

Newspaper Clips

March 9, 2011

Hindustan Times ND

09/03/2011 P-11

MCI turns down foreign varsity Bill

BLOW Apex medical education regulator's rejection is a setback to the Bill the world is watching

Charu Sudan Kasturi

■ charu.kasturi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Medical Council of India (MCI) has opposed the government's proposed Foreign Educational Institutions Bill to allow and regulate foreign universities in India, refusing to support the landmark legislation which the world is watching.

The country's apex medical education regulator has written to the human resource development (HRD) ministry arguing that the MCI's rules do not allow it to support the proposed legislation, top government sources have told the Hindustan Times.

The MCI's opposition may delay the Bill, which is critical for a number of top global universities to partner with Indian institutions or set up campuses here.

Several institutions in the US and the UK have been eyeing the Indian market, especially as higher education in those countries is currently facing a major financial crisis.

Till the Bill is enacted, foreign universities cannot set up campuses here, or offer twinning arrangements with Indian institutions.

The opposition to the Bill comes even as the Parliament Standing Committee on HRD finalises its report on the Bill. The House panel today summoned the University Grants Commission to depose on the Bill.

Sources said the UGC broadly supported the Bill. But the MCI's opposition will not be

BREWING TROUBLE

■ The MCI's opposition may delay the Bill, which is critical for a number of top global universities to partner with Indian institutions

■ Till the Bill is enacted, foreign universities cannot set up campuses here, or offer twinning arrangements with Indian institutions

■ The MCI has argued that under its rules, any institution — including foreign institutions keen on offering medical degrees in India — must undergo the Council's rigorous scrutiny

easy for the government to ignore, as it is the designated statutory authority for recognizing foreign educational institutions keen to enter India, under the FEI Bill.

Some government sources, however, indicated that the MCI may yet be convinced into revising its stand.

The MCI has argued that under its rules, any institution — including foreign institutions keen on offering medical degrees in India — must undergo the Council's rigorous scrutiny.

"Our concern is that the FEI Bill, while designating us the statutory authority, does not allow the rigorous scrutiny prior to an institute starting its campus, that we are required to do under the rules," an MCI source said.

"The only way out is to change the MCI's rules," the source added.

Times Of India ND 09/03/2011 P-21

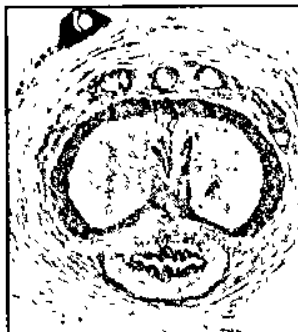
Lab-made urinary tube replaces damaged organ

Self Healing: Docs Use Patient's Cells To Grow Body Part

London: Doctors have created urethras using patients' own cells for the first time — another example that scientists may be able to grow replacement body parts one day.

"It's not so much science fiction anymore to think we can grow replacement organs," said Patrick Warnke, a tissue engineering expert at Bond University in Australia. American doctors made the urethras for five boys in Mexico, aged 10 to 14, after they were injured in accidents.

The urethra is a thin tube that carries urine out of the body from the bladder; cells from both organs are very similar. Tissue grafts are normally used in such cases, but there's a less than 50% success rate. After removing a postage-size piece from the boys' bladders, scientists put the cells into a special mixture in a laboratory to



Doctors made the urethras for five boys in Mexico, aged 10 to 14, after they were injured in accidents. Up to six years after having their new urethras implanted, the boys' organs are fully functional and no major side effects were reported

speed their growth. They then fashioned a tiny mesh tube out of the same material used for dissolvable stitches in surgeries to act as a scaffold.

After that, the scientists alternately coated the tube with muscle cells on the outside and lining cells on the inside. Anthony Atala, a professor of surgical sciences at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine in North Carolina, described the process as "very much

like baking a layer cake."

He said the new structure is put into an incubator for several weeks before being implanted into the patient, in the knowledge that the scaffold will eventually disintegrate, leaving the boys' own cells as a new urethra.

