

## **IMPACT Program – 3-Month Impact Report (April – June 2025)**

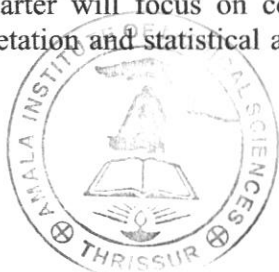
### **Amala Integrated Medical Research Department (AIMRD) Amala Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS)**

Over the past three months, the Integrated Mentorship Program for Advancing Clinical & Translational Research (IMPACT), initiated by the Amala Integrated Medical Research Department (AIMRD), has made significant strides in enhancing the quality and structure of postgraduate (PG) research across the institution. As a flagship initiative, the program was designed to provide centralized, discipline-sensitive scientific mentoring to PG students, supporting rather than replacing departmental supervision. With a total of 62 PG students enrolled across 18 departments, the implementation of the program followed a systematic framework involving clear mentor-student mapping, initial orientation sessions, and consistent review meetings. To build awareness and ensure successful adoption, the AIMRD team visited all 18 PG departments individually. During these visits, the mentoring scientists engaged in meaningful discussions with faculty and students, explaining the goals of the program and offering tailored advice on integrating research mentoring with departmental academic workflows. These visits were complemented by structured orientation programs conducted in each department, which were attended by all enrolled PG students. The orientations focused on familiarizing students with the mentoring process, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and emphasizing the importance of scientific rigor and publication standards in thesis development.

Following these orientation sessions, students were introduced to their assigned mentors based on a predefined departmental distribution. Each of the two AIMRD scientists was assigned 31 students from nine departments, allowing for manageable engagement and personalized guidance. Every student has since participated in at least one formal interaction with their mentor. These sessions focused on refining research plans, identifying knowledge gaps, providing methodological guidance, and ensuring that students had a strong foundation before progressing into data collection and analysis. Monthly review sessions were then instituted to track progress, resolve methodological challenges, and document feedback. These reviews have already shown early signs of effectiveness, with several students reporting improved clarity and precision in their study design.

The impact of the program is evident not just in process improvements but also in student outcomes. Many students have expressed increased confidence in managing literature reviews, data handling, and drafting research objectives. Encouragingly, a few students have already begun preparing manuscripts for publication, reflecting a positive shift toward dissemination-focused research practices. The program has also improved communication and collaboration between PG students, their departmental guides, and AIMRD mentors. To facilitate this, a transparent coordination mechanism was put in place, involving department secretaries and scheduled monthly coordination meetings. While the implementation has been largely smooth, certain challenges were encountered. These included scheduling difficulties in a few departments and some initial confusion among students regarding the distinction between departmental guidance and AIMRD mentorship. These issues were addressed through targeted follow-ups and the circulation of explanatory materials, including a visual flowchart outlining roles and responsibilities.

Looking ahead, the next quarter will focus on conducting mid-term evaluations, guiding students through data interpretation and statistical analysis, and initiating training workshops



on scientific writing. Plans are also underway to collect structured feedback from students and faculty in July to assess the program's effectiveness and identify areas for refinement. Additionally, efforts will be made to document progress snapshots and evaluate the potential for research publication outputs.

In conclusion, the first three months of the IMPACT Program have successfully laid the foundation for a culture of scientific inquiry, mentorship, and academic excellence across all postgraduate departments at AIMS. By supporting students in developing high-quality, ethically sound, and potentially publishable research projects, the program is well on its way to becoming an integral part of the institution's academic and research identity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank J. ...", with a horizontal line underneath.

## IMPACT

(Integrated Mentorship Program for Advancing Clinical & Translational Research)

Dr. Kayeen Vadakkan			Dr. Vishnu Priya Murali		
Department	Dept Secretary	No of Students	Department	Dept Secretary	No of Students
ENT	Ajeena A V	2	General Surgery	Shyma C N	4
Ophthalmology	Ajeena A V	3	Pediatrics	Shyma C N	6
Orthopedics	Farshana K F	2	General Medicine	Sheela Gopalan	6
Psychiatry	Farshana K F	2	OBG	Sheela Gopalan	3
Community Medicine	Soumia N R	5	Biochemistry	Sony P Gopinath	2
Emergency Medicine	Soumia N R	2	Dermatology	Seena C S	5
Physiology	Lissy C D	2	Radiation Oncology	Sivaranjini K S	1
Pathology	Liji T C	5	Radiodiagnosis	Anjali P K	4
Respiratory Medicine	Mercy M V	2			
Anesthesiology	Selfy	6			
<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>31</b>

*Kayeen Vadakkan*



*Betsy*

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