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**SRI DEVARAJ URS MEDICAL COLLEGE**  
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# Medical student's career in jeopardy

**STAFF REPORTER**

**BENGALURU**

A medical student, who was supposed to graduate in 2017-18, is now in trouble for submitting a fake disability certificate to obtain the seat.

The Medical Education Department has asked Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI)

to lodge a police complaint against her and her father, who is a doctor at BMCRI.

The girl had obtained a medical seat under the government quota in 2012-2013 through counselling conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

A investigation by KEA revealed that Mahesh Babu, an

ENT specialist at BMCRI, helped his daughter obtain a seat under the physically disabled quota. The girl had been examined by a panel of three doctors, which included her father.

"The KEA had received complaint in 2014 and cancelled the seat in April 2017 after an investigation. Based

on this, we have ordered action and will also probe this internally to decide what action should be initiated against Dr. Babu after serving a show-cause notice," an official said.

Dr. Babu said he had not received a show-cause notice and refused to discuss the matter.

# Melanoma spread can be checked: study

SYDNEY, AFP: Researchers say a combination of new treatments can stop the world's deadliest form of skin cancer -- melanoma -- in its tracks and halt its spread to other organs.

Results from two international drug trials conducted by the Sydney-based Melanoma Institute Australia have proved successful in preventing the disease spreading in stage three patients whose tumours had been surgically removed.

Until now, these patients were at a high risk (40 to 70 percent) of the disease becoming advanced and fatal.

"Results from these clinical trials suggest we can stop the disease in its tracks -- ef-

fectively preventing it from spreading and saving lives," the institute's medical director Georgina Long said in research published in the New England Journal of Medicine Monday.

"Our ultimate goal of making melanoma a chronic rather than a terminal illness is now so much closer to being achieved."

One in every three cancers diagnosed is a skin cancer, according to the World Health Organisation, with Australia having among the highest incidences of melanoma in the world. One Australian dies from it every five hours.

While 90 percent of people can be cured by having the primary cancer removed through



surgery, it spreads in the other 10 percent because it is detected too late.

"These results will change the way we treat melanoma patients as well as their quality of life," added Long.

"Until now, Stage III melanoma patients who have had their tumours surgically removed have simply had to play the waiting game, to see if their melanoma would metastasise or spread.

"Living with such fear severely affected them and their loved ones."

The researchers conducted two 12-month trials, one immunotherapy-based and the other with targeted therapies. Both proved successful in preventing the disease spreading.

In one of them, targeted therapies (dabrafenib and trametinib) blocked the action of a particular gene, BRAF, which is a driver for melanoma.

It not only stopped stage three melanoma from recurring in those with tumours removed, but increased overall survival, the research showed.

The other trial treated patients with the immunothera-

py nivolumab or ipilimumab -- designed to reboot the immune system to attack melanoma cells. Results showed nivolumab decreased the chance of relapse.

"These clinical trials show we now have ammunition to prevent melanoma spreading and progressing, which until now was a critical area of disease behaviour where we had no control," said Long.

"This will change how melanoma is treated around the world, as we no longer have to passively wait to see if the melanoma spreads."

The clinical trial results are due to be presented to the European Society for Medical Oncology's annual congress in Spain this week.

# 'Kids with asthma given unnecessary antibiotics'

**LONDON, PTI:** Children with asthma are more likely to be unnecessarily prescribed antibiotics for treatment compared to those who do not suffer from the condition, a study suggests.

Asthma is a common and ongoing condition, and it has symptoms that could be mistaken for a respiratory tract infection.

The findings show that asthma symptoms are being mis-

taken for a respiratory tract infection, or that the antibiotics are being given as a preventative measure, even though guidelines do not support this.

Researchers from Erasmus

University in The Netherlands found that children with asthma were about 1.6 times more likely to be prescribed antibiotics, compared to children who do not have asthma.