

## Leaders are made .....Not born !!!!

**Khade Shardul**

Final MBBS Part II,  
NKPSalve institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre Nagpur Maharashtra, India

Email: shardulk@gmail.com

### Abstract:

*When you work as a organiser for a conference, you learn certain skills which are helpful in many ways in the medical profession. For a conference, one has to interact with a varied group of people with strikingly different personalities and one learns how to tackle them individually to make sure that the work goes in smoothly without a hitch. The medical field demands the same from a doctor as he has to interact with the patient and the relatives. For a layman, the medical terms and conditions sound very gibberish to him. So, the doctor must be smart enough to simplify it and tell him what he needs to do and tactfully handle his queries and doubts. The doctor must at the same time deal with the paramedical stuff in a strict manner. He must not boss them around but he must lead them by example and make sure they are perfect in their work. One also leaves to deal with disappointments and failures. A leader is not born, but he is made. And the lessons and experience of organizing a conference play a important part in this process.*

If someone asks me to describe Medicon 2015 in one word, what would I say? A conference? No. That would be too huge of an understatement. Medicon 2015 an international undergraduate research conference we organised at our institute in July- August 2015 was a lifetime experience for which we had strived since an year. I was the organising secretary for Medicon 2015. It was an endeavour which was a cumulative result of the hard work put in by the entire organizing team. A whole year during which we sat together, brainstormed, planned, programmed, scheduled and rescheduled. We must have gone through every minute detail again and again, searching for lacunae and rectifying and reviewing them. And the efforts of the organizers throughout the year condensed into the success of the 4 days.

How did it all begin? A simple mail to INFORMER requesting for hosting Medicon. When we first applied for the bid, we didn't know how it might end. We weren't sure that we would bag the bid, but we knew that in case we do, we would do complete justice to the name of Medicon. Being previously organized by many other reputed colleges before us throughout India, it was an uphill task to carry the baton forward. One thing we were convinced of were the people that we had with us. A supporting college management, student-friendly and extremely supportive teachers and a bunch of students who were good friends before the conference and became a close-knit family thereafter.

It was then followed by months of correspondence via mail between INFORMER and myself, wherein we sought to lay out the foundation plan for Medicon 2015. Finally when it was official that we had secured the bid, I was ecstatic. The

feeling one gets when he finally achieves something that he has been toiling for is unexplainable by mere words. But I knew that we were not even halfway there. Securing the bid was just the tip of the iceberg that was Medicon.

Throughout the conference, our teachers treated us as equals, entrusted us with responsibilities and keeping absolute faith in our abilities. It was their sheer belief in us that stoked our fires and gave us the impetus to think, act and achieve.

The entire year has been a tremendous learning experience. No one could ever imagine what all efforts go into organizing a conference unless he himself has been a part of it. One learns how to do budgeting, managing expenses, securing sponsors and funds, contacting speakers and following them up, promotion and publicity of the event, designing a website, helping out delegates and so on. For me, Medicon was like a chocolate cake that I adored. Minute details, lots of preparation, so many ingredients (organizers and delegates alike) and the end result was delicious and over too soon in a few days. There were numerous hurdles along the way and many times I felt if I had bitten more than I could chew, but now if anyone would ask, I would love to do it all over again. Working with such a great team and making this event a successful one has been the highlight of my undergraduate medical life.

One also leaves to deal with disappointments and failures. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam had quoted that "Man needs his difficulties and disappointments so that he could enjoy his success". Just a day prior to the conference, we came to know that two of our much awaited speakers would not be able to attend the event due to some unavoidable circumstances. The moment I heard the news, I was crushed. I felt as

if all the efforts and hard work was for naught and that all had gone down the drain. But, my team mates and the teachers consoled me and we found out a way to deal with it. A leader is a human, so he is bound to feel sad when faced with failures but he must learn to cope with it and find a proper solution to it. And so we did. Today's technology makes it possible for a person to interact with other hundreds of kilometers away. But the facilities to conduct such a live session was not available instantaneously. We strove through the entire night before the conference to make sure we get all the facilities. We nearly gave up, but I had firm belief in myself and my team that we could pull it off. And the end result was truly amazing. We had two wonderful live video session with Dr. Devi Shetty from Bangalore and Dr. Vinay Kumar all the way from Chicago. These two were one of the best lectures we had in Medicon 2015. At a time when it is difficult to even get a decent cell signal in the campus, to see two medical stalwarts interacting with them virtually was a huge surprise for all. I distinctly remember many of my batch mates coming upto me and congratulating for pulling off nothing short of a miracle.

When you work for a conference, you learn certain skills which are helpful in many ways in the medical profession. For a conference, one has to interact with a varied group of people with strikingly different personalities and one learns how to tackle them individually to make sure that the work goes in smoothly without a hitch. The medical field demands the same from a doctor as he has to interact with the patient and the relatives. For a layman, the medical terms and conditions sound very gibberish to him. So, the doctor must be smart enough to simplify it and tell him what he needs to do and tactfully handle his queries and doubts. The doctor must at the same time deal with the paramedical stuff in a strict manner. He must not boss them around but he must lead them by example and make sure they are perfect in their work. A leader is not born, but he is made. And the lessons and experience of organizing a conference play a important part in this process.