Up to six years after having their new urethras implanted, Atala said the boys' organs are fully functional and no major side effects were reported. AP

Times Of India

ND 09/03/2011 P-21

Mission to Mars, Jupiter's moon on Nasa agenda?

Bringing Mars rocks to Earth and a mission to Jupiter's icy moon, Europa, should be among the top priorities for Nasa in the coming decade, a high-level panel of planetary scientists has suggested. The National Research Council, which released a to-do list for Nasa for the decade 2013-2022, also said if the US space agency cannot afford such "multi-billion-dollar flagship" missions, they should be delayed in favour of smaller ones.

Tracking heart attack severity:

In what could revolutionise the treatment of heart patients, scientists have developed tiny implantable magnetic sensors which they say can accurately indicate the severity of a cardiac attack. Developed by a team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the sensors can read the severity of an attack days after it happened.

Smoking tied to birth defects:

Women exposed to second-hand smoke while pregnant are more likely to experience a stillbirth or have babies with birth defects, according to a study. Stillbirth was 23% more common and birth defects were 13% more common among women who lived or worked with smokers, according to the study.

Cells share info to fight cancer:

In a possible breakthrough in the fight against cancer, scientists have found that the body's immune cells often share information about foreign substances with each other to keep off invaders. The study has found that immune cells quickly transfer their ability to recognise the invader to other immune cells.

Times Of India ND
09/03/2011 P-21

You are what your mom ate in pregnancy

London: Poor diet during pregnancy increases offspring's vulnerability to the effects of ageing, new research has shown.

The research, by scientists from the University of Cambridge, provides important insight into why children born to mothers who consumed an unhealthy diet during pregnancy have an increased risk of health problems later in life.

"What is most exciting about these findings is that we are now starting to really understand how nutrition during the first nine months of life spent in the womb shape our long term health by influencing how the cells in our body age," said Susan Ozanne, the senior author on the paper and a senior fellow from the Institute of Metabolic Science at the University of Cambridge.

It is well established that environmental factors interact with genes throughout life, affecting the expression of those genes and, conse-

Diabetes linked to mother's diet

To-be-moms please take note of this: An unbalanced diet during pregnancy may put your children at risk of type 2 diabetes in adulthood, a new study has claimed. The University of Cambridge study found that poor diet can lead to the "silencing" of a gene linked to production of insulin – the hormone vital for regulating blood sugar levels – in the child, the NewScientist reported. PFI

quently, tissue function and disease risk, a university release said. Diet during critical periods of development, such as during the nine months in the womb, has been cited as one such environmental factor.

Epigenetics, which refers to modifications to the DNA that regulate how much of a gene is produced, has been suggested to underlie these effects. PFI

Times Of India ND
09/03/2011 P-11

HRD ministry, UGC can't define higher education

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: HRD minister Kapil Sibal wants to bring seminal changes in higher education with series of legislations lined up. But the department of higher education and even the regulator, UGC, do not know the meaning of the term 'higher education'.

Strange it may sound but when the definition of 'higher education' was sought under the Right to Information Act, HRD's department of higher education said the answer can be given by UGC. The query was referred to UGC.

A month later, UGC said in its reply to RTI applicant Jitendra Sharma, "The term higher education has not been defined in the UGC Act, 1956." However, the Commission reproduced some sections of UGC Act that talked about its functions but were nowhere close to a definition of "higher education". UGC said, "It shall be the general duty of the Commission to take, in consultation with the universities or other bodies concerned, all such steps as it may think fit for the promotion and co-ordination of university ed-



ANYONE KNOWS THE ANSWER?

ucation and for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in universities."

The RTI applicant also wanted to know if all the colleges affiliated to the state universities come under the definition of the term 'higher education'. This question was also referred to the UGC.

On its part, UGC instead of giving any firm answer gave the definition of the term 'affiliation' and 'college' as explained in the UGC Act which any layman will find it difficult to understand.

It said, "Affiliation' together with its grammatical variations, includes, in relation to a college, recognition of such college by, association of such college with, and admission of such college to the privileges of, a university."