Clinical epidemiology is an integral part of the widely accepted evidence-based system of healthcare delivery. However, to ensure the utilization of the full potential of epidemiological research in guiding public health policies and thus saving lives in the future, it is important that all those related to the healthcare system are acquainted with the broad concepts of clinical epidemiology.¹ With this intent, the Department of Clinical Research and Epidemiology at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi, India, organized a 3-day virtual short course on “advanced clinical epidemiology.”

The course was aimed at young faculty members in public health, community health specialists, as well as researchers, epidemiologists, scientists, medical officers, PhD scholars, residents of medicine, and allied health professionals.

It primarily included four-course modules, namely study designs and bias, randomized controlled trials, statistical significance and summarizing data, and observational studies and diagnostic test studies. It also included advanced topics like literature search strategy and an introduction to the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation approach. These encompassed a total of 10 didactic, interactive lectures and discussions that were taken up by distinguished speakers from ILBS, Delhi, India; Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India; University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, India; All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, India; INCLEN Trust International, Delhi, India; and National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Over 800 participants from over a hundred institutes across the country enrolled themselves for the short course. The lectures were conducted online via the Zoom platform, and each was followed by either a hands-on exercise, online polls, or discussion using the

Experience in Conducting a National Course in Advanced Clinical Epidemiology from a Superspeciality Tertiary Healthcare Institute

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live chat feature of Zoom or Google survey forms. A live screen showing poll results in real-time helped in identifying potential lacunae in knowledge.

Feedback showed an overall appreciation for the choice of topics and their critical significance in their respective fields. Overall, the varied participation and their steady interest throughout the duration of the course reiterated the fact that concepts of clinical epidemiology provide a foundation for clinical observation and interpretation that lead to valid conclusions in order to improve medical decision-making.2

REFERENCES
