



Since 1977

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk of the President

Dear Members,

I hope you are doing well in your respective working area and preparing to attend XXXVI congress of our association at Delhi in large numbers. I am happy to know that nearly 900 delegates have already registered for the conference. Prof. Renu Dutta and Prof BL Sherwal have arranged a very high quality academic feast. I request you to register at the earliest if you have not done so already.



During the nine months as President, I have realized few things, which I like to share with you frankly. At the beginning I apologize to any person who may be hurt by my plain speaking.

1. Our executive council is visible only during annual congress. Of course our journal body is an exception. They are working hard throughout the year to improve the quality of our journal. I salute them for this endeavor. Otherwise, the executive council has hardly any scope to perform beyond publishing four newsletters. The statutory bodies of Government of India hardly recognize our association. While I compare our association with American Society for Microbiology or Infectious Disease Society of America or any other European societies in our discipline, I feel we are still in a nascent form though we have crossed 35 long years since formation our association. At present I am working actively as a member of Fungal Infection Study Group formulating management policies for mucormycosis under European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. However, as an association, we never get such opportunity to formulate national policies on infectious diseases. To make ourselves visible we need continuous activities under our association banner. Lack of funding in our association impairs the initiative to improve our functioning. Dr. Abhay Chowdhary and Dr. V Ravi, our two immediate past-presidents, worked hard for corporate membership in our association, but there are few takers. I sincerely feel that all of us should think over it seriously and take sincere initiative. I thank again the Kolkata IAMM conference organizers for donating substantially to our association. But it is a small drop in the vast ocean of our requirement.
2. I sincerely tried to improve the MCI recommendation for faculty strength and teaching hours in our discipline. Prof. K K Talwar, Chairman, MCI gave me patient hearing and supported our proposal. The proposal is being examined by a committee constituted by Prof. Talwar. But I know it would be difficult to get any favorable response, as powerful lobby works behind the scene and obstructs any attempt to increase faculty strength in any discipline. I realize now it is a long drawn battle where we have to put consistent pressure on MCI to get our reasonable due. Hope we shall be able to do so some time in future.

(contd. on page 2)

(contd. from page 1)

3. I tried for a country-wise drive for accreditation of microbiology laboratories. Sadly, there are very few volunteers and less than 1% of our laboratories are accredited. Large Institutes in government sector are completely silent on this issue. Unless the government makes accreditation of laboratories mandatory, very little can be done by us. Any suggestion or advice from you in this issue will be appreciated.

In this gloomy scenario, I find a silver lining in chapter meetings. Certainly some of our chapters are performing very well and draw lot of young enthusiastic doctors, scientists in our fold. I congratulate them all. I wish we could play with same enthusiasm at our national level. Few days back I attended Second Annual Conference of Clinical Infectious Disease Society at Chennai. Consciously we participated in the conference under our association banner after a discussion in the council. I have seen many of you also attended the said meeting. I am sure you will agree with me that the conference was superb in academic feast. I wish our association develops long association with such academic body. I am sure working together will help both bodies to flourish.

I am an optimist and sincerely hope that my plain speaking will provoke you to come forward with constructive criticisms and valuable suggestions.

See you at Delhi in large number during November 22–25, 2012

With warm regards and best wishes



Arunaloke Chakrabarti

Dates of XVI IAMM AP Chapter Annual Conference:

Preconference CME: February 8, 2013

Conference: February 9–10, 2013

Venue: Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam

Organised by: Dept of Microbiology, AMC
headed by Dr. Jyothi Padmaja

Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/iammapchapter/>

Blog: <http://iammapchapter.blogspot.com/>

Office of the Treasurer

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From the Secretary, IAMM

This being the last newsletter during my tenure as Secretary IAMM, I must thank all the members for having placed faith in me, over the last three years. Here's wishing all members and microbiologists across India a very Happy Dussera and Diwali 2012.

Dr. Sherwal, Dr. Renu Datta and their team have put in great effort to make the XXXVI Conference of the IAMM a big success and an event to cherish and remember. Hope we have all registered for the conference and secured our slots for the workshops, CME programmes and paper presentations. It was indeed a big surprise and a nasty one for many, that these slots closed much before time. It reflects the enthusiasm of young minds in Microbiology towards enhancement of knowledge. Nevertheless, attendance at the conference would surely open new doors to creative thinking and planning.

The student's symposium is a new initiative that has started since the 2011 conference at BHU. The topic for the symposium revolves around Antibiotic stewardship. I call upon the members of the association to send their ideas for the symposium in 2013, in response to the next newsletter in January, so that ideas from members can be put to good use at the national platform.

Enjoy the cool... winter while it lasts, as we are poised to have fewer winters and long power hungry and thirsty summers in the years ahead.

Meet with you all at the XXXVI IAMM New Delhi.

Dr. Ranganathan N Iyer
Secretary IAMM

Forthcoming Events

HISICON 2013

The XII National Conference of Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections is scheduled to be held at the Prof Rustom Choksi Auditorium of the Tata Memorial Hospital Mumbai between February 7–9, 2013. The highlights of the Conference are Airborne Infection Control, Infection Control in Clinical Practice, Nosocomial Fungal Infections, Hand Hygiene and Administrative and Medicolegal Aspects of Infection control. Three CME programmes on "Environmental Infection Control", "Outbreak Management" and "Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infections" precede the Conference. Please contact:

Conference Secretariat

Dr. Gita Nataraj

Prof. Department of Microbiology
7th Floor, Multistoreyed building
G.S. Medical College and KEM Hospital
Parel, Mumbai- 400012

E mail: hisicon2013@gmail.com

MICROCON 2012

XXXVI National Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists

November 22–25, 2012

at India Habitat Centre

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 1: Thursday, November 22, 2012

06.00 – 08.00 pm **Inauguration Ceremony**

08.00 – 08.30 pm Keynote Address

08.30 pm Onwards Cultural Program

09.00 pm Onwards DINNER

Day 2: Friday, November 23, 2012 Stein Auditorium, Gulmohar Hall

08.00 – 08.30 am Registration

08.30 – 09.30 am Junior Best Paper Award

09.30 – 10.00 am BREAKFAST

10.00 – 10.30 am Presidential Oration Dr Arunaloke Chakrabarti

10.30 – 11.00 am S.C. Agrawal Oration Dr Savitri Sharma

11.00 – 12.00 pm IAMM Endowment Oration Award Dr. Anita Chakravarti

12.00 – 12.45 pm Student Symposia

12.45 – 01.30 pm LUNCH

01.30 – 02.30 pm Plenary Session 1 Quality Assurance in HIV Laboratories:
Emerging priorities and National Response

Plenary Session 2 IAMM ESCMID Symposium:
Antimicrobial Resistance & EUCAST

02.30 – 03.30 pm Plenary Session 3 Tuberculosis Control in India

03.30 – 04.30 pm Plenary Session 4 Bioterrorism

Plenary Session 5 Sponsored

07.00 pm Onwards DINNER

Poster sessions in Silver Oak Patio & Bridge (10.00 am to 6.00 pm) and Oral Presentations in Halls A to E (1.30 pm to 6.00 pm)

Please note: **Hall A:** Silver Oak 1, **Hall B:** Silver Oak 2, **Hall C:** Amaltas, **Hall D:** Kadamba, **Hall E:** Rudraksha

Day 3: Saturday, November 24, 2012
Stein Auditorium, Gulmohar Hall

08.00 – 08.30 am	Registration	
08.30 – 09.45 am	IAMM Quiz	
09.45 – 10.00 am	TEA BREAK	
10.00 – 12.00 pm	IAMM Symposium: Emerging Technologies in Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases	
12.00 – 02.00 pm	General Body Meeting followed by LUNCH	
02.00 – 03.30 pm	Plenary Session 6	Blood Stream Infections
	Plenary Session 7	WHO's Panel Discussion on AMR Surveillance
03.30 – 03.45 pm	TEA BREAK	
03.45 – 04.30 pm	Plenary Session 8	Debate: Does present postgraduate curriculum produce clinical microbiologists?
	Plenary Session 9	Infection Control
07.00 pm Onwards	DINNER	

Poster sessions in Silver Oak Patio & Bridge (10.00 am to 6.00 pm) and Oral Presentations in Halls A to E (1.30 pm to 6.00 pm)

Please note: **Hall A:** Silver Oak 1, **Hall B:** Silver Oak 2, **Hall C:** Amaltas, **Hall D:** Kadamba, **Hall E:** Rudraksha

Day 4: Sunday, November 25, 2012
Stein Auditorium, Gulmohar Hall

08.30 – 10.00 am	Plenary Session 10	Challenges & Recent Advances in Fungal Infections
	Plenary Session 11	Vector Borne Diseases
10.00 – 10.15 am	TEA BREAK	
10.15 – 11.15 am	Plenary Session 12	Qaigen session on Molecular Diagnostics
	Plenary Session 13	Literature on Infectious Diseases
11.15 – 12.30 pm	Plenary Session 14	Sponsored
	Plenary Session 15	Current Advances in Viral Infections
12.30 – 01.45 pm	Valedictory Function	
01.45 pm Onwards	LUNCH	

Poster sessions in Silver Oak Patio & Bridge (10.00 am to 1.00 pm) and Oral Presentations in Halls A to E (9.00 am to 12.30 pm)

Please note: **Hall A:** Silver Oak 1, **Hall B:** Silver Oak 2, **Hall C:** Amaltas, **Hall D:** Kadamba, **Hall E:** Rudraksha

Report on MAHAMICROCON 2012

The three day MAHAMICROCON 2012, XVIII Maharashtra Chapter Conference of the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists was successfully conducted between September 6–8, 2012 at T.N.Medical College & BYL Nair Hospital, Mumbai.

“Discover and Conquer New Horizons in the Microbial World”. Keeping this theme in mind, the scientific spread included a CME on ‘Sexually Transmitted Infections and Reproductive Tract Infections’. Deliberations highlighted an increase in Viral STIs especially human papilloma virus infections due to syndromic management of STIs and the diagnostic challenges faced in the laboratory. Hence, there is an urgent need to upgrade microbiology laboratories with newer molecular methods for etiologic diagnosis of RTIs and STIs.

Conference highlights:

- * Symposia on ‘Malaria’ focused on understanding genetic signatures and phenotypes contributing to clinical severity and drug resistance. Variations in vectors contributing to disease severity and Malaria vaccines were discussed.
- * Invited talks on ‘Hepatitis and diagnostic dilemmas’ and ‘Clinical significance and diagnosis of Biofilms’ were interspersed with much awaited orations, quizzes, free papers and poster session. The event provided an excellent platform for established and budding microbiologists to interact with National and International experts. The CME and Conference were highly appreciated by faculty, delegates and guests alike. The selection of topics, the presentations and high calibre of the speakers, the adherence to schedules, the food and hospitality came in for special mention and appreciation.

The overall organization of the conference was also praised including the general ambience and the layout of the poster exhibition and sponsors’ stalls.

State Chapters of the IAMM

Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh	Guwahati
Karnataka	Jammu & Kashmir	Orissa
Andhra Pradesh	North West	Vidharbha
Madhya Pradesh	North East	Gujarat
West Bengal	Tamil Nadu	New Delhi
	Pondicherry	

All office bearers of State Chapters are requested to send information about their respective State Chapters in the following format for publication on the IAMM Website for information of all members of the IAMM. This may include information office bearers of the state chapters, activities and annual conferences of the state chapters of the IAMM conducted, any awards instituted by the chapters and the awardees.

6th Annual Conference of IAMM (Odisha Chapter)–2012

The 6th Annual Conference of IAMM (Odisha Chapter) was held on August 12, 2012 at Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar with Dr. Suneeta Sahu, as the Organising Secretary, Dr. J P Mittra as the President, Dr. Nirupama Chayani as the Secretary and Dr. Bibhudutta Rautaraya as the Treasurer.

The conference was inaugurated by the guest of honor Dr. (Lt.Gen.) Naresh Parmar, Advisor Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar, who also released the souvenir of the conference. In his inaugural speech he emphasised that the spectrum and scope of the Microbiology is changing at a very fast pace and seized the occasion to highlight that technological changes, molecular techniques and other newer methods for diagnosing, tracking and identification have huge potential in Microbiology. Since Quality Assurance is an integral part of Microbiological investigations “Quality Assurance in Clinical Microbiology” was aptly chosen as the theme of the conference. Prof M K Lalitha was bestowed upon the Prof. Bikram Das Memorial Oration award and her talk entitled “Quality Assurance of Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing .A Journey Over Decades...” gave a detailed insight into the topic. Prof Uma Sekar, , very aptly talked about “Quality assurance in specimen collection and transport”. This guest lecture was followed by a symposium on “Road to NABL Accreditation, Back to Basics”.

Dr Ranganathan Iyer, Dr Sharmila Sengupta and Dr Rajat Mukherjee, each of whom is an expert in the field of Quality spoke on various aspects of achieving NABL accreditation in Microbiology laboratory. Post lunch a total of 17 free papers & 9 posters were presented by the faculty and postgraduate students from different parts of Odisha. A postgraduate student, Dr. Somi Patra from SCB Medical College, Cuttack, was the recipient of the ‘Best paper presentation’ award for her paper on “Role of Multidrug Resistant Pathogens in Ventilator Associated Pneumonia [VAP] in a Tertiary Care Hospital . Another post graduate student , Dr Rani Sahu from MKCG Medical college, Berhampur, was recipient of Best Poster presentation Award for her poster “Isolated Case of Submandibular Lymphadenopathy due to *Histoplasma capsulatum*—A Case Report. Dr Kumudini Panigrahi, Assistant Prof, KIMS, Bhubaneswar, received the best paper award in the faculty category for her paper on “Prevalence and antibiogram of *Klebsiella* species recovered from various clinical samples at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Bhubaneswar”. Dr. Manas Baisakh compered the entire meeting very efficiently.

The conference concluded with general body meeting and election of next office bearers: President—Prof. Sunil Mohanty, Secretary—Dr Preetilata Panda and Treasurer—Dr. Bibhudutta Rautaraya.

Notice for the IAMM General Body Meeting New Delhi November 24, 2012

Dear Members,

The G.B. meeting of the IAMM will be held during the National Conference of the IAMM on November 24, 2012 between 12.00 Noon and 1.15pm. Please note the timings of the GB meeting and make it convenient to attend the same.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the minutes of the GB meeting held at BHU Varanasi 2011
2. Action taken on the minutes of the G.B. meeting
3. Secretary's annual report and statement of accounts- Dr. Ranganathan N Iyer
4. Editor's annual report and statement of accounts- Dr. Reba Kanungo
5. Presentation of the annual statement of accounts by the Treasurers- Dr. D.K. Mendiratta
6. Report of the IAMM EQAS programme submitted by the coordinators- Prof H.N. Madhavan and Dr. Mary Jesudason
7. New EQAS Centre
8. Consider the points submitted by members of the IAMM
 - Corporate memberships of the IAMM.
 - Rules and Regulations for candidates contesting the Executive Council Elections of the IAMM
9. Selection of the topic for the IAMM Symposium for the XXXVII Conference of the IAMM 2012
10. Selection of the venue of the XXXVII Conference of the IAMM 2013, 2014
11. Decision of various awards committees for 2012
 - Dr. S.C. Agarwal Oration award
 - Dr. H.I. Jhala award
 - IAMM Endowment oration award
 - Dr. U.C. Chaturvedi Life Time Achievement Award
12. Election of Office Bearers for the year 2012–2013
 - President of the IAMM
 - Secretary of the IAMM
 - Editor of the IJMM
13. Any other matter with the permission of the chair

Dr. Ranganathan N Iyer
Secretary- IAMM

Published by
Dr. Ranganathan N. Iyer
Secretary, IAMM

BOOK-POST

To,

If underlivered, please return to:

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