

## Comments on: COVID-19 pandemic – Testing times for postgraduate medical education

Dear Editor,

The current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has left a deep impact and created permanent potholes in postgraduate medical training.<sup>[1]</sup> Clinical and surgical training has been profoundly influenced, and the quantity and quality of training have come down.<sup>[2]</sup> With the ever-growing COVID-19 challenges and stress on hand hygiene and social distancing, online teaching platforms have taken a front seat.<sup>[3]</sup> We read the article by Agrawal *et al.*,<sup>[4]</sup> and we must congratulate the authors for touching on one of the sensitive issues in the medical training curriculum. However, we have few important points to add, which we believe will be extremely vital for all the postgraduate trainees growing in their professional career.

The few add-ons are as follows:

1. This pandemic can be taken as a huge opportunity to step into research and publication. The postgraduates should be encouraged by their mentors to take some extra effort to publish one or two articles during the curriculum.
2. The training institutes and medical colleges can conduct research methodology and statistics classes to stimulate the juvenile minds.
3. The residents can make use of slit-lamp, 90D, and indirect ophthalmoscope and can practice on the artificial eyeballs such as focusing on the eye, diffuse illumination, slit formation, and retro illumination.
4. The residents can also practice retinoscopy and refraction on dummy eyeballs available with the optometrists for teaching purposes.
5. They can be encouraged to attend and present at virtual online conferences as a good source of knowledge.
6. Not to be neglected are the online webinars, especially the ifocus, a mastermind by the respected Editor of the *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology*; the All India Ophthalmological

Society webinars; and the Young Ophthalmologists Society of India activities such as surfing the anterior segment and posterior segment and various case presentations.

7. Last, all the residents must learn the COVID-19 and disaster management protocols so that in case of an emergency, they must be able to safeguard themselves, because they are dealing majorly with ophthalmology patients.

We believe this letter will be helpful for all the mentors and trainees undergoing the ophthalmology program as some of these ideas may be helpful in the long run.

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### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

**Bharat Gurnani, Kirandeep Kaur<sup>1</sup>**

Consultant Cataract, Cornea and Refractive Services,

<sup>1</sup>Consultant Cataract, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Services Aravind Eye Hospital and Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Pondicherry, India

**Correspondence to:** Dr. Kirandeep Kaur, Consultant Cataract, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Services, Aravind Eye Hospital and Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Pondicherry - 605 007, India.  
E-mail: beingkirandeep@gmail.com

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