

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY



The vision of the late legendary, Padmashree Dr N T Rama Rao, erstwhile Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, became a reality when 'The Andhra Pradesh University of Health Sciences, first of its kind, was established in 1986 by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, with Vijayawada as Headquarters. It is a state wide University with the aim of ensuring efficient and systematic education, training and research in allopathic and Indian systems of medicine, Dentistry and Nursing. Act No.6 of the A P Legislature was passed accordingly and the University was inaugurated on 9th April, 1986 by the then Chief Minister Dr. N.T.Rama Rao. The University started functioning from 1st November in the same year.

The objectives of the University are:

- * **Improvement of standards of medical education in Andhra Pradesh**
- * **Maintenance of uniform curriculum in all the affiliated colleges**
- * **Conduction of a good quality basic and applied research, to arrive at solutions to the health needs of the people of Andhra Pradesh.**

The university advocates and promotes improvisation of available natural resources for preparation of medicines for cure of human ailments, thereby bringing out the true spirit of the ancient proverb in scriptures " Vaidyo Narayano Harihi"

By establishment of the university, all disciplines of health sciences are brought under one roof: namely modern medicine, ancient Indian systems of medicine, allied health sciences like dentistry, physiotherapy, nursing, paramedical sciences. Apart from these, veterinary sciences is also included under its purview.

The degrees awarded by the university are recognised by national statutory bodies like MCI, DCI, Central council of Indian Medicine, Central council of Homeopathy and Indian nursing council. The university strives to keep up the standards of education by strict adherence to rules governing each course as per the decisions of the respective councils. Outgoing students of the university are keeping up the flag high with attractive placements in India and abroad, in Government and private sectors, as well as in corporate sector.

The governing bodies of the university are the Executive Council, Finance Committee, Academic Senate, Boards of studies and the Planning board. The first chancellor of the university was none other than Padmashree Late Dr N T Rama Rao garu. Presently, the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh is the Chancellor.

Recognition and financial assistance by UGC: The University has been included in the list of universities maintained by UGC, and a committee has been constituted to assess the credibility of the university to receive central assistance, the report of which has been submitted to the UGC. As per the UGC guidelines, the university should have necessary facilities to provide for teaching, research and extension in subjects related to medical and allied sciences which include Environmental sciences, Social and Behavioural sciences, Bioengineering, Dental, Pharmaceutical sciences, Health manpower development, Health administration etc., keeping in view the health requirements of the state. However, the state government ensures continued provision of adequate recurring grants to the university for maintenance of the activities of teaching, research and extension.

At the time of starting of the university, there were just 28 affiliated colleges. Now the number has become 348! It is expected to grow further, expanding the boundaries of the university. The following are the numbers of affiliated colleges in each speciality.

Sl. no.	Speciality	Number of affiliated colleges
1	Modern medicine	40
2	dentistry	21
3	Ayurveda	07

4	Homeopathy	06
5	Unani	02
6	Nursing	213
7	Naturopathy and Yoga	02
8	Physiotherapy	38
9	Medical laboratory technology	54

The University is rapidly expanding its services in all faculties i.e., super specialities in modern medicine and postgraduate courses in all other faculties. Proposals are under active consideration for starting new certificate and fellowship courses in the specialities which are in demand, designed as per the existing disease profile in Andhra Pradesh.

Apart regular academic activities the university also conducts and sponsors CMEs, teacher training programs, seminars, workshops, orations, guest lectures by eminent personalities etc. These are conducted either at the university headquarters or in the premises of the affiliated colleges. The Journal of the Dr NTR University of Health Sciences is going to be released very shortly.

The executive council has constituted a corpus fund of Rs.10,00,000/- for conducting Continued Medical Education and medical Research activities. The interest accrued on the deposit is utilised for the purpose. Financial assistance is provided to affiliated colleges and Professional associations for organising these programs.

In the last few years, Medical education has been undergoing remarkable changes, with a greater emphasis on need based education, which is more community oriented than hospital oriented. To meet the changing needs, the university has been collaborating with national and international universities and health agencies.

- * *Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Illinois, USA for workshops on problem based learning.*
- * *WHO and UNICEF, in connection with Integrated Maternal and Neonatal Care in teaching hospitals in Andhra Pradesh.*
- * *Association of AP Medical Graduates of USA, regarding offering training in Basic and advanced life support systems.*
- * *RAK Medical & Health Sciences University, UAE, in terms of exchange of faculty, students and collaborative research.*

The targets ahead for the university are:

- * Accreditation of medical and dental schools
- * Streamlining the admission process
- * Biometric attendance of all faculty in teaching institutions
- * Reforms in evaluation
- * Promote e- learning as adjunct to regular teaching- learning process
- * Continuous faculty training programs
- * Promote research and publication
- * Improve the quality of para medical education
- * Establish counselling centre for students for career guidance

* Establish centres of excellence in selected affiliated colleges, for potentiating research.

Prizes and medals for academic excellence: These are instituted by the university as well as by the generous contribution and donation from donors and philanthropic organisations. About 70 prizes and medals are instituted in almost all the faculties, in each speciality. These are distributed at the time of convocation. In addition, Endowment Orations are conducted every year in the name of parents/relatives of alumni of Medical colleges.

Publications: The university journal is launched in March 2012 by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. I.V.Rao. It is a quarterly journal which covers research articles received from all the affiliated colleges and from research institutions outside the purview of the University. Quality research is encouraged by strict scrutiny by peer reviews and the journal is soon expected to find its place in the index medicus.

In addition, every year the university is honouring eminent personalities in distinguished fields who significantly contributed to the cause of medical science with the award of D.Sc. The awardees are selected by the Executive Committee. The awards are presented to them at the time of convocation by the Chancellor of the university.

Library: University library and information centre is accommodated in an air conditioned hall in the premises, with total LAN facility. The NTRMEDNET consortium started functioning with online supply of e-journals to all the affiliated colleges.

Sports: The University encourages sports by sponsoring the students to intra and inter university competitions. Every year, the University teams participate in events at zonal level and national level.

The university has introduced cash awards to students who excel in sports, as a token of appreciation and encouragement. Cash awards of Rs.20,000/- for gold medal, Rs.15,000/- for silver medal and Rs.10,000/- for bronze medal for winners at all India level, and Rs.10,000/-, Rs.7500/- and Rs.5000/- for winners at zonal level winners of inter university competitions are instituted.

NSS activities: NSS units are established in all the affiliated colleges. Our students participate actively in extending medical help in situations of natural disasters like floods, epidemics etc., or in festive seasons when large number of pilgrims gather in an area. The NSS team organises regular health camps / blood donation camps. The NSS team has participated in 4 National Integration camps organised by the Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports, Government of India.

With the cherished dreams of the well-wishers, clear visions and skills of the administrators, and the hard work of the employees, the university is sure to etch its name soon among the top universities offering quality medical education and research.

University Act