



Since 1977

# INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGISTS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Message from the Desk of President

### Greetings from SGPGI!

Diwali is just around the corner and so is the IAMM National conference at Bengaluru. I am impressed by the topics for talks and discussion at IAMM National and state chapter conferences. I can see the quality of presentations steadily improving over the years. The talks are up-to-date and have fresh perspectives. We should also try to include experts from pharmaceutical, governmental and academic (not directly core Microbiology related) sectors to infuse lateral thinking and future collaborative research. Additionally, I believe all best papers in chapter conferences should be escalated to National conference so that they reach a bigger platform to be screened, shared and appreciated. Mentoring on scientific communication and grant writing is crucial and I hope to see it being taken up for CME and conference talks.



IAMM Post graduate assembly made me happy. Students were eager to learn, to advance their knowledge. I congratulate the organizing committee for putting up an outstanding academic feast at Delhi. However, many are losing time in too much bench work. Syndromic teaching, ID rounds and Infection control should be made mandatory for junior residents to be part of their curriculum. Appropriate mentoring of students would go a long way.

IAMM plans to work with other clinical microbiology and infectious diseases society, including conferences, to strengthen our knowledge and empower our society's position. IAMM website has been updated and I have been thinking about expanding its scope to include interesting cases, research ideas and eventually having an IAMM app for the society which shall have all guidelines, SOPs, important links and interactive antibiogram profiling and case submissions. With more interactive digital involvement we can keep pace, level the practises elevate the standards of research, teaching and diagnostic practises of our discipline nationally.

The need to have our own National biobank for the endemic and rare, indigenous pathogens cannot be over emphasized. A biobank is a biorepository that accepts, processes, stores and distributes bio-specimens and associated data for use in research, clinical care and epidemiological studies. Currently, we have Fungal repository at PGI, Chandigarh, Mycobacteriology repository at JALMA, Agra and National repository for cell lines & Hybridomas at NCCS, Pune.

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

### Prof. (Dr.) B.L. Sherwal

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A book I just finished reading this week and highly recommend is, "Virus Hunters of the CDC" written by Joseph B McCormick. The book enthral and captivates an inquisitive mind as the authors go on describing their journey of discovering deadly viruses.

I would be very happy to receive any suggestions, views, and ideas which could be deliberated by the Association for furthering knowledge and improving services.

See you all at NIMHANS, Bengaluru where an excellent academic program awaits us!!!

**Dr Tapan N Dhole**  
*President, IAMM*

### *From the desk of Secretary.....*

Dear Members,

Writing a message for the Newsletter reminds me of the passing time and with this we come towards the end of another wonderful year and very close to our annual conference.

I cordially invite and warmly welcome participants from all corners to be a part of proceedings

of the conference in the modern city of Bengaluru. As we are aware this years congress is being hosted by NIMHANS under the Chairmanship of Dr V Ravi. Get registered soon and benefit the most from this mega educational event. My best wishes to the organizers and perhaps I am certain it is going a forum for active discussions and learning that would encourage us to take a step forward to bring about a change in the field.

I am pleased to extend an invitation for your kind presence at the Annual General Body Meeting to be held during the conference. The notice and agenda convening this meeting is included in the last page of this newsletter.

I am delighted to mention here about the PG Assemblies and live webinar conducted under the auspices of IAMM this year, I am also happy to state that the Lab Mapping and Strengthening activities have been going on with special focus towards capacity building in some of the district hospitals in MP. The activity has been extended to the animal health sector with capacity building at one of the veterinary science college in Guwahati. IAMM has been part of the One-health table top exercises with the Department of Animal Husbandry and other stakeholders.

I am happy to inform that Biomerieux has become the Silver Sponsor's of IAMM for one year (2017-2018) and we welcome them. Anticipating participation from more sponsors in the future.

With this publication my compliments for the season! Joy, Health and Prosperity.

