

# **THE ACADEMY OF PALLIATIVE MEDICINE**

## **An Academic and Research Division of the Indian Association of Palliative Care**

### **1. Preamble**

The Academy of Palliative Medicine (APM) is an autonomous academic and research division of the Indian Association of Palliative Care (IAPC). It aims to serve as a national forum to enhance the reach of palliative medicine education in India. This APM is organised as an autonomous body for its internal affairs but shall in no way act in a manner prejudicial to the aims and objectives of IAPC or contrary to the IAPC's by-laws, which shall take precedence over this document.

### **2. Introduction**

The Academy of Palliative Medicine (APM) is an educational initiative to develop competency-based education and research in palliative medicine in India. The goal is to promote physician readiness in symptom management, supportive care, and awareness of a range of medical and non-medical options available for the disease management of palliative care patients, as well as providing psychosocial and spiritual support to patients and their families. This academic initiative also enables working in a multi-disciplinary/inter-disciplinary team in different clinical settings, communication skills, decision-making skills, procedural skills relevant to palliative medicine, ethics-based good clinical practice, and skills in teaching methodology, leadership, implementation science, quality improvement and research.

### **3. Mission**

To develop an academic platform to propagate the teaching of palliative medicine and to implement quality-oriented palliative care practices throughout India.

### **4. Objectives**

- a. To deliver quality palliative medicine education that fosters the development of palliative care services across India.
- b. To enhance the practice of palliative medicine in India through quality-oriented short and long-term training programs/courses.
- c. To develop a nationally recognised qualification, Fellow of the Academy of Palliative Medicine (FAPM) that could create employment opportunities in palliative medicine. This will allow doctors with MD/MS/DM/MCh in other clinical specialities to acquire palliative medicine skills. It also aims to assist MBBS-trained general practitioners in becoming generalist palliative medicine doctors.
- d. To enable non-medical college institutions in India to participate in palliative medicine training.
- e. To create a national-level platform for palliative medicine research.

## 5. Governing Council

APM will be an autonomous body that will work closely with the IAPC. It will have its governing structure:

- a. Chairman of the Academy of Palliative Medicine:
  - I. Be a doctor in modern medicine (MBBS)
  - II. Have a clinical postgraduate qualification (MD/MS/DM/MCh)
  - III. Be an uninterrupted member of IAPC for seven years.
  
- b. Executive Officer of the Academy of Palliative Medicine:
  - I. Be a doctor in modern medicine (MBBS)
  - II. Have a clinical postgraduate qualification (MD/MS/DM/MCh)
  - III. Be an uninterrupted member of IAPC for seven years.
  
- c. The Governing Council: The Governing Council will oversee the administration of APM. It will consist of 8 members as under:
  - I. Two Elected Members: The Chairman and Executive Officer of APM
  - II. Two Ex-Officio Members: IAPC President and IAPC Honorary Secretary
  - III. Four Co-opted Members: Out of the four members, at least two co-opted members must be Indian nationals and doctors in modern medicine (MBBS). They should have a clinical postgraduate qualification (MD/MS/DM/MCh) and be uninterrupted members of IAPC for seven years. Additionally, they should have been working in the field of palliative care in India for at least ten years. At least one co-opted member should be an international representative of eminence who has worked in palliative care education and research for at least ten years. The co-opted members will be selected by a four-member committee comprising the Chairman APM, Executive Officer APM, President IAPC and Honorary Secretary IAPC.

## 6. Tenure

- a. The Chairman of the Academy of Palliative Medicine: One term, i.e. three years, and the person holding this position can only have two successive terms.
- b. The Executive Officer of the Academy of Palliative Medicine: One term, i.e. three years, and the person holding this position can only have two successive terms.
- c. The President IAPC and Honorary Secretary IAPC will be permanent Ex-Officio members of the APM Governing Council.

## **7. Elections**

- a. The elections for the Academy of Palliative Medicine posts will be conducted in the same manner as the election of office bearers of IAPC. The first election will be conducted in 2025, along with the election of the IAPC office bearers.
- b. The only eligible voters for the Academy of Palliative Medicine elections are IAPC members with an MBBS qualification.
- c. The Chairman and Executive Officer of the APM will be the permanent invitees to the IAPC Central Council. They will have no voting rights.

## **8. Management**

Administration of the APM will be through the Governing Council of 8 members who are engaged in palliative care practices and academics. The first such committee will have their full involvement in the identification of possible palliative care centres for APM / getting the consent of these centres to be affiliated / selection of faculties/preparation of syllabus / making training modules/assessment and examination/accreditation/ communication and selection of students/ funds and various other issues related with teaching environment. However, this will be a continuous process and fully evolve with time. The duties of multiple members can be worked out in due course of time.

## **9. Funds**

Funds will be made available initially from IAPC funds and contributions from entrepreneurs. When the courses start, the fees collected from the students and other sources will be used by APM; if extra funds are required, IAPC will support it.

## **10. Meetings**

The Executive Council shall physically meet at least once a year, preferably before or during the Annual Conference of IAPC. 1/3 of the total members of the Executive Council shall form a quorum. They can have additional online meetings whenever situations demand.