

Medical Jurisprudence with Mentorship Programs Merit Exploration, to Keep Updated in Legal Medicine, to Ensure Accountability, Not only by Utilizing Electronic Documentation, but Also by Generating Awareness for Patient Rights

Vivekanshu Verma

Associate Consultant, Department of Emergency and Trauma Care
Medico Legal Expert, Medanta the Medicity Hospital, Gurugram 122001, Haryana, India.

Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (FMT) play pivotal roles in medical education, blending legal, toxicological, and medical jurisprudence aspects. Despite their significance, there's a scarcity of research on students' perceptions regarding FMT. Hence, evaluating medical students' knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes towards FMT is imperative, along with assessing the impact of FMT training on their career inclinations.

One emerging field within FMT is forensic trichology, the scientific study of human hair, which has become invaluable in criminal investigations. Hair evidence can provide crucial insights into suspects' identities, linking them to crime scenes and potentially uncovering motives. This article explores forensic trichology's advantages, showcases its significance through real-life case scenarios, elucidates its methodologies, and discusses current practices while pondering its future scope amidst technological advancements.

Furthermore, the implementation of compulsory mentorship programs in medical education deserves attention. While there are numerous benefits to mentorship, such as fostering professional development and offering guidance, challenges like mentor availability and compatibility exist. Exploring various aspects of mentorship can pave the way for effective mentoring, especially considering the National Medical Commission's NMC guidelines mandating mentorship for undergraduates.

Medical negligence, a serious offense, requires adjudication with exceptions acknowledging licensed physicians' expertise, offering exemption from liability. It balances accountability and medical practice complexities. Indian medical professionals, legal counselors, and judges ensure

justice in malpractice cases. Staying updated with recent Indian law updates, namely, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), 2023 is crucial for prevention of medical negligence and aids in better medicolegal management of malpractice lawsuits.



Electronic Health Records (EHRs) form another crucial aspect as legal defence in malpractice lawsuits, often overlooked in their role within legal and forensic contexts. The forensic experts navigate through the labyrinth of clinical documentation, elucidating its significance as a silent observer in healthcare settings. By dissecting various forms of documentation, including EHRs, progress notes, and imaging reports, it highlights their critical role as evidence in legal proceedings and forensic investigations. It emphasizes the necessity of accuracy, completeness, and timeliness in documenting patient encounters for effective forensic scrutiny.

Lastly, Legal Medicine, drawing on tort law, addresses civil wrongs in healthcare, ensuring accountability and upholding care standards. Common torts like medical malpractice and negligence provide a legal framework for patients seeking redress due to harm caused by healthcare professionals' actions or negligence. This framework ensures accountability and serves as a safeguard for the patient's rights.