

Introduction to Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology

Overview

Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology

Forensic medicine is the branch of science and medicine involving the study and application of scientific and medical knowledge to legal problems, such as inquests, and in the field of law. It is a multi-disciplinary branch which includes the practice of forensic pathology, forensic psychiatry, forensic dentistry, forensic radiology and forensic toxicology. A Forensic expert deal with crime scene investigation, post mortem work and medico-legal cases like examination of rape victim and rape accused, examination for issue of drunkenness and injury certificates, examination of person and evidence for age estimation etc. In course of work a forensic expert is also involved in expert opinions and court evidences. The Department works closely with the Police & Magistrates in various Medicolegal Cases and is also involved in training doctors and other medical and paramedical staffs in Medicolegal field. The department is actively involved in disposal of Covid-19 dead bodies for cremation/burial purposes following standard guidelines of Ministry of Health & FW.

About Department

The Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology is situated on First floor in Main College Building, above Department of Anatomy. It currently provides training in subject of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology to Postgraduates and Undergraduate students II and III MBBS. It is also engaged in performing post-mortem examinations and other medico-legal duties. It also caters to students of Allied branches of medicine like Pre Trauma Training students.

Infrastructure

- Mortuary with Autopsy room
- Cold storage with area for cabinets
- Mortuary store room
- Grossing room

- Viscera sample storage room
- Department store room
- Faculty and residents' room
- UG lab
- Histo-pathology laboratory/ PG research lab
- Museum
- Departmental Library
- Demonstration and Seminar Rooms
- Board/committee Room
- Medical examination Injury/ Age estimation/sexual assault victim/accused examination room
- Toxicological Garden (under development)

Facilities

The Department has modern amenities with well-planned and furnished faculty rooms and office, equipped with computers for the faculty members and Wi-Fi internet facility, non-teaching staff rooms, full time operational departmental library comprising of more than 200 books and atlases and undergraduate laboratory, a spacious demonstration and seminar rooms with projectors and audio-visual systems. It has a well-organized museum with display of dedicated sections of Forensic Anthropology, Forensic Ballistics, Forensic Pathology and Forensic Toxicology filled with models, specimens, weapons, poisons & photographs to help students develop interest in this subject. For postgraduate training, the department has modern research lab equipped with equipment & instruments dealing with Forensic Anthropometry, Forensic Serology, Histopathology etc.

The Department has a well-equipped and maintained separate mortuary block, complete with modern equipment and facilities in the Campus SSK and associated Hospitals. The autopsy can be witnessed by the students from a gallery in the autopsy room. The mortuary is state of art with facility to conduct 3 autopsies simultaneously. Mortuary has facility to preserve 30 bodies in cold storage with a dedicated area for COVID19 positive bodies. A separate autopsy room area is designated for conducting post-mortem examination of COVID19 positive/suspected bodies with dedicated Donning and Doffing areas. The toxicological garden in the vicinity of mortuary is under development.

Museum specimens: Life like models of animal poisons and plant toxicology are some of the state of art depiction for teaching undergraduate MBBS students. Models, photographs and charts of various body injuries, post-mortem changes. Work of the eminent scientists in the field of Forensic medicine & toxicology, poisons classified on the basis of system involvement and household poisons, prototype firearms to educate the students are some of the highlights.

Services provided by Department

- **Mortuary**

- Medico-legal Post-mortem of various cases of unnatural deaths and suspected natural deaths, those brought dead etc.
- In medical board cases: Postmortem of cases when request for formation of Medical board is given in cases of deaths in police custody, cases of medical negligence etc.
- Disposal of Covid-19 dead bodies following standard protocol
- Training of postmortem attendants and staff posted in mortuary of LHMC and Associated Hospitals.

- **Clinical Forensic Medicine Unit**

- Medicolegal cases of injury referred from accident & Emergency department of SSKH & KSCH.
- Age estimation in criminal, civil and Juvenile cases on request from Police/ Courts
- Medico-legal consultation for various departments of LHMC and Associated Hospitals.
- Training on Medicolegal issues in Healthcare of Medical officers and Nursing officers of LHMC and Associated Hospitals

Deposing in Court of law: The faculty, residents appear in the Court of law for deposing as expert evidence when summoned by the concerned Courts. The

Record clerk/staff of the department/mortuary also presents in the Court with relevant record when summoned by the Courts.

Academics

Department conducts regular undergraduate seminars, Journal club meetings and Discussion on post-mortem examination, subsequent opinion and opinion on examination of weapon/ clothing/article. Research is in the form of postgraduate thesis works and related researches. Faculties of the department have been regularly invited to deliver guest lectures in various forums for interns, medical officers, private practitioners and police officers. Internship/short term training of students of Forensic science who applied to Director/Academic Registrar LHMC from time to time.

Research

Departmental Faculty is actively involved in multi-disciplinary research in various fields of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. Faculty and residents are encouraged to participate in various national and international conferences and workshops and are also enthused to present their research work. The faculty has also been invited to chair scientific sessions and delivers lectures at various platforms.

The faculty is revered for various academic activities and holds positions at National levels namely M.C.I committees M.C.I inspections of Medical Colleges, conducting DNB examinations, NHRC etc. The faculty is on the advisory panels and editorial boards of various National and International scientific journals.

Social responsibility

The Department is actively involved in Medicolegal works which directly benefits the Law enforcing agencies and Society. Apart from this, the Department is actively working in collaboration with AIIMS, Delhi for cadaveric eye donations.

The Faculty, Residents and staff of the department and morgue actively conduct and participate in Tree-plantation drives and Swatchh Bharat Mission.