

Report on the Continuing Dental Education (CDE) Program: "How to Apply for Research Grants"

The Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology at Bharati Vidyapeeth Dental College and Hospital, Navi Mumbai, successfully hosted a Continuing Dental Education (CDE) program titled "How to Apply for Research Grants" on the 14th of May, 2024. This program aimed to equip researchers, academicians, and postgraduate students with the necessary skills and knowledge required to apply



for research grants. The event provided a comprehensive understanding of the grant application process, from crafting proposals to managing research funds effectively. The Program was hosted by Department of Oral Pathology led by Dr Pratibha Kawle and the host for the day was Dr Kirti Buwa.

Objectives of the Program

The primary objective of the program was to guide dental researchers and academicians through the intricacies of research grant applications, focusing on:

- Understanding different types of grants available in the field of dental and oral health research.
- Learning the process of writing persuasive research proposals.
- Budget planning and fund management during research projects.
- Avoiding common mistakes in grant applications.

The event also provided valuable networking opportunities for participants to connect with each other and exchange ideas for future collaborations in research.

Distinguished Guest Speakers

The program featured two prominent guest speakers who shared their expert knowledge and experiences on securing research grants. They were felicitated by Dr. V. Sreenivasan, Principal BVDUDCH,NM



- Dr. Ruchika Kaul Ghanekar

- Director and Professor at the Symbiosis Centre for Research and Innovation, Pune.

- Expertise: Dr. Ghanekar is a well-recognized authority in research innovation and management. With her deep knowledge of the grant application process, she offered critical insights into how researchers can align their proposals with the expectations of funding agencies. Her session was especially valuable in providing practical tips for maximizing the chances of successful grant applications.



Dr. Deepika Mishra

- Professor (Additional) at the Centre for Dental Education and Research (CDER), AIIMS, New Delhi.

- Expertise: As a seasoned researcher with numerous successful grant applications, Dr. Mishra brought hands-on experience to the program. Her talk focused on the practical aspects of writing grant proposals, from thorough literature reviews to clear research objectives and well-defined methodologies. Dr. Mishra's session also covered strategies for securing funding from prestigious organizations, offering participants a blueprint for success.

Program Overview



The event saw an impressive turnout with 60 registered delegates, including postgraduate students, faculty members, and early-career researchers. The attendees, motivated to enhance their research capabilities, were engaged throughout the program. The CDE was structured to offer a step-by-step guide to the grant application process, covering essential topics such as:

1. Introduction to Research Grants

- An overview of the types and sources of research grants available, particularly in the dental and oral health fields.

2. Writing a Winning Proposal

- Key strategies for writing an effective and persuasive research proposal. This session emphasized aligning research goals with the priorities of funding agencies and

demonstrating the potential impact of the research.

3. Budget Planning and Management

- Practical guidance on preparing a realistic and sustainable budget. The session also addressed the intricacies of managing funds responsibly to meet the requirements of granting bodies.

4. Common Pitfalls in Grant Applications

- A detailed discussion on common mistakes researchers make when applying for grants, and how to avoid them. Both guest speakers shared examples from their own experiences to illustrate these challenges.

5. Interactive Q&A Sessions

- These open forums allowed participants to ask specific questions about their grant applications and receive tailored advice from the experts. This session proved to be highly engaging, as participants were able to address their personal concerns with grant applications and receive valuable feedback.



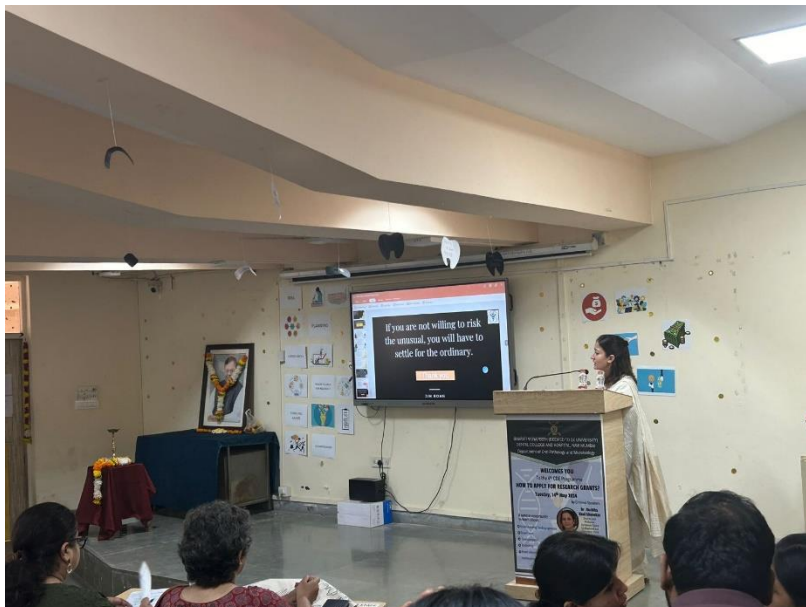
Expert Advice by Dr. Ruchika Kaul Ghanekar

Dr. Ghanekar's session was particularly insightful as she emphasized the importance of aligning research proposals with the interests and priorities of funding agencies. She encouraged participants to clearly demonstrate the potential impact and significance of their research, which is often a key consideration for funding bodies. Dr. Ghanekar also provided practical tips for tailoring research proposals to increase the likelihood of approval, based on her vast experience in research innovation management.



Practical Insights from Dr. Deepika Mishra

Dr. Mishra's session offered a more hands-on approach, where she shared her own journey and experiences in successfully securing multiple research grants. She highlighted the importance of conducting thorough literature reviews to establish a strong research foundation, setting clear and achievable objectives, and developing a robust methodology. Her guidance on preparing grant proposals with attention to detail resonated deeply with the participants, especially those who were new to the grant application process.



Engaging Interactive Sessions

The interactive Q&A sessions were one of the most appreciated parts of the program. Participants were able to ask specific questions regarding their individual research projects and receive direct feedback from the experts. This one-on-one engagement provided participants with practical solutions to challenges they had faced in the past with grant applications.

Networking and Future Collaborations

In addition to the knowledge and insights shared by the speakers, the CDE program also facilitated networking among participants. The event created opportunities for future collaborations and research partnerships, fostering an environment where researchers could connect with like-minded professionals to advance their research.

Conclusion

The CDE program on “How to Apply for Research Grants” was a resounding success, thanks to the expert guidance provided by Dr. Ruchika Kaul Ghanekar and Dr. Deepika Mishra. The program offered attendees a wealth of knowledge on research grant applications, from the fundamentals of writing proposals to avoiding common pitfalls. The interactive sessions, in particular, were well-received and highly appreciated by participants.

The Department of Oral Pathology and Microbiology remains committed to offering continuing education opportunities that support the professional development of its members. The knowledge gained from this CDE program is expected to significantly enhance the research capabilities of the attendees, empowering them to pursue and secure research funding effectively. The department extends its sincere gratitude to both guest speakers for their invaluable contributions and to the delegates for their active participation.



CDE on "How to Apply for Research Grants"