**Dr. B.L. Sherwal**  
*Secretary, IAMM*



### *Executive Council Elections*

**The Following have been elected unopposed as new EC Members of IAMM:**

**Dr. Manoj Kumar**, Professor, Department of Microbiology, Rajendra Institute Of Medical Sciences Ranchi

**Dr. Baijantimala Mishra**, Professor, Department of Microbiology, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

**Dr. Nilesh Patel**, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, GMC, Bhavnagar, Gujarat.

### *Forthcoming Activities*

1. The 10th Annual conference of **IAMM Delhi Chapter: "Micro-D-Con"** will be held between 31st October-3rd November 2018 with the theme "TB Elimination by 2025: What We Need to Get There."

2. **IAMM Chhattisgarh Chapter** will be conducting a CME on "**Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Microbiology**" in January 2019 organized by Department of Microbiology, Late Shri Baliram Kashyap Memorial Government Medical College, Jagdalpur.

3. The 43rd IAMM National Conference is being organized by NIMHANS, Bengaluru from 30th November, 2018 to 2nd December, 2018. Programme detailed herein.

### *IAMM EQAS: New Delhi*

#### **NABL Accreditation as a Proficiency Test Provider (PTP)**

It gives us great pleasure in informing all that the IAMM External Quality Assurance Scheme (EQAS) center at the department of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Sir Ganga Ram Hospital had applied for NABL accreditation as a proficiency test provider (PTP). A pre-assessment audit was conducted on behalf of NABL by Dr. Puneet K Nigam from Metropolis Laboratory, New Delhi on 28th April, 2018. This was followed by the Final NABL assessment, the auditors being Dr. Puneet K Nigam and Dr. Rajendra Surpam, Professor Microbiology, Nagpur Medical College, Nagpur on 4th and 5th August, 2018. All the non conformances raised in the final assessment have been closed. We are pleased to inform that accreditation of PT provider has been granted by NABL.

**Dr Chand Wattal**  
IAMMEQAS, New Delhi

***The Executive Council of IAMM  
Wishes a Joyful and Prosperous  
Dussera & Diwali to all the Members!!***

# MICROCON 2018 : CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## Scientific Program for 42nd Annual Congress of IAMM - MICROCON 2018

6:30- 7:30 am	STOP AMR Run from NIMHANS to Lalbagh East Gate- IAMM Participants and Celebrities		
<b>Parallel Workshops</b>			
<b>28.11.2018 (Wednesday)- 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; ; With 1 hour lunch break- 1:00 to 2:00 pm</b>			
	<b>Name of the Workshop</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
1	Automation in microbiology	NIMHANS and Anand diagnostics.	Dr R Ravikumar
2	Laboratory identification of fastidious organisms with reference to Gonococcus and Mycoplasma	Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute	Dr. Ambica
3	Syndromic approach to molecular diagnosis of infectious diseases	Apollo hospital, Bangalore	Dr. Jayashree S
4	Mycology	St.John's Medical College Hospital and NIMHANS	Dr. Savita N
5	Next Generation Sequencing and Bioinformatics analysis in Microbiology	Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences and NIMHANS	Dr K L Ravikumar
6	Role of Microbiologists in health Care Challenges and Solutions	Govindaswamy Building, NIMHANS	Dr. Mayank Dwivedi
7	Hospital Associated Infection Control	Rajarajeshwari Medical College and Hospital	Dr. Sangeeta
8	Workshop on complete solution for ID/AST	Narayana Hrudayalaya	Dr. Mallika Reddy
9	ICMR- CDC Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance	NIMHANS Convention Hall 3	Dr. Kamini Walia, Dr. Kayla Laserson and Dr. Purva Mathur
<b>Parallel Pre Conference CME programs</b>			
<b>29.11.2018 (Thursday)- 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; With 1 hour lunch break- 1:00 to 2:00 pm</b>			
	<b>Name of the CME</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Coordinated by</b>
1	CNS Infections	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 2	Dr V Ravi
2	CLSI- ID and AST	St.John's Medical College Hospital	Dr Chand Wattal
3	Outbreak investigation	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 3	Dr Vijay Richard
4	Tuberculosis	National Tuberculosis Institute	Dr. Somshekar
5	Emerging infectious diseases – ASM Sponsored Session	NIMHANS Convention Centre – Board Room	Dr. Reba Kanungo
<b>Main Conference Program</b>			
<b>29.11.2018 (Thursday)</b>			
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Microcon 2018 inauguration	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	<b>Chief Guest:</b> Dr. Vinod Paul, NITI Ayog, GOI
6: 45 -7.15 pm	Keynote address	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Dr. Vinod Paul, NITI Ayog, GOI
7:15 - 7:30 pm	Felicitatation of Past Presidents and Senior Members	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	
7.30 pm	Cultural Program followed by Dinner	NIMHANS Conventi on Centre Hall 1	Sand artist
<b>Main Conference</b>			
<b>Day - I: 30.11.2018 (Friday)</b>			
8:30 - 9:30 am	Junior best paper award	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	
9:30 - 10:00 am	Presidential Oration	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Dr. Tapan Dhole; Chairperson: Dr. Shobha Broor
10:00 - 10:30 am	Plenary Lecture	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Dr. O C Abraham Clinician's perspective of medical Microbiology , CMC Vellore
10:30 - 11:00 am	Plenary Lecture	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Dr CN Manjunath , Director, Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research , Bangalore
11:00 - 11:30 am	<b>Tea break</b>		
11:30 - 1:00 pm	IAMM Student symposium	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Moderator: Dr. Pallabh Ray
1:00 - 2:30 pm	Lunch break and E - Poster Session at Convention centre dining hall		

