deokar RB, Patil SS. Violence against Doctors: Prevention, Administrative and Legal Recourse. *J Forensic Med Sci Law* 2023; 32(1):1-3.
9. Arthy A, Rathod SN, Goel R. Role of Checklists in Medicolegal Death Investigation. *J Forensic Med Sci Law* 2023;32(1):91-94.