

A Person Worth Knowing: Dr. Rashmi Vyas**Dr. Chinmay Shah**

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This profile features an Indian health professions educator, Dr. Rashmi Vyas, who is now working globally as well as in India to improve health professions education. Readers will be interested to learn of the professional journey of Dr. Vyas, and the evolution of a health professions education career.

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***Dr Rashmi Vyas: An eminent health professions educator in India and now globally*****Profile Feature**

Dr Rashmi Vyas is a health professions educator and a change agent with a dream. *“I believe that creating a culture of socially accountable health professions education will lead to global health improvement”*. She has translated this dream into a vision and then into action by making significant contributions in the field of health professions education, primarily in India and globally in recent years.

Dr Vyas grew up in India in a family of educators and her experiences from that time still affect her way of life today. *“The one thing I learned was that with a good education I can be whoever I want to be and make a difference.”* Motivated by her belief in the power of education and her inclination towards the health professions, she graduated with a MBBS degree from Christian Medical College (CMC), Ludhiana, India and then earned a MD degree in Physiology from BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad, India. She joined Government Medical College, Bhavnagar, India as Assistant Professor in Physiology, and then moved to Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, India where she soon became an Associate Professor and then Professor in Physiology. Her career in Physiology includes over twenty years of experience in teaching clinical physiology to medical, allied health and dental students; teaching and mentoring graduate students, fellows, staff and faculty; and conducting basic science research in isolating and transplanting pancreatic islet cells of Langerhans.

The turning point in her career was when she was selected to be a FAIMER® (Foundation for the Advancement of International Medical Education and Research®) Fellow in 2003 for a two year Fellowship program in health professions education from the FAIMER® Institute in Philadelphia, USA. Subsequently, she was awarded a competitive financial IFME® (International Fellowship in Medical Education®), award through which she matriculated at the University of Illinois, Chicago, USA and completed a Masters in Health Professions Education (MHPE) in 2010. After her Fellowship, her responsibilities in medical education at CMC Vellore grew, and she also became a regular faculty member at the Indian FAIMER® Regional Institutes (GSMC Mumbai, CMC Ludhiana and PSG Coimbatore), the FAIMER® Regional Institute in Brazil, and FAIMER® Institute in Philadelphia.



Dr Vyas had found her calling. *“Once I entered into the area of health professions education there was no looking back for me.”* She now has almost fifteen years of increasingly broad experience in health professions education. Some of her accomplishments in CMC Vellore include: leading the development of a self-sustaining Department of Medical Education and being instrumental in its recognition as the regional center and later as nodal center for national faculty development by the Medical Council of India (MCI); development and implementation of

a Fellowship in Secondary Hospital Medicine (FSHM), a distance learning program for recent medical graduates working in rural hospitals which then expanded into a post graduate diploma in family medicine; and development and implementation of models of integrated learning and early clinical exposure for first year medical students. Dr Vyas has also made substantial contributions nationally in India through leading national faculty development in medical education as a member of the team formulated by the Medical Council of India. This led to design of curriculum, implementation through recognition of medical education units of medical colleges as regional centers to conduct a basic course in medical education, and recognition of some of the regional centers as nodal centers to



conduct an advanced course in medical education. She continued contributing to the development of the field of health professions education in India as the organizing secretary of the National Conference in Health Professions Education (NCHPE) in 2011 and contributed significantly in the formation and growth of the Academy of Health Professions Education (AHPE) in India. She has published more than 30 peer reviewed articles, book chapters, abstracts and letters to the editor; conducted and organized more than 75 faculty development workshops in health professions education; and made more than 30 invited and peer reviewed presentations in conferences and educational programs.

In 2014, Dr Vyas joined FAIMER[®], Philadelphia, USA as Cross Cultural Educationalist, was later promoted to Associate Director for Regional Faculty Development, then Co-Director of the FAIMER[®] Institute and in February 2017 as Assistant Vice President (AVP) for FAIMER[®] education. In this role, Dr Vyas oversees the strengthening and expansion of activities of FAIMER[®] education with a particular focus on FAIMER[®] Fellowships. She is passionate about her work which has now become global. *“FAIMER gives me the opportunity to make a global impact.”*

Dr Vyas continues in her journey of contributing to the field of health professions education, broadening her scope to include global health professions education. *“I believe that the kind of work that I and other like-minded professionals do today will tomorrow translate into improved health professions education that will lead to improved health throughout the world.”*

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