2.30 - 4.00pm	<b>Parallel Symposia</b>		
2:30 - 4:00pm	Symposium I - Sepsis	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Moderator: Dr. George Varghese Dr. Dilip Nathwani Dr. Ram Subramaniam Dr. Chand Wattal Dr. Arunaloke Chakrabarti Dr. Patrick Murray
2:30 - 4:00pm	..... ..... .....	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 2	Moderator: Dr. Anita Mahadevan Dr. Paresh Jain Dr. Chandrashekar Dr. Anita Mahadevan Dr. Amit Awasthi
2:30 - 4:00pm	Symposium III – Microbial association in Cancer	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 3	Moderator: Dr. Jayshree RS Dr. Sarbani Ghosh Laskar Dr. Sibnarayan Datta Dr. Richard F.Ambinder Dr KN Prasad Dr. Jayshree RS
2:30 - 4:00pm	Symposium IV – Vector Borne bacterial diseases	NIMHANS Convention Centre– Board Room	Moderator: Dr. Prathiba Narang Dr. Robert Ollar. Dr. John Jude Prakash Lt. Gen Raghunath
4:00 - 4:30 pm	Tea Break		
4:30 - 6:30 pm	Free Paper Presentations	Parallel sessions – Halls 1, 2, 3 and Board Room; NIMHANS Convention Centre	<b>Themes :</b> Antimicrobial resistance- 1, Clinical virology, Diagnostics/vaccines-1, Disease surveillance- 1
6:30 to 8:00 pm	Meet the Experts	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Moderator: Dr. Chand Wattal Dr. Patricia J Simner Dr. Kristie Johnson
<b>Main Conference</b> <b>Day II - 01.12.2018 (Saturday)</b>			
8:00 - 8:30 am	Plenary Lecture	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Dr. David Anenson
8:30 - 9:00 am	Carbapenemase resistance: Role of Laboratory	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Moderator: Dr. Pallab Ray Dr. Patrick Murray Dr. Partha Pratim Dey
9:00 - 10:00 am	IAMM Debate	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Super specialization in Microbiology is a boon or a bane? Moderator: Dr. V.Ravi. <b>Boon Team –</b> Dr. Arunaloke, Dr. Satischandra, Dr. Savitri sharma, Dr. Priya Abraham. <b>Bane Team –</b> Dr. Camilla, Dr. Chand Wattal, Dr. Ramasubramaniam, Dr. Srikala Baliga
10:00 -10:30 am	Tea break		
10:30 - 12:00 pm	IAMM Symposium - POCT	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Moderator: Dr. Balaji Dr. Chandrasekhar Nair Dr. Gourav Bhatra Dr. Tyagi
12:00 - 1:30 pm	IAMM General Body meeting	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	IAMM EC
1: 30 - 2:00 pm	Lunch break and E- Poster Session at Convention centre dining hall		
2.30 -4.00pm	<b>Parallel Symposia</b>		
2:30 to 4:00	Symposium V – Surveillance for Infectiousdisease	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Moderator: Dr. V. Ravi Dr Arun Kumar Dr Kayla Laserson Dr P K Sen Dr Nivedita Gupta
2:30 to 4:00	Symposium VI – Laboratory strengthening	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 2	Moderator: Dr. M K Lalitha. Dr. Sandhya Kabra Dr. BL Sherwal Dr. Mayank Dwivedi
2:30 to 4:00	Symposium VII – Industry Accademia Interaction Symposium	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 3	Moderator: Dr. Gagandeep Kang Dr. B V Ravikumar Dr. Guido Hennig Mr Pavan Mocherla Dr. Parampal Deol
2:30 to 4:00	Symposium VIII - One Health	NIMHANS Convention Centre – Board Room	Moderator: Dr Rajesh Bhatia Dr Indumati Dr Prejit Nambiar Dr Neelam Taneja Dr Rajesh Bhatia

4:00 - 4:30 pm	Tea Break		
4:30 - 6:30	Free Paper Presentations	Parallel sessions - Halls 1, 2, 3 and Board Room; NIMHANS Convention Centre	<b>Themes :</b> Antimicrobial resistance - 2, Molecular biology, One Health and disease surveillance - 2, Healthcare associated infections and Diagnostics/ vaccines - 2.
7.30 pm onwards	<b>Banquet Dinner:</b> Jayamahal Palace		
<b>Main Conference</b> <b>Day III - 02.12.2018 (Sunday)</b>			
8:00 - 8:30 am	Medical Microbiology in SAARC Countries	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Panel Discussion by Participants from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives: Role of IAMM in Capacity building of SAARC countries
8:30 - 9:00 am	Multiplexed Molecular diagnostics for Infectious disease	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Fast Track Diagnostics
9:00 - 10:00 am	IAMM Quiz	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	IAMM Secretary
10:00 to 11:00 am	Symposium IX :PG Curriculum development	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	Moderator: Dr Reba Kanungo, ASM India. Dr. Chand Wattal Dr. Karishma Dr. Anju Kagal
11:00 to 11:30 am	Tea Break		
11:30 to 12:30 pm	Free Paper Presentations - Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions - Halls 1, 2, 3 and Board Room; NIMHANS Convention Centre	<b>Themes :</b> Antimicrobial resistance -3, Immune response, Microbial pathogenesis, Miscellaneous
12:30 - 1:30 pm	<b>Valedictory function</b>	NIMHANS Convention Centre Hall 1	IAMM EC
<b>Lunch</b>			

### IAMM WEBINAR

1. A webinar was organized on 27th June, 2018 on the theme “Innovative Diagnostics in Microbiology: Real-world challenges in Anti Microbial Resistance”. This banner was organized under the banner of IAMM and moderated by Dr Chand Wattal, GRIPMER, New Delhi sponsored by Biomerieux. The eminent speakers included Dr Sanjeev Singh, Chief Medical Superintendent, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi; Dr Subhash Todi, Director Critical Care, AMRI Hospitals, Kolkata; Dr Rajesh Bhatia, Former Director, Communicable Diseases, WHO, New Delhi; Dr Kamini Walia, Senior Scientist, Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases, ICMR, New Delhi; Dr Mahesh Patel, Chief Scientific Officer, Wockhardt Research Centre, Mumbai; Dr Neeraj Goel, Senior Consultant, Dept of Microbiology and Immunology, SGRH, New Delhi; and Dr Malini R Capoor, Prof Microbiology, VMCC and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

A total of 1400 live attendance was recorded with 651 unique login ids and 35 centres attended live in group (500+ Avg attendees per site). There were a total of 61 questions from the audience. The link has been shared on IAMM website.

2. A Webinar was organized on World Sepsis Day on 13th September, 2018 under the banner of IAMM. It was a super hit webinar moderated by Dr Chand Wattal, GRIPMER, New Delhi and team and sponsored by Biomerieux. The eminent speakers included Dr Yatin Mehta, Chairman, Institute of Critical Care and Anesthesiology, Medanta, The Medicity, Gurugram; Dr Gaeorge M Varghese, Assoc Prof, Department of Medicine and Infectious Diseases, CMC, Vellore; Dr Anil Sachdev, Senior Consultant, Department of Paediatrics, SGRH, New Delhi and; Dr Sanjay Bhattacharya, Senior Consultant, Dept of Microbiology, Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata.

More than 1,200 doctors attended the program, approx. 100 questions received for the discussion at the end, and lots of good feedback. We are pleased to share the recorded link of the webinar, as following: <https://webstreamlive.com/iamm/wsd/130918/main.htm> for your reference and sharing further. The link has also be uploaded soon on the IAMM website, so wider audience can be benefitted from the great discussion.

### PG Assembly under the auspices of IAMM

**PG Assembly at SGRH**  
An educational tool!

P.T.O.





In the past decade or so, there have been rapid changes in the field of medical microbiology by way of introduction of cutting-edge and innovative technologies. Understandably, these technologies are often available in only few uber tertiary care centres in India leaving a wide gap in the diagnostic capabilities of clinical microbiologists. Therefore, there was a long felt need for the real-time exposure of young and budding medical microbiologists from various centres across India to these new technologies, which were often available to them only in the textbooks. The organization of the PG Assembly was first conceived in 2016 by the executive body of the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, Delhi Chapter, wherein various centres of excellence in Delhi came forward to train postgraduate (PGs) microbiologists from other institutes in the country in the latest diagnostic technologies, so that they are 'combat ready' on completion of their postgraduate training.

This year also the PG Assembly was organized in tandem by the Department of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH), on 'What microbiologists can do better in TB diagnosis' and The Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) on the 'Diagnosis of viral infections' under the auspices of the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, National Body in association with the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, Delhi Chapter from 16 to 18 August 2018.

This event generated great enthusiasm among the PGs as the enrolment of maximum allowed 40 students finished in a few days only and thereafter a lot of applications had to be rejected. This event had participation of PGs from nine states: Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, New Delhi, Meghalya, Orissa, and Uttarakhand. The academic feast was designed and conducted by the course director Dr (Prof) Chand Wattal, SGRH, covering extensively the latest diagnostic challenges and troubleshooting in the enigmatic field of mycobacterial infections. The course consisted of lectures by various stalwarts from India including Dr Deepthi Nair, Professor and Consultant, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi; Dr Rahul Narang, Professor, MGIMS Sevagram, Wardha; Dr Jaswinder K. Oberoi, Consultant, SGRH, New Delhi and Dr Reena Raveendran, Consultant, SGRH, New Delhi.

In the post-lunch sessions the PGs were given hands-on training on automated culture and sensitivity (BacT/ALERT 3D), Identification by VITEK MS, Accuprobe and GenProbe, Line Probe Assay (MTBDRplus and GenoType Mycobacteria CM), DF staining and GeneXpert. These hand-on training sessions were found to be very useful and the PGs felt encouraged to raise queries and clear their doubts in didactic interactions with the faculty.

At the end of the PG Assembly at the valedictory function, Dr B.L. Sherwal, Ex-President IAMM-DC and Secretary IAMM addressed the gathering and thanked the management of SGRH for the successful organization of the event. The Special Guest of Honour, Dr S.P. Byotra, Vice Chairman Board of Management, SGRH addressed the gathering and shared the rich legacy of SGRH. The function ended after the distribution of certificates of participation to the PGs. The positive feedback from the students has given impetus to organize such PG assemblies in various parts of India (north, south, east and west zones), than in Delhi alone, for wider participation of students.

### PG Assembly at KMC, Manipal- SOUTH

#### Expectations from Clinical Microbiologists in the current healthcare system!

Indian Association of Medical Microbiologist (IAMM) added another feather in the cap by expanding the educational initiative and announced PG Assembly for Clinical Microbiologist in one more state chapter in the South under IAMM Karnataka Chapter at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal. IAMM PG Assembly-South India was organized from 27 -29th September, 2018 at Department of Microbiology, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Karnataka in association with IAMM - Karnataka Chapter.

The program aimed to providing a blend of theoretical and practical updates of the emerging areas in clinical microbiology. The participants were offered an opportunity to refresh their skills in translating the laboratory science to bedside and enhance their roles in patient care for better patient outcomes.

Major areas covered were: 1. Interpretative Antimicrobial Susceptibility Tests, 2. PK/PD for clinical microbiologists 3. Clinical Microbiology at bedside 4. Quality concepts in clinical microbiology, 5. Research methods and discussions on relevant journal articles in clinical microbiology, 6. Clinical cases in infectious diseases, 7. Health care associated infections and Infection prevention, 8. Mycology slide quiz, 9. Demonstration of MALDI-TOF, fully automated blood culture system (Virtuo), Vitek-2, BioFire Filmarray etc.

The theme was delivered to interested post graduates from states of South India through group discussions, problem based learning, clinical case discussions, journal discussions, laboratory demonstrations and hands on experience.

Eminent and experienced faculty such as Drs Joy S.Michael, CMC, Vellore, Anup Warriar, Aster Medcity, Cochin, Chiranjay Mukhopadhyay, Asha Kamath, Vandana K.E Mohammed Zabiuddin Ahad, Prakash P.Y and Mridula M from KMC, Manipal contributed immensely as faculty. Course was co-ordinated by Dr.Vandana K.E, Professor of Microbiology Kasturba Medical College, Manipal and supported by Dr Ajantha G.S, President, IAMM-KC.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Dr. Anita Chakravarti** been conferred with the State Award for the year 2013-2014 for meritorious services in the field of health care in Delhi. This has been conferred upon her by Department of Health and Family Welfare in February, 2018.

- **Dr. Reba Kanungo**, PIMS, Puducherry has been reappointed as ASM Country Ambassador for the year 2019-2021.

## Achievements at SIHAM and ISHAM

During the 20 Congress of International Society of Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM) held at Amsterdam, The Netherlands from 30 July to 4 August 2018, the IAMM members had some significant achievement. **Prof Arunaloke Chakrabarti (Ex- President of IAMM and Society for Human and Animal Mycology, SIHAM) took over the leadership of International Society of Human and Animal Mycology as President.** We are all proud of his achievement and on behalf of our society, I congratulate him and wish him the best. I am sure that under his able leadership the ISHAM will grow to the new heights and, he will take necessary steps to further develop the medical mycology in India and other developing countries. Also, Prof. Shivaprakash M Rudramurthy our ex- Council member was elected to the International Society of Human and Animal Mycology council by the majority vote for the current term (2018-2021). I also congratulate him on behalf of our society and hope he would help Prof Chakrabarti in the development of mycology in this region. Another major development is that **they also have won the bid to organize the ISHAM 2021 at Delhi.** As decided earlier ISHAM 2021 will be jointly organized by SIHAM and Fungal Infections Study Forum (FISF). It is a huge responsibility to organize this mega event and all microbiologists working in mycology should support in making this conference a big success.. This conference was attended by more than 50 delegates from Indian of which many were the faculty of the conference.

## Novel Genomespecies from India: PM dream coming true – Part-2

Extending the PM dream of Make in India, whole genome sequencing based study has been conducted exclusively in India by the same team without any support/aid from a foreign institute again. Amongst the four most common non-fermenting Gram-negative bacilli (NFGNB) in the world, two of them are lysing -

positive NFGNB and, therefore, easily segregated from rest of the hundreds of NFGNB. Both are known multi-drug resistant NFGNB and have intrinsic resistance to the last resort drugs that include carbapenems and colistin, and, therefore, seriously affect patient care. One of them is *Burkholderia cepacia* complex (Bcc), which is already a known complex as it comprises more than 20 genomespecies. For this reason, EUCAST hasn't given the breakpoints for Bcc as each species behave differently. The team led by Prof Vikas Gautam from PGIMER and Dr Prabhu Patil from CSIR - IMTECH have identified the novel genomespecies in the second NFGNB also i.e. in *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*. Phylogenomic analysis and further genome-based taxonomy of the genus *Stenotrophomonas* identified five cryptic genomespecies, which are associated with the clinical isolates of *S. maltophilia* and are potentially novel species. Now the question posed by this team before the world is whether we should call *Stenotrophomonas* also as *S. maltophilia* complex. This data will aid in improving clinical diagnosis and for understanding species-specific clinical manifestations of infection due to *Stenotrophomonas* species.

**Dr Vikas Gautam**  
PGIMER, Chandigarh

**10th FRCPath Part-I Course  
(Medical Microbiology)  
23rd and 24th January, 2019**

*Department of Microbiology Global Hospital, Hyderabad  
Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Foundation*

This course is specifically held for those who wish to sit the FRCPath ( Medical Microbiology and Virology) PART- I examinations conducted by the Royal College of Pathologists UK.

The course will cover a wide range of topics in Medical Microbiology, Infectious Diseases, Infection control and prevention, Mycology, Parasitology, Virology and Tropical Medicine that form a major component of this examination adhering to a MCQ & EMQ format as designed for the Part- I examinations with mock exam papers at the end of the course. It is preferable for a candidate to have at least 2 years work experience after their postgraduation to sit this examination.

For details contact :

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## IAMM STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## IAMM CHHATTISGARH CHAPTER

The Chhattisgarh Association of Medical Microbiologists (CAMM) organized its 2nd Annual State Chapter Conference, CGMICROCON - 2018 on 8th and 9th September 2018, hosted by MicroPath Diagnostics, Raipur under the meticulous headship of the Organizing Chairperson, Dr Sanchita Nihal.

The theme of the conference, “Translational Microbiology – From Bench to Bedside and Beyond.....” was an endeavour towards integration of laboratory and clinical medicine for improved patient outcomes. The academic activities were therefore planned so as to involve medical professionals across various clinical specialities apart from microbiologists.

The 2 day conference commenced with the first ever Presidential Oration of CAMM delivered by its founder President, Dr Ramanesh Murthy. CGMICROCON 2018 included scientific deliberations by eminent stalwarts like Dr Chand Wattal, Chairman and Senior Consultant Microbiologist, Sir Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi, Dr Govind Makharia, Professor, Dept. of Gastroenterology, AIIMS, New Delhi and a host of distinguished speakers from all across the country.

This was the 2nd state conference conducted by CAMM after its inception with noteworthy contributions from Dr Sabah Javed, Organizing Co-chairperson and Dr Nikita Sherwani, Treasurer, CAMM. The total number of delegates registered for the conference was 158. The Department of Microbiology, AIIMS Raipur organized a 4-day state level workshop on Hospital Infection Control (HIC) in August 2018. The workshop covered practically all aspects of HIC, namely Antibiotic Stewardship, Biomedical Waste Management, Sterilisation and Disinfection Practices, Standard Precautions etc. Dr Apurba Sankar Sastry, Officer Incharge HICC, JIPMER, Puducherry was the chief resource person. The efforts of the workshop Coordinators, Dr Anudita Bhargava and Dr Ujjwala Gaikwad were lauded by all those who attended.

CAMM will soon be conducting a CME on “Quality Assurance and Quality Control in Microbiology” in January 2019 organized by Department of Microbiology, Late Shri Baliram Kashyap Memorial Government Medical College, Jagdalpur. The CME will stress upon the importance of QAQC in Microbiology laboratories to ensure prompt, reliable and accurate microbiology test results.

**Dr. Sanchita Nihal**

Secretary IAMM Chhattisgarh Chapter

## IAMM NORTH WEST CHAPTER

The IAMM NW Chapter Conference MICROCON- 2018 with the theme “Antimicrobial Resistance- One World One Fight” was organized by the Department of Microbiology, Dayanand Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab on 13th October, 2018. Dr. Deepinder K. Chhina, Prof & HOD, Microbiology, Dayanand Medical College as the Organizing Secretary said that more than 300 delegates attended conference making it huge success. Dr. Arunaloke Chakrabarti HOD, Microbiology, PGIMER, Chandigarh in his keynote address on “Invasