



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025









# Message from Officiating President

## A Year of Purposeful Growth and Collaborative Spirit: A Message from the President



As we reflect on the 2024-2025 fiscal year, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I present this review of our collective achievements. This period has been one of significant milestones, underpinned by our unwavering commitment to becoming a premier centre of excellence in medical education, research, and quality healthcare.

This year, we have powerfully advanced our research and academic infrastructure. The inauguration of the Bhutan-IVI Collaborating Centre (BICC), the Centre of Excellence in Nutrition (CoEN), and new Medical Research Centres in Gelephu and Mongar mark a strategic expansion of our capacity to generate homegrown, evidence-based solutions for our nation's health challenges. The successful launch of the Bhutanese Sciences Journal further establishes a vital platform for disseminating this knowledge, celebrating a new era for Bhutanese research.

Our academic offerings have continued to evolve with purpose. We introduced and revised critical programs, including the MSc in Midwifery and MD in Acupuncture, ensuring our curricula remain responsive to national health needs. A cornerstone of this year was the seamless integration of the One Health approach and Bhutan Healthcare Standards for Quality Assurance into our core teachings, preparing our graduates to be forward-thinking, compassionate, and competent professionals.

Our commitment to our people, the heart of this University, remains paramount. We launched a forward-looking Human Resource Master Plan (2025-2034) and a revised Conditions of Service, initiatives designed to attract, nurture, and retain the talented faculty and staff who are the bedrock of our success. We celebrated a decade of progress with our 10th Foundation Day, honoring the dedication that has built KGUMSB from the ground up.

From hosting Bhutan's first International Cardiology Conference to fostering compassion through neuroscience and dedicated seminars, we have catalysed crucial dialogues that bridge science with our foundational GNH values.

As my tenure concludes, I am filled with confidence in the future of KGUMSB. The foundations we have laid this year in research, education, and partnership are strong. I extend my deepest gratitude to our faculty, staff, students, and partners for your relentless dedication. Together, we have not only navigated a year of great progress but have also set a vibrant course for the future of medical sciences in Bhutan.

With sincere appreciation,

**Dr. Kuenzang Chhezom**  
**Officiating President**  
**KGUMSB**





## Key Achievement

### **Centre of Excellence in Nutrition (CoEN) established at Faculty of Nursing and Public Health**

*Empowering Health Through Nutrition: The Launch of Bhutan's Centre of Excellence in Nutrition*

### **Inaugurated Bhutan-IVI Collaborating Center (BICC)**

*Strengthened regional health security through advanced vaccine research*



### **The first International Cardiology organized on 27-28 December 2024**

*A Heartbeat of Innovation: Bhutan Hosts Its First International Cardiology Conference*





## Medical Research Centre Established at Gelephu Regional Hospital (19 July 2025)

*Advancing Regional Research: Medical Research Centre Opens at Gelephu Regional Hospital*

## Eastern Regional Health Research Centre Inaugurated (2 August 2025)

*Strengthening Research Beyond Borders: Eastern Regional Health Research Centre Inaugurated*



## Publication of New Journal issue 2024 nov ( Bhutanese sciences Journal is launched

*Bhutanese Sciences Journal Launched: A New Era for Homegrown Research Publication Begins*

## 2nd National Sorig Conference 2025 by faculty of traditional medicine successfully launched 16-17 may 2025

*Honouring Achievement and Ambition: University Celebrates Its 2nd Convocation Ceremony*

## Publication of New Journal issue by FoTM





## Vision

“A premier centre of excellence in medical education, research and quality healthcare.”

## Mission

Its missions are:

1. To develop state of art, learner-centered, integrated and humanistic training curricula that meets the health needs of people in consonance with the Human Values and Gross National Happiness
2. To train and develop highly competent health human resource for provision of sustained high-quality patient-centered care and health services
3. To contribute towards evidence-based health policies and practices through research and innovation.

## The Core value

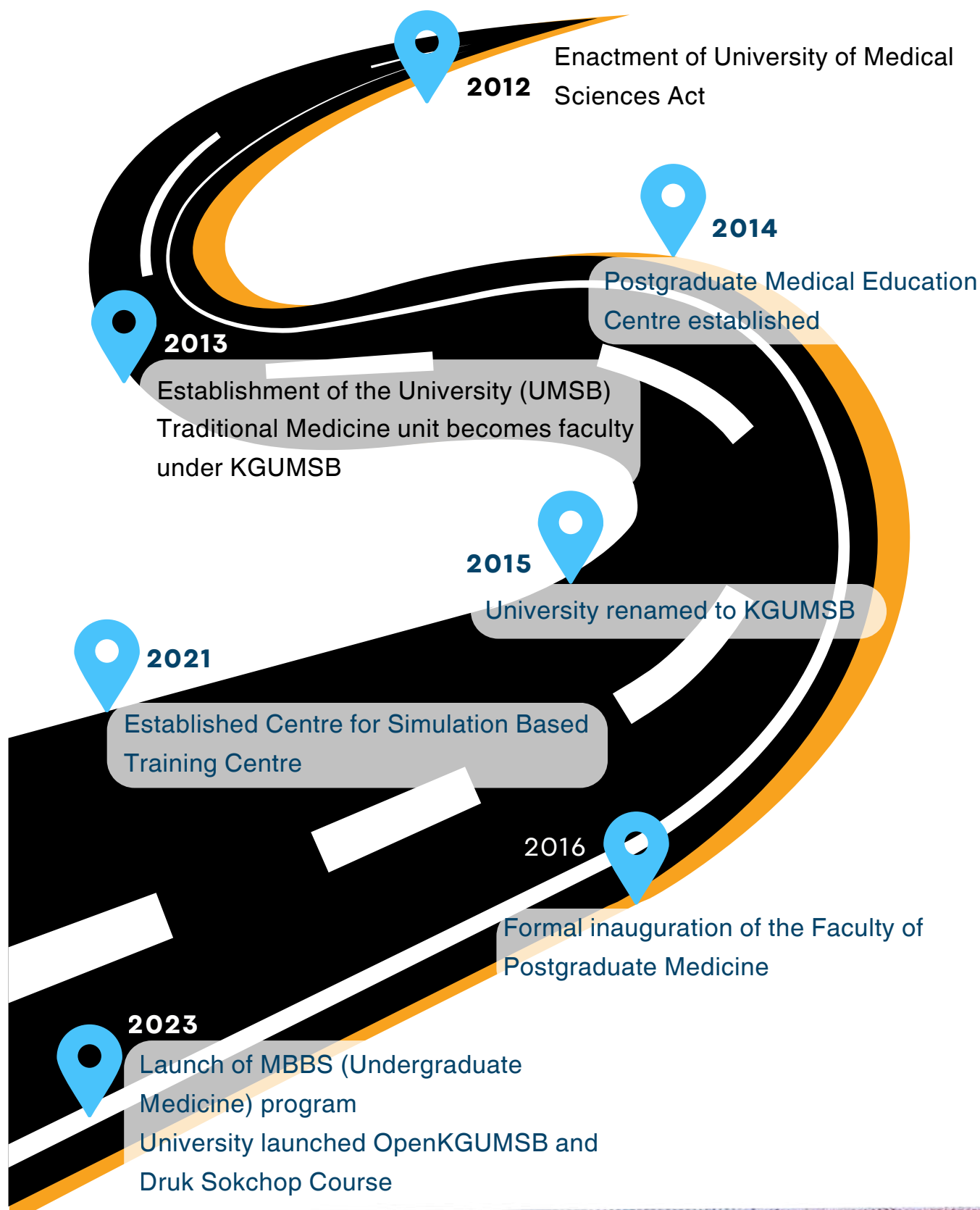
The Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Services will fulfil its aspirations in providing quality education, research and health care services based on the following five core values and principles:

1. Professionalism in the delivery of services
2. Respect to all the ecosystem of human, animal and nature encompassing all sentient beings
3. Integrity and interdependence in fulfilling the aspirations of the university as one family
4. Compassion in all services deliveries in consonance with the GNH values
5. Enterprising through innovation, brand building and marketing strategies



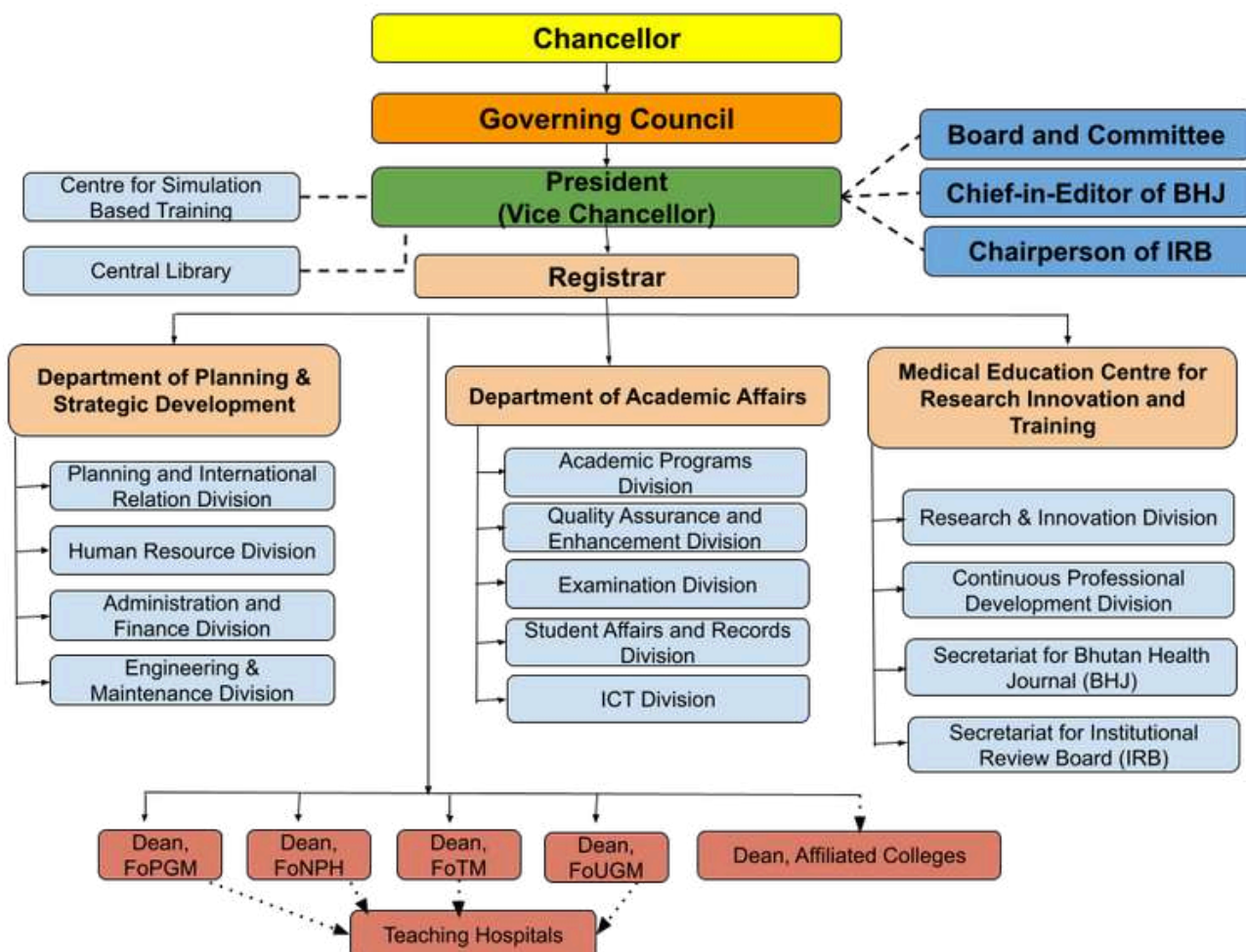


## Brief History





# Organization Structure





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# **Building Medical Excellence Together:**

**Constituent faculty and  
Affiliated institution**



# Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan



## Constituent Faculty



Faculty of  
Postgraduate Medicine



Faculty of  
Traditional Medicine



Faculty of  
Nursing and Public Health



Faculty of  
Undergraduate Medicine

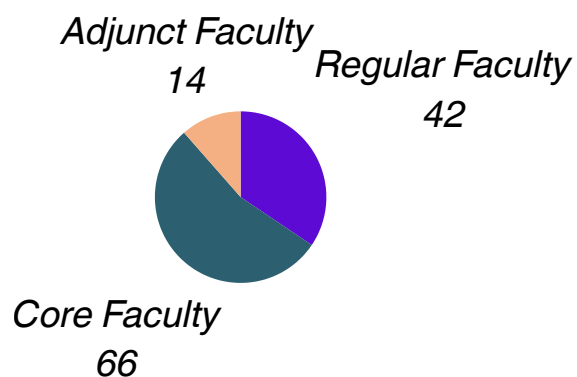
## Affiliated Institute



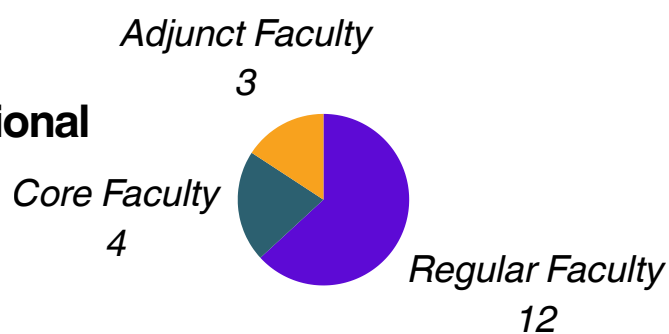


# Faculties Statistic

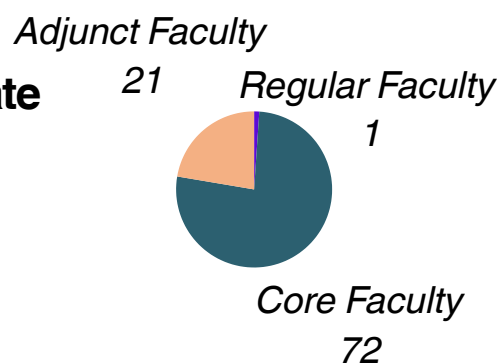
## Faculty of Nursing and Public Health



## Faculty of Traditional Medicine



## Faculty of Postgraduate Medicine



## Faculty of Undergraduate Medicine





## Staff Statistic

OOP  
24

FoPGM  
11

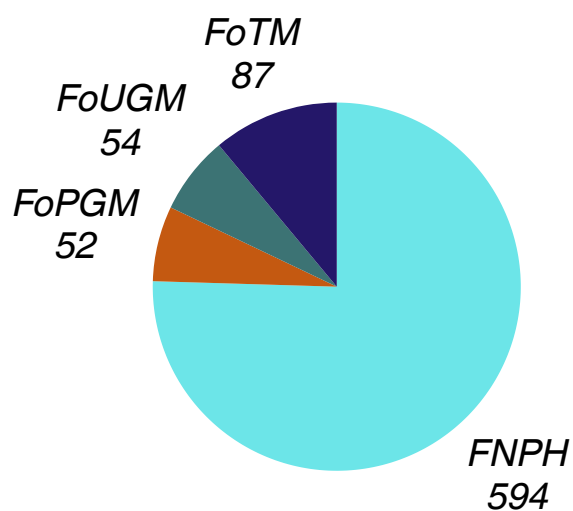
FoTM  
19

MECRIT  
10

FoUGM  
12

FNPH  
22

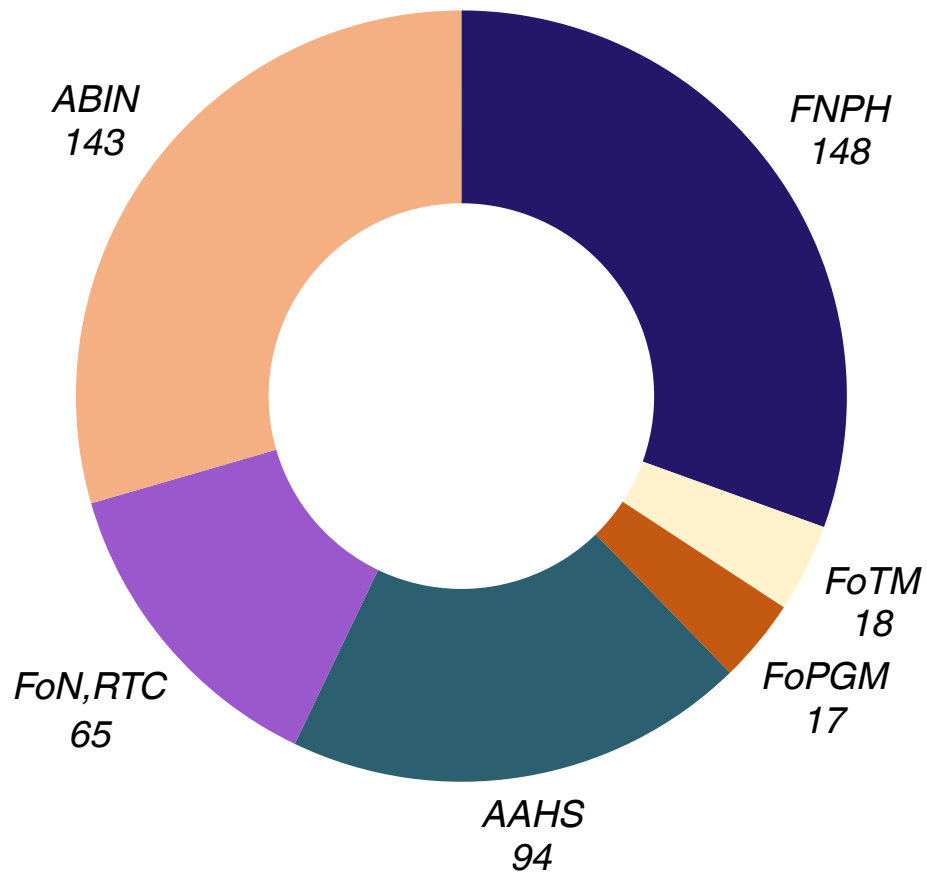
## Total Student



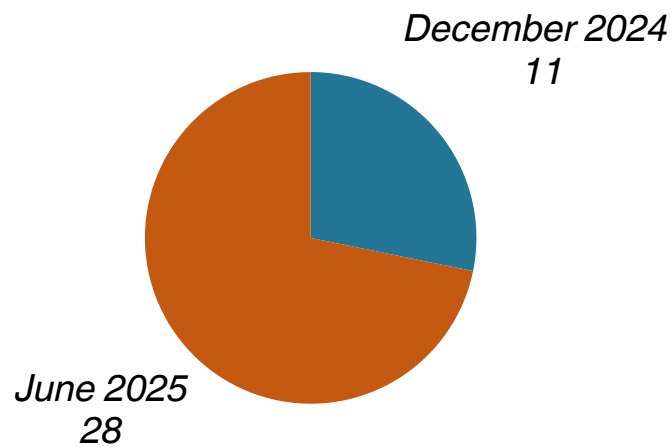


## Student Statistic

(Graduated in June 2025)



## Intern Statistic





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# **Academic Highlights and Achievements**



## New program introduced

01

MSc. in Midwifery  
curriculum

02

MD in Acupuncture and  
Moxibustion curriculum

03

Diploma in Sowa Rigpa  
curriculum

04

BSC in Nursing &  
Midwifery (Pre-service)  
curriculum

05

Diploma in Nursing &  
Midwifery curriculum

06

OnCertificate on Mental  
Health Nursing  
curriculum.  
e Year Review



# Scholarship Recipients



**Deki Pem : (Associate Professor)**

- *PhD Program in Nursing*
- *Juntendo University Graduate School, Japan*
- *1st October 2022- 30th September 2025*

**Ms. Passang Lhamo Sherpa:(Assistant Professor)**

- *PhD Program in Public Health (Molecular Epidemiology)*
- *Oita University, Japan*
- *25th May 2022 - 31st March 2026*



**Ms. Pasang Wagmo: (Assistant Professor)**

- *PhD program in Maternal Health Nursing (Universal Health Coverage )*
- *Kagawa University, Japan*
- *29th January 2024 - 31st March 2027*







**Ms. Kinzang Yangden: (Lecturer)**

- *Master's degree in Epidemiology*
- *University of Bristol, UK*
- *15th September 2025 - 30th September 2026*

**Drungtsho Kezang Tshering (Lecturer)**

- *MD in Acupuncture*
- *Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, China*
- *16th Sept 2022 - 30th June 2025*



**Drg. Sanga Chopel:(Lecturer)**

- *MD in Acupuncture in Moxibustion*
- *Faculty of Traditional Medicine, KGUMSB*
- *1th August 2025 - 31st July 2028*







**Dr. Phurpa:(Asst. Professor)**

- *PhD in Basic Science*
- *Oita University, Japan*
- *25th May 2022 -31st March 2026*

**Ms. Tashi Choden (Assistant Planning Officer)**

- *Master of Business Administration*
- *Royal Institute of Management  
(Affiliated to University of Canberra)*
- *3rd March 2025 - 31st July 2026*



**Mr. Pema Gyeltshen (Adm. Officer)**

- *Master of Business Administration*
- *Royal Institute of Management  
(Affiliated to University of Canberra)*
- *3rd March 2025 - 31st July 2026*



**Mr. Sonam Norbu (Assistant Program Officer)**

- *Master of Business Administration*
- *Royal Institute of Management  
(Affiliated to University of Canberra)*
- *3rd March 2025 - 31st July 2026*





# Academic Board of the University

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH PURPOSE

The university academic board is chaired by the Hon'ble President, with the Dean, MS, student representative s, and Registrar as Member Secretary.



The Academic Board (AB), as the apex decision-making authority on academic matters, convened two regular sessions during the year—on 8th November 2024 and 9th May 2025. These meetings served as vital platforms for steering the university's academic growth and charting its long-term strategic direction.

In both sittings, the Board engaged in thoughtful deliberations on critical academic issues, ensuring that decisions were aligned with the institution's mission and the nation's emerging priorities. Key outcomes included the approval of significant proposals aimed at strengthening academic excellence and responsiveness to the evolving landscape of healthcare education.

Among the most notable decisions was the endorsement of the introduction and revision of academic programs designed to meet changing healthcare needs, support national workforce development, and equip graduates with future-ready competencies. The following programs were reviewed and formally approved by the Board:





## Elective programs for postgraduate residents

*Elective programs are part of curriculum fulfillment and a requirement of the Medical and Health Professional Council of the country for all resident students.*

Residents are encouraged to undertake elective rotations to broaden their clinical knowledge and enhance practical skills. During the reporting year, a total of 27 residents participated in in-country electives at regional referral hospitals, including 13 final-year and 14 third-year residents, where they gained valuable hands-on experience in resource-limited settings and strengthened their capacity to manage diverse clinical challenges.

Furthermore, to provide exposure to advanced subspecialties not available within the country, 28 residents comprising 14 third-year and 14 second-year residents undertook electives abroad. These international placements enriched their academic and professional development, fostering cross-cultural learning, expanding clinical competencies, and preparing them to address complex healthcare needs upon returning to Bhutan.

These elective experiences play a crucial role in shaping well-rounded, competent, and adaptable medical specialists, ensuring that graduates are equipped to contribute meaningfully to the nation's healthcare system.

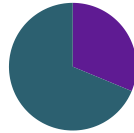




# Internship Program

January 2025 induction

10



June 2025 induction

22

The Faculty of Postgraduate Medicine continues to uphold the one-year compulsory internship as a cornerstone of undergraduate medical training. This essential program represents the final, immersive phase of the bachelor's degree journey, designed to bridge academic learning with real-world clinical practice.



During the internship, medical students refine their professional knowledge and hone practical skills under the guidance of experienced mentors and clinical supervisors. The program emphasizes hands-on experience across diverse healthcare settings, fostering critical thinking, clinical judgment, and patient-centered care. By the end of this rigorous training, graduates are equipped not only with the competence to perform independently but also with the confidence and professionalism required to contribute meaningfully to the nation's healthcare system.





# Innovating medical education:

## *Curriculum for better tomorrow*



*Members during the curriculum development for technical categories*

The continuous development and periodic review of medical curricula are pivotal to preparing healthcare professionals who can effectively respond to the ever-changing demands of the healthcare sector. This rigorous process ensures that course content, teaching methodologies, and assessment strategies remain current with the latest advancements in medical science, technology, and patient care practices. It also guarantees alignment with professional competencies, accreditation standards, and the broader national healthcare context.



*Members during the curriculum development for One Health*

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, five key programs Diploma in Medical Technology, Radiography and Medical Imaging, Dental Hygiene, Medical Emergency Responder, and Pharmacy underwent comprehensive revision and validation. These programs, which were due for updates, were meticulously reviewed to strengthen their relevance, rigor, and practical applicability.

*The comprehensive revision and validation of key medical programs ensure that our curricula remain responsive to the rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, equipping future professionals with cutting-edge knowledge, practical skills, and competencies essential for delivering high-quality patient care. These initiatives not only strengthen the university's commitment to academic excellence and innovation but also advance its vision of shaping healthcare leaders who drive national development and contribute meaningfully to a healthier society.*





## One Health integration medical laboratory program

In recognition of the growing importance of the One Health approach, the Diploma in Medical Laboratory program underwent a comprehensive revision to integrate elements of veterinary and food sciences. This interdisciplinary integration necessitated a thorough review of the foundational curriculum within the faculty to ensure that students acquire a holistic understanding of health across human, animal, and environmental domains.

The curriculum review was carried out through a collaborative effort involving teaching faculty, IT personnel, and library assistants, with technical guidance and support from officials of the Animal Health Division, Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL). The process emphasized creating a cohesive and multidisciplinary learning experience that prepares graduates to address complex health challenges in a One Health context.

A major outcome of the workshop was the inclusion of a dedicated One Health module in the second year, designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the interconnections between human, animal, and environmental health. Additionally, foundational first-year modules were revised to incorporate core One Health concepts, ensuring that the curriculum remains relevant and applicable to students across a range of health-related disciplines, including health assistants, midwifery, and nursing.

university's academic standards and quality requirements. These efforts collectively enhance the program's rigor, relevance, and capacity to produce graduates capable of contributing meaningfully to integrated health solutions





# Integration of Bhutan Healthcare Standard for Quality Assurance (BSHQA) into pre-service curriculums

Quality assurance and continuous improvement remain central to the delivery of high-quality healthcare. In line with this commitment, a collaborative workshop on the Integration of Total Quality Management (TQM), encompassing both Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Improvement (QI), was conducted from 24th to 28th March 2025 in Punakha.

The workshop was jointly organized by the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) and the Ministry of Health, bringing together key stakeholders from across the university system. Participants included representatives from all four faculties, the three constituent colleges under KGUMSB, officials from the Ministry of Health, and course coordinators from Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH).

The primary objective of the workshop was to strengthen the integration of TQM principles across all academic programs, fostering a culture of accountability, efficiency, and excellence in healthcare education.

The sessions emphasized practical strategies for embedding QA and QI mechanisms in teaching, learning, and administrative processes, thereby enhancing the overall quality and impact of healthcare training.







# **Conferences and Seminars as Catalysts for Academic Growth**



# The First International Cardiology

The Medical Education Centre for Research, Innovation and Training (MECRIT), Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, in collaboration with Bangla Interventional Therapeutics (BIT), Bangladesh, organized an International Conference on Cardiology from 27–28 December 2024 at the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health Auditorium. The event aimed to strengthen skills, share knowledge, and foster collaboration in cardiology.

*MECRIT–KGUMSB and BIT hosted Bhutan's first International Cardiology Conference, uniting global experts to advance heart care and innovation*



The conference brought together 140 participants, including 23 international delegates comprising faculty members, consultants, and healthcare professionals. It provided a platform to exchange views, discuss innovations in cardiovascular disease management, and build professional networks among local and international experts.

Scientific sessions covered a wide range of topics, with a focus on advances in diagnostic echocardiography, coronary artery disease, and heart failure. The event was financially and technically supported by BIT, a leading South Asian platform that promotes cutting-edge strategies and innovations in cardiovascular interventions.





# Seminar on Medicine and Compassion

The Medical Education Centre for Research, Innovation and Training (MECRIT), KGUMSB, organized a Seminar on Medicine and Compassion from 11–13 October 2024 at the Faculty of Traditional Medicine. The seminar aimed to inspire health professionals to cultivate compassion and peace of mind in their practice, thereby enhancing quality care. It also sought to empower faculty to share these values with students, patients, and the wider public.



The event was inaugurated by His Excellency Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk, Minister of Health and Chairperson of the University Governing Council. Key highlights included presentations by Dr. David R. Shlim on the “Definitions and Origins of Compassion” in the context of Vajrayana Buddhism, and a talk by His Eminence Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche on the “Nature and Benefits of Compassion.”

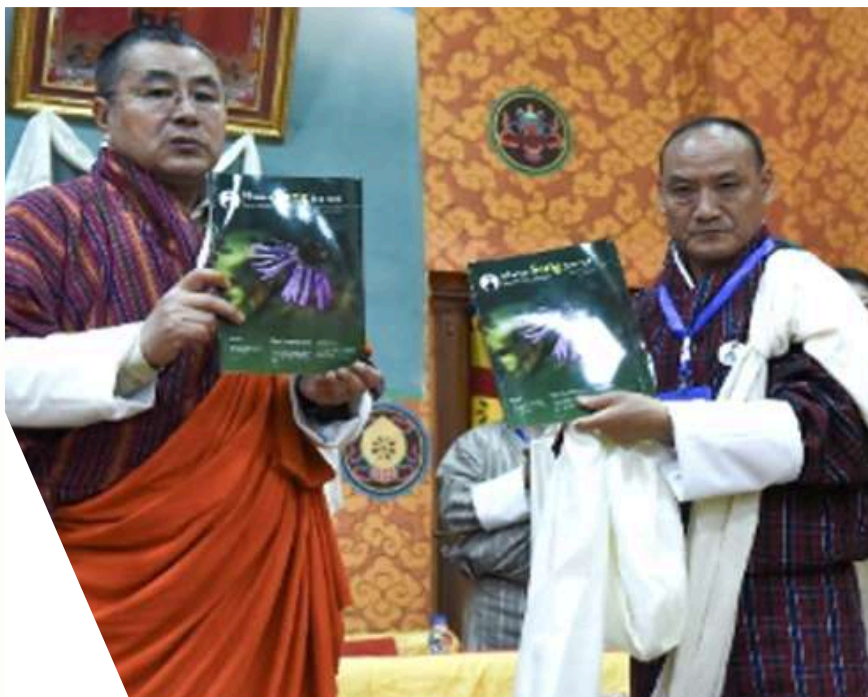
Around 200 participants from KGUMSB, the National Medical Services, and the Ministry of Health attended the three-day program. The seminar concluded on 13 October 2024, followed by a special lecture on Travel Medicine by Dr. Shlim for KGUMSB faculty and health staff on 14 October 2024.





## 2<sup>nd</sup> National Sorig Conference 2025

The Faculty of Traditional Medicine, KGUMSB, successfully convened the 2nd National Sorig Conference on 16 –17 May 2025, providing a key platform for practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders to discuss the future of Sowa Rigpa Medicine through integration, innovation, and policy collaboration. The Hon'ble Health Minister, Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk, officially launched Volume 2, Issue 1 of the Bhutan Sorig



Journal and delivered a keynote address highlighting the importance of preserving Bhutan's unique medical heritage.

The two-day conference featured expert insights on advancing Sowa Rigpa education, panel discussions on policy and governance, research presentations on modern diagnostics, curriculum innovations, and wellness tourism, as well as deliberations on cross-referral with allopathic medicine and medicinal plant conservation. The event reaffirmed Sowa Rigpa's relevance in contemporary healthcare, emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence-based practice.





# IVI Regional Pandemic Preparedness Workshop

*MECRIT, KGUMSB successfully hosted a regional pandemic preparedness workshop with IVI, bringing together health experts from South and Southeast Asia to strengthen collaborative research and health security in the region*



MECRIT, KGUMSB, successfully hosted the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) Regional Pandemic Preparedness Workshop on 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

The two-day workshop was aimed at fostering greater regional collaboration and strengthening the research preparedness ecosystem for future pandemics.

The workshop was attended by public health experts, government representatives, NGOs, and academic partners from across South and Southeast Asia.

The workshop was jointly organized by IVI in collaboration with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Global Health Institute and the Bhutan–IVI Collaborating Centre (BICC) at KGUMSB, reaffirming their collective commitment to advancing health security and resilience across the region.





# Capacity Building and Professional Development

*“Enhancing Skills, Research, and  
Compassion in Healthcare.”*



# Quality-Driven Enhancements in Pedagogy and Assessment

The academic year 2024–2025 witnessed a strong emphasis on strengthening pedagogy and assessment to ensure quality and effectiveness in medical education. A notable milestone was the launch of the Diploma in Medical Laboratory (Entomology), scheduled to commence in August 2025 under the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH), the Faculty of Undergraduate Medicine, and other faculties. To build their foundational teaching competencies, a basic pedagogy training was organized from 23rd to 26th June 2025, led by FNPH faculty with expertise in pedagogy and assessment. The training introduced participants to essential concepts in teaching and learning, including the development of a Teaching Philosophy Statement (TPS), adapted from the Teaching Advantage program of Queensland University of Technology,







University consider strengthening pedagogy and assessment is vital, as it empowers faculty members to translate complex medical knowledge into effective learning experiences while ensuring that student performance is measured with fairness, reliability, and alignment to professional standards.

The academic year 2024–2025 witnessed a strong emphasis on strengthening pedagogy and assessment to ensure quality and effectiveness in medical education. A notable milestone was the launch of the Diploma in Medical Laboratory (Entomology), scheduled to commence in August 2025 under the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH), the Faculty of Undergraduate Medicine, and other faculties. To build their foundational teaching competencies, a basic pedagogy training was organized from 23rd to 26th June 2025, led by FNPH faculty with expertise in pedagogy and assessment. The training introduced participants to essential concepts in teaching and learning, including the development of a Teaching Philosophy Statement (TPS), adapted from the Teaching Advantage program of Queensland University of Technology,





# Capacity Building in Research and Innovation

Four officials from the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health participated in a training program on "Research and Innovation" hosted by the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Thailand, from 31st March to 11th April 2025.



*Strengthening research and innovation capacity through international training equips faculty with cutting-edge skills in big data, AI, and publishing, thereby enhancing the university's academic reputation and global standing*

The training covered key areas including research methodology, strategies to integrate research and innovation in public health, big data management and analysis, and the application of artificial intelligence in enhancing healthcare delivery. Additionally, participants received hands-on guidance on grant proposal writing and techniques for publishing in Q1 journals, contributing to the university's academic reputation and global standing.



# Research Methodology Training

MECRIT, KGUMSB conducted six batches of Research Methodology Training for health staff and faculties of KGUMSB. Two batches were held at Hotel Amriti, Yoesipang (16–20 Sept. 2024 and 30 Sept.–4 Oct. 2024), and four at Tsherim Resort, Paro (19–24 May, 26–31 May, 2–7 June, and 9–14 June 2025). Each batch included 30–35 participants, with 3–5 mentors, totaling about 150 participants.



*MECRIT, KGUMSB conducted extensive Research Methodology Training across six batches for approximately 150 health professionals and faculty. The five-day, hands-on program built capacity in research design, data analysis, and academic writing to promote evidence-based practice.*



The five-day training, adapted from the BSMART course, aimed to build capacity in research methodology, data analysis, academic writing, and publication. It emphasized evidence-based practice and guided participants through proposal development, data management, and statistical analysis.



Training was delivered through lectures, discussions, hands-on exercises, and use of published research papers. Participants developed research questions, protocols, data tools (EpiData), and dummy tables/figures. A Moodle-based LMS supported access to course content, assignments, and assessments. All participants and facilitators used their own laptops for practical sessions.





## Data Collection Training using MyCap: Dengue KAP Survey

KGUMSB and the Health and Medical Research Centre (HMRC) at CRRH conducted a two-day enumerator training on KAP survey for dengue prevention and control at the VDCP conference hall, Gelephu, on 18–19 July 2025. The survey aims to assess knowledge and dengue prevention practices among communities in Phuentsholing, Gelephu, Samdrup Jongkhar Thromdes, and migrant workers entering through these points.



*Health workers from Samdrup Jongkhar Hospital, Phuentsholing Hospital, CRRH, and VDCP were trained as enumerators, providing research exposure and supporting the growth of Bhutan's health and medical research community.*

Training focused on using MyCap, a mobile app built on REDCap, installed at KGUMSB in June 2025, enabling user-friendly data collection with quality checks.

Research findings will be shared after data collection and analysis, providing valuable insights for the Ministry of Health and other agencies to guide dengue prevention interventions and public advocacy.



# ACS Network Strengthening & Basic Echocardiography for RHD detection

The NCD Center and MECRIT, KGUMSB, in collaboration with the Heart Center, JDWNRH, conducted a 3-day national training workshop on “ACS Network Strengthening & Basic Echocardiography for RHD Detection” from 22–24 May 2025. The training aimed to enhance district-level doctors’ capacity in early recognition, diagnosis, and management of cardiovascular diseases, particularly Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD).



Led by Course Director Dr. Mahesh Gurung, the workshop trained 30 General Duty Medical Officers from across Bhutan. Participants engaged in interactive lectures, clinical case discussions, and hands-on sessions covering ACS management, basic echocardiography for RHD detection, and strengthening referral linkages within the national STEMI care network.



## Training on Service with Care & Compassion Initiatives (SCCI)

MECRIT, KGUMSB, conducted two batches of Service with Care and Compassion Initiatives (SCCI) training for healthcare professionals from JDWNRH, Thromde Health Centres, and affiliated nursing colleges. The first batch was held on 28–30 May 2025, and the second on 23–25 July 2025, organized in collaboration with MoH and Access Health International (AHI), with financial support from Sanofi through AHI.





The training began with opening remarks from the Director of DCS, highlighting the importance of compassionate service, followed by sessions on the national, regional, and global burden of CVDs, diabetes, COPD, and cancers. Technical sessions included theoretical lectures, practical demonstrations, and hands-on exercises.

Each batch concluded with a coordination meeting chaired by the Director of MECRIT to reflect, plan, and build consensus on challenges and recommendations. The medical superintendent and HODs participated in the first batch's coordination meeting to chart the way forward.



*MECRIT, KGUMSB conducted SCCI training for healthcare professionals to enhance compassionate service delivery for NCDs*



# Workshop on Development of Training Module for Research methodology

MECRIT, KGUMSB developed a training Module for the research methodology on 5th - 9th May 2025 at Tsherim Resort, Paro.

The development of a comprehensive Research Methodology Training Module aimed at enhancing the research skills of our faculty members and other health professionals. Effective research is a cornerstone of informed decision-making and progress within any organization or field of study.

However, many researchers and practitioners in our university and outside often lack formal training in research methodology, leading to inconsistencies, inefficiencies, and challenges in the research process. To address this gap, it is crucial to offer structured training on research methods that will empower participants to conduct high-quality, reliable, and ethical research.

Through this five days consultative workshop, the draft research training module was completed which will be submitted for validation and endorsement.

*MECRIT, KGUMSB developed a comprehensive Research Methodology Training Module through a five-day consultative workshop. The module aims to address the formal training gap by enhancing research skills for faculty and health professionals, enabling high-quality and ethical research*





## REDCap training provided to healthcare researchers

The REDCap system was installed at KGUMSB on 11 June 2025 under MECRIT's initiative to support online data collection and quality-controlled research and QI projects.

The first cohort received online hands-on training on 24 and 26 June 2025, led by Sandeep Bhujbal, a data scientist from KEM Hospital Research Centre, Pune, India, facilitated through the RESPIRE Project, University of Edinburgh. A total of 30 participants, including KGUMSB faculty, doctors, nurses, research officers, and program scientists, were trained.

Trained users are expected to share skills and promote REDCap adoption in Bhutan's health research. Key benefits include improved data quality, elimination of printed questionnaires, and electronic consent. For queries, contact Dr. Thinley Dorji (CRRH) or Dechen Wangdi (KGUMSB).





# International Child Development Program (ICDP) - Bhutan

The International Child Development Programme (ICDP), founded in 1985 in Norway, is a psychosocial programme focused on strengthening emotional and social caregiving relationships across the lifespan. It operates in over 50 countries and emphasizes culturally sensitive, emotionally attuned caregiver-child interactions. ICDP was introduced to Bhutan in September 2023 through a collaboration with FNPH and trainers Dr. Ingeborg Egebjerg and Ms. May Britt Aanundsen from Norway.

The initiative began with stakeholder meetings involving the Ministry of Health, ECCD programs, and academic institutions, comparing ICDP with existing child development frameworks like ECCD and C4CD+. Unlike more prescriptive models, ICDP promotes a sensitizing approach, encouraging self-reflection, emotional dialogue, and empathy in caregiver-child interactions.





The first Bhutanese ICDP workshop took place from November 26–28, 2024, involving 23 participants from FNPH, NMS, and ECCD. The training deepened understanding of emotional development, cultural caregiving values, and practical applications through interactive sessions. Following the second workshop, nine caregiver groups were formed to practice and share ICDP principles. Participants creatively presented their experiences, demonstrating strong emotional growth and connection.

The Norwegian trainers played a pivotal role, blending deep expertise with cultural sensitivity, emotional intelligence, and flexibility. Their integration of Bhutanese media, inclusive facilitation, and participant feedback created an inspiring and transformative learning experience. Their lasting contribution has laid a strong foundation for Bhutan's future in culturally grounded, empathetic child development practices.





## IDF-GHU Diabetes Course for Health workers

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF), in collaboration with Sanofi's Global Health Unit (GHU) and Access Health International (AHI), has launched the IDF-GHU Diabetes Training Initiative to strengthen the capacity of healthcare professionals in low- and middle-income countries. In Bhutan, this program is implemented by MECRIT with support from AHI and Sanofi GHU under the project "Capacity Building for NCD Screening, Prevention, and Management for Health Systems Stakeholders in Bhutan." The initiative began in June 2025 and is endorsed by the Continuous Professional Development and Research Steering Committee (CRSC) of KGUMSB.

The program offers two premium courses—the Primary Care Physicians Course and the Diabetes Educators Course—aimed at improving diabetes care knowledge and skills among doctors, nurses, health assistants, and other frontline health workers. A total of 580 healthcare professionals, including 86 physicians, were nominated to participate. Both self-paced courses are available in English and Spanish, with downloadable resources, case studies, certification, and 8 European CME credits upon completion.





The Primary Care Physicians Course covers eight modules (about nine hours), focusing on screening, treatment guidelines, medication, insulin use, and managing diabetes in special populations. The Diabetes Educators Course spans eleven modules (about twelve hours), equipping participants with skills in patient education, nutrition, insulin administration, psychosocial support, and care for vulnerable groups. Together, these courses are expected to strengthen Bhutan's health system by enhancing evidence-based diabetes prevention, diagnosis, and management.

*The IDF-GHU Diabetes Training Initiative launched in Bhutan aims to strengthen diabetes care skills of 580 healthcare professionals through certified online courses*





The image features a decorative border on the left side, composed of a vertical strip of colorful, woven fabric with a complex geometric pattern in shades of red, blue, yellow, and green. The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of stylized, swirling cloud motifs in a light beige or gold color, set against a white background. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

# **Strengthening Research Infrastructure**



# Launching of the Bhutan-IVI Collaborating Centre (BICC) & Regional Symposium on Advancing Health Research in Asia

The Bhutan–IVI Collaborating Centre (BICC) was officially inaugurated on 8<sup>th</sup> July at KGUMSB, marking a significant milestone in Bhutan’s advancement in health research, pandemic preparedness, and regional collaboration.

The ceremony was graced by Hon’ble Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk, Minister for Health, Royal Government of Bhutan, and attended by esteemed guests from the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Global Health Institute (HKJCGHI), regional experts, national institutions, and international partners.

This landmark launch builds upon Bhutan’s long-standing partnership with IVI, which began in 1996 with the signing of the IVI Establishment Agreement.





The collaboration was further strengthened with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in June 2024 between the Ministry of Health, KGUMSB, and IVI, formalizing shared objectives in vaccine research and public health innovation.





# Establishment of the Medical Research Centre in Gelephu Central Regional Hospital

The Central Regional Referral Hospital (CRRH), Gelephu, in collaboration with KGUMSB, inaugurated the Health and Medical Research Centre (HMRC) on 19 July 2025. The event was graced by Honorable Governor of Gelephu Mindfulness City, Dasho Dr. Lotay Tshering, with representatives from KGUMSB, VDCP, and CRRH in attendance, while KGUMSB and Ministry of Health staff joined online.

HMRC aims to strengthen research capacity by utilizing available data, setting new priorities, and collaborating with national and international institutions. It will generate evidence to guide healthcare policies and provide mentorship for students and professionals at CRRH, working closely with MECRIT's Central Research and Innovation Division.

The Centre was established with support from a collaborative NIH-funded project between KGUMSB and the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, titled "Investigation of Epidemiology and Transmission of Leishmaniasis in Sri Lanka and Bhutan."

*CRRH and KGUMSB inaugurated the Health and Medical Research Centre (HMRC) which will strengthen research capacity, guide healthcare policy, and mentor students*





# Inauguration of Eastern Regional Health Research Centre (ERHRC), Eastern Regional Referral Hospital

On 2 August 2025, the Eastern Regional Health Research Centre (ERHRC) was inaugurated at the Eastern Regional Referral Hospital (ERHRC) in Mongar through a collaboration with KGUMSB. The event was officiated by Dasho Dzongda of Mongar Dzongkhag, Mr. Lungten Jamtsho, and attended by hospital and university representatives.





The centre aims to cultivate a research culture, build faculty capacity, and foster national and international collaborations. Its core mission is to generate scientific evidence to inform clinical practice and health policies, while providing mentorship to professionals and students. To ensure alignment with national priorities, the ERHRC will work closely with KGUMSB's Central Research and Innovation Division (MECRIT), having been established with support from an NIH-funded project with the University of Colombo.



*The ERHRC in Mongar, inaugurated on 2 August 2025, will advance research and health policy with support from an NIH-funded University of Colombo project*



# Establishment of Centre of Excellence for Nutrition (COEN)

MECRIT and the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH), KGUMSB, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Nutrition (CoEN) on 5 November 2024. The facility, located within FNPH, is envisioned as a hub for research, collaboration, and innovation in nutrition involving experts, healthcare professionals, and community leaders.

CoEN reflects a strong commitment to improving health outcomes through evidence-based nutrition practices. Its primary focus is on generating knowledge to guide policies and strategies addressing the triple burden of malnutrition across the life course.

The Centre aims to (1) generate evidence for policy and programmatic interventions, (2) build technical expertise through professional development, and (3) advance diagnostic technologies to enable early detection and reduction of Nutrition Deficiency Diseases, contributing to the national vision of Happy Drukylul





## Ongoing Research at KGUMSB

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- 1 EATWELL: A Comparative Material-Semiotic Ethnography of Food Systems and More-than-Human Health in Bhutan
- 2 Operational Research on Dengue prevention and control
- 3 Moderna Project Efficacy of COVID-19 Vaccine
- 4 JICA-SATREPS: The project for institutional capacity building for eliminating *Helicobacter pylori* related death.
- 5 Strategic Support for Accreditation of Programs and Internationalization (SSAPI) at South Asian Higher Education Institutes (HEIs)
- 6 Urbanization and Child development in Bhutan  
Advancement and Utilization of International Network to Secure Resources for High-Risk Infectious Diseases.
- 7 Research Project on Epidemiology and Transmission of *L. donovani* in Sri-Lanka and Bhutan



# Talk on Neuroscience Perspective on the Training of Compassion in Medicine

Where Science Meets Compassion

“A Neuroscience Perspective on Cultivating Compassion in Medicine.”

MECRIT, KGUMSB hosted a talk titled “A Neuroscience Perspective on the Training of Compassion in Medicine: How to Shift from Empathic Distress to Compassion and Resilience” by Prof. Dr. Tania Singer, Head of the Social Neuroscience Lab at the Max Planck Society, Berlin, on 4 June 2025. About 150 participants, including KGUMSB faculty, JDWNRH staff, and students, attended the program.

Prof. Singer discussed the rise in mental health challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and introduced a scalable, app-based 10-week program comparing classical mindfulness training with Dyad socio-emotional training. She highlighted the distinction between empathy, empathic distress, and compassion, and how healthcare professionals can be trained to shift from empathic distress to compassion to enhance emotional well-being and resilience.





She also emphasized the broader applicability of these evidence-based interventions in supporting healthy digitalization and extending their use to sectors like education and healthcare.



*MECRIT, KGUMSB hosted a neuroscience talk by Prof. Tania Singer on training compassion in healthcare. The session explored evidence-based methods to help professionals shift from empathic distress to compassion, enhancing resilience and well-being*







# **Strategic Partnerships and MoUs**



# Signed MoU with Navamindrathiraj University, Thailand

*In 2025, KGUMSB strengthened collaborations through MoUs with Mahidol University and Navamindrathiraj University, Thailand, for academic exchange and research, and a tripartite MoU with NSB and GovTech to share student and staff data for public education statistics.*

## MoU with Navamindrathiraj University, Thailand

On 20th May 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Navamindrathiraj University, Bangkok, Thailand, and the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB).

The MoU establishes a collaborative partnership between the two institutions, focusing on student and faculty exchanges, academic development and training, joint research initiatives, and the sharing of knowledge and experience.



The signing of the MoU coincided with the Celebration of the 71st Anniversary of the Kuakarun Faculty of Nursing, Navamindrathiraj University, Bangkok, Thailand, during which the Officiating President of KGUMSB was invited to attend and deliver the keynote address. This milestone marks a significant step forward in strengthening academic and professional ties between the two universities.



### MoU with Mahidol University, Thailand

On 23rd May 2025, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahidol University, Thailand. This landmark partnership aims to foster collaboration in the fields of medical education, research, faculty and student exchange programs, capacity building, and joint academic initiatives. It marks a significant step forward in strengthening international cooperation and enhancing the quality of health professional education in Bhutan.



### MoU with National Statistical Bureau (NSB) & GovTech

On April 2, 2025, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB), the National Statistical Bureau (NSB), and the Government Technology (GovTech) Agency to formalize the sharing of university student and employee data.

The data shared by KGUMSB will be managed by the GovTech Agency and will be accessed by the NSB through the National Statistical Database System. This will help disseminate education sector statistics and information to the public.





## **Signed MoU with Navamindrathiraj University, Strengthening Academic Collaboration between KGUMSB & LMU Munich Thailand**

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A four-member delegation from Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU), Munich, Germany visited Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) from 11th to 17th May 2025 to further strengthen and expand this strategic partnership.

The KGUMSB has been actively collaborating with LMU since 2015, particularly in the area of academic teacher training in medical education. This partnership has proven mutually beneficial, supporting faculty development through exchange programs and collaborative training initiatives that have significantly enhanced the quality of medical education.





Building on this strong foundation, KGUMSB and LMU are currently engaged in a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Partnership Project titled “Capacity Building on Medical Education, Interprofessional Education, and International Health.”



*LMU Munich  
visited KGUMSB  
in May 2025 to  
strengthen faculty  
development and  
medical education  
under their SDG  
Partnership  
Project*





## Visit of French Delegates to the University Thailand

8 April 2025, Mr. Charles Mahy, Counsellor for Health and Social Policies and a delegation member from the Embassy of France in India, visited the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB). They were part of the delegation accompanying H.E. Dr. Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, who was on an official visit to Bhutan.

During the meeting with officials from the Office of the President and the constituent faculties of KGUMSB, Mr. Mahy engaged in discussions to explore potential avenues for future collaboration between the university and French institutions.





The conversations focused on strengthening Bhutan's medical education system through capacity-building initiatives, exchange programs, and support for innovative teaching and learning. Emphasis was also placed on joint research opportunities and academic partnerships in areas of mutual interest, particularly in the fields of medical education development. The visit marked an important step towards fostering academic and professional ties between KGUMSB and France in the health and medical education.



*On 8 April 2025, a French Embassy delegation visited KGUMSB to explore collaboration in medical education, including capacity building, exchanges, and joint research initiatives*



## Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting – KGUMSB-JICA Technical Cooperation Project

The 4th Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting for the KGUMSB-JICA Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) was successfully convened today.

This five-year project (August 3, 2020–August 2, 2025) aims to strengthen the quality of medical education at KGUMSB. TCP has contributed to faculty capacity building in health professional education and research, as well as enhancing innovation and digitalization in medical education.

During the meeting, members reviewed the progress and achievements of the project so far and discussed project extension along with planned activities for the extended period. The meeting was attended by representatives and officials from the JICA Bhutan Office, JICA HQ, National Medical Services, the Ministry of Finance, and KGUMSB.



*The 4th JCC Meeting reviewed KGUMSB-JICA project progress in faculty development and medical education innovation, and discussed extending the project.*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Coordination meeting of the Science & Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) project

The 3rd Joint Coordination meeting of the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) Project on Institutional Capacity Building for Eliminating *Helicobacter pylori* related Death was held on 26th June 2025 at the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan. The project is supported by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).





The meeting was chaired by Dr. Kuenzang Chhezom, the Officiating President of the University. Mr. Yoichiro Kimata, Chief Representative of the JICA Bhutan Office; Professor Yoshio Yamaoka, Vice President of Oita University and Dean of the Faculty of Postgraduate Medicine; and the collaborating partners from the Royal Center for Disease Control (RCDC), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH), Eastern Regional Referral Hospital (ERRH), and Central Regional Referral Hospital (CRRH) attended the meeting.

*The 3rd SATREPS Joint Coordination Meeting was held on 26 June 2025 at KGUMSB with support from JICA and AMED. The meeting reinforced Bhutan–Japan collaboration to eliminate *H. pylori* – related deaths*





## Walailak University Delegation Visits KGUMSB

A three-member delegation from Walailak University, Thailand — Professor Dr. Sombat Thamrongthanyawong, President of Walailak University; Dr. Patnarin Supakorn, Assistant Professor and Director of the Center for International Affairs; and Dr. Worawan Panpipat, Associate Professor and Dean of the School of Agricultural Technology and Food Industry — visited the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) on 27th May 2025.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Rixin Jamtsho, the Officiating President of KGUMSB, and was attended by officials from the Office of the President and the constituent faculties. Discussions during the meeting focused on the potential for faculty and student exchange programs, including credit transfer arrangements, as well as avenues for collaborative research initiatives.





This inaugural meeting marked a significant step towards building strong academic and research partnerships between the two universities and has opened the door to a range of potential future collaborations.

As part of their visit, the delegates also toured the Faculty of Traditional Medicine and its museum. This visit represents an important milestone in fostering international cooperation in medical education and research — both in allopathic and traditional medicine.



*Walailak University delegates visited KGUMSB on 27 May 2025 to explore faculty/student exchanges, collaborative research, and international cooperation in medical education, including a tour of the Faculty of Traditional Medicine.*

## Signing of an Agreement

On 5th December 2024, the Faculty of Traditional Medicine (FoTM) and Menjong Sorig Pharmaceuticals Corporation Limited (MSPCL) formalized a partnership through a signed agreement. This collaboration is aimed at fostering a strong corporate-academic relationship, creating opportunities to address shared academic, educational, and capacity-building needs in the field of traditional medicine.







# **Strategic Planning and Policy Development**



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In alignment with KGUMSB's strategic priorities and the 13th Five-Year Plan, the Faculty of Traditional Medicine undertook a comprehensive revision of its strategic document. The process was carried out through a collaborative workshop that brought together key stakeholders to ensure inclusiveness and shared vision. The revised strategy now serves as a guiding framework for academic excellence, administrative efficiency, and sustainable financial planning, positioning the Faculty to achieve its long-term goals with clarity and purpose.





## Revised Condition of Services

On 28th February 2025, the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) commemorated its 10th Foundation Day. As part of the celebration, the revised Conditions of Service 2025. The basis for the revision of the CoS 2018 is as per the University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan Act 2012 (adopted by the Parliament on 28th January 2012). The 1st Condition of Services came into force with effect from 1st January 2013, followed by second and third editions from 1st July 2014 and 1st July 2018, respectively. The current one will be the 4th edition of the Condition of Services, which came into force on 1st January 2025, after the endorsement from the Governing Council.

The rationale for the revision is to attract highly qualified and skilled faculty and employees to make the university a competitive and alternative job avenue. There were some major and minor inherent deficiencies in CoS 2018 and some changes in the rules and regulations of the government as per the notification issued, which mandated the university to revise the document.





### Rationale for the revision

- Universities need to attract highly qualified and skilled faculty and support staff
- Need to make the University a competitive and alternative job avenue
- Some major and minor inherent deficiencies in the old CoS
- Make some clear distinction of working in the University
- Harmonize KGUMSB's CoS to Position Directory, HR Manual, Remuneration

## HR Masterplan

The Human Resource Master Plan (2025–2034) is a strategic framework guiding KGUMSB's workforce planning and development over the next decade. With the university's transition to autonomy, it is now better positioned to manage its human resources in alignment with its goals for quality education, research, and healthcare services.

### Key objectives of the plan include:

- Aligning HR strategies with the university's strategic plan
- Establishing a succession planning system
- Enhancing efficiency in resource utilization
- Strengthening staff capacity through training and development

KGUMSB aims to produce 3,084 graduates over ten years through expanded academic offerings. To support this, the plan projects a need for 343 employees, addressing a gap of 153 positions with a detailed recruitment strategy targeting critical academic and administrative roles. The university remains committed to continuous professional development through higher education and targeted training programs.

Overall, the HR Master Plan provides a proactive approach to building a competent, future-ready workforce aligned with institutional growth.





# **Learning Exposure and Quality Enhancement**



## Field Visit – Wellness Centers Bangkok

As part of efforts to enhance Traditional Medicine and Wellness Services, a joint team from the Traditional Medicine Division, Faculty of Traditional Medicine, Menjong Sorig Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, and the National Traditional Medicine Hospital undertook a study visit to Bangkok, Thailand, from 12–15 June 2025. The delegation explored leading centers, including Prachya Wellness Polyclinic, Wictory Wellness & Spa, and Health Land Spa & Wellness, to observe service delivery models, operational frameworks, and best practices. The insights gained will inform the development and expansion of wellness services in Bhutan.





## First Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) visit at FoUGM

The KGUMSB Monitoring and Evaluation team conducted an official visit to the Faculty of Undergraduate Medicine on 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 2024. The visit aimed to inform the students, faculty, and staff regarding the quality assessment frameworks of the University. The team further interacted with the faculty, students, and administrative staff to gather feedback, identify areas for improvements and provide recommendations for continuous improvement of the faculty.





# Study of Local Bone- Healing Practices

From 1st–6th April 2025, a delegation led by the Dean visited traditional bone healers in Nishiganj and Gashbari (Nagarkata), West Bengal. The visit provided meaningful insights into age-old indigenous practices and opened avenues for integrating this knowledge into Sowa Rigpa education. It also highlighted opportunities for collaborative research, fostering a deeper understanding of traditional healing systems and their relevance in contemporary healthcare.





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# **Recognition and Rewards**



## Honoring progress, inspiring future

In recognition of their dedicated service and loyalty to Tsa-Wa-Sum and after fulfilling the required criteria, 3 staff from the Office of the President, 1 staff from the Medical Education Center for Research, Innovation, and Training, 5 staff from the Faculty of Traditional Medicine, 1 staff from the Faculty of Undergraduate Medicine, 16 staff from the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, and 7 staff from the Faculty of Postgraduate Medicine were promoted to the next higher level.





## RCSC Awards - 2024

In recognition of their dedicated service and loyalty to Tsa-Wa-Sum and after fulfilling the required criteria, 3 staff from the Office of the President, 1 staff from the Medical Education Center for Research, Innovation, and Training, 5 staff from the Faculty of Traditional Medicine, 1 staff from the Faculty of Undergraduate Medicine, 16 staff from the Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, and 7 staff from the Faculty of Postgraduate Medicine were promoted to the next higher level.



### Dedicated Service Award for 30 Years and Above (2024):

- Ms. Namgay Lhamo, Associate Professor – Faculty of Traditional Medicine (FoTM)
- Drungtsho Dophu, Associate Professor – Faculty of Traditional Medicine (FoTM)

### Dedicated Service Award for 20 Years and Above (2024):

Ms. Tshering Yangzom, Senior Lecturer – Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH)

Mr. Bhawani Shankar Dungana, Associate Lecturer – Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH)

Mr. Tshechu Dorji, Store Keeper – Faculty of Nursing and Public Health (FNPH)

The ceremony was presided over by the President of the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan. He expressed our gratitude to the Wangchuck dynasty for the sovereignty and peace we are enjoying. He congratulated the recipients for their long-dedicated service and motivated them to work with more dedication and loyalty in serving the University and the Tsa Wa Sum.





# **Peace, Pride & Progress**



## International Day of Peace

In commemoration of the International Day of Peace 2024, themed “Cultivating a Culture of Peace,” the Rover Scouts of the Faculty of Traditional Medicine organized a cleaning campaign along the eco-trail from Changangkha to Kuensel Phodrang. The initiative engaged 40 Rover Scouts and two leaders, promoting environmental stewardship, peace, and community service through active participation.



## Celebration of Foundation Day





## Celebrated 10<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the University

Every year on 28th February, the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (KGUMSB) commemorates its Foundation Day. Established in 2013 and officially launched in 2015, KGUMSB stands as Bhutan's first medical university, dedicated to excellence in medical education, research and quality healthcare. The 10th Foundation Day celebration began with the lighting of butter lamps, followed by the recitation of Zhabten for the long life of His Majesty the King.

Addressing the gathering, the Officiating President of KGUMSB, Dr. Kuenzang Chhezom, extended heartfelt congratulations and deep appreciation to the faculty and staff for their unwavering dedication over the past decade in fulfilling the University's mandates. She underscored the need for the University to continuously adapt and enhance its programs to equip Bhutanese healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the healthcare challenges of the 21st century.



*KGUMSB celebrated its 10th Foundation Day on 28 February 2025, honoring a decade of medical education and healthcare contributions, and launched the revised Conditions of Service 2025 and University Calendar*





Since its inception, KGUMSB has played a pivotal role in shaping Bhutan's healthcare landscape by producing competent healthcare professionals and contributing to the nation's overall health and well-being.

As part of the celebration, the revised Conditions of Service 2025 and the University Calendar were officially launched.







# **Exit program for the president**



In order to organize a memorable exit program to honor the former President, Dr. K P Tshering, the Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, for his decade of leadership and contributions, the following programs were initiated to honor the legacy of Hon'ble President.

## Commemorative Hike to Wangditse

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In order to commemorate the Hon'ble President's leadership journey, the university's growth, and to reflect on the collective efforts that have propelled the University to greater heights, a commemorative hike was arranged to Wangditse Lhakhang from Sangaygang base on 1st November 2024, coinciding with the 16th coronation of His Majesty the Fifth Druk Gyalop Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, which was one of the first program among the exit program.

More than 50 participants consisting of executives, faculty members and staff of Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan came together to honor the leadership of Hon'ble President by taking part in the commemorative hike. Upon arrival at Wangditse Lhakhang, the group led by Hon'ble President were escorted inside the Lhakhang and lit butter lamps, offered prayers, and meditated for the health, happiness, and continued well-being of Hon'ble President, the KGUMSB family, and the whole country. The shared prayers are intended to create a collective wish for a peaceful and fulfilling retirement.





## University Rimdro

On 10th November 2025, the university successfully conducted Rimdro for the good health and smooth retirement of the Hon'ble President, KGUMSB family and the nation as a whole and also to bring good fortune to employees for the continued achievements and prosperity in the University.

The Rimdro commenced with the traditional Lhabsang (purification) which is believed to clear away obstacles and purify the space for the day's proceedings. This was followed by lighting of 108 butter lamps. The university conducted Drakmar Wangchen and Jabjei Mekha as Rimdro, followed by Tshokhor.

The Rimdro concluded with a profound sense of peace and satisfaction among those present, with prayers of good health and peaceful retirement of the Hon'ble President and blessings for the university staff with continued success.

## University Picnic

As part of the respect to the outgoing president, a university picnic was held on 14th December 2024 at the serene Tango Cheri Base, Thimphu. This event was organized to honor the president's decade-long service and to provide an informal setting for the university community to express their gratitude and appreciation.

The event began with a brief welcome address by the organizer, who highlighted the significance of the gathering in celebrating the president's contributions to the university.

Faculty members and staff performed songs and dances. Various other activities, including Musical Chairs, Balloon Stomping, and Balloon Balance Dance were organized to engage attendees and add an element of fun. The lunch provided an opportunity for attendees to connect and





share conversations in a relaxed atmosphere.

The event concluded with a Tashi Labay dance, symbolizing good luck and prosperity for the outgoing president and the university.

## Farewell Dinner

On 28th March 2025, the KGUMSB family bid a heartfelt farewell to Dr. Kinzang P. Tshering, the founding president of the university. Appointed as Interim President in 2012 and formally taking the helm in 2014, he dedicated over a decade to building KGUMSB from the ground up—with vision, passion, and unwavering commitment. His tenure was further extended for a second term, continuing until 31st December 2024—a testament to his invaluable contributions.

Under his leadership, the university became a pillar of medical education in Bhutan, nurturing generations of healthcare professionals and shaping the future of health in the country.

The farewell, graced by the Hon'ble Health Minister and attended by faculty, students, alumni, and partners, was a moving tribute to a leader who leaves behind not just a legacy, but a living institution. The event began with a brief welcome address by the organizer, who highlighted the significance of the gathering in celebrating the president's contributions to the university.

Faculty members and staff performed songs and dances. Various other activities, including Musical Chairs, Balloon Stomping, and Balloon Balance Dance were organized to engage attendees and add an element of fun. The lunch provided an opportunity for attendees to connect and share conversations in a relaxed atmosphere.

The event concluded with a Tashi Labay dance, symbolizing good luck and prosperity for the outgoing president and the university.







## Acknowledgement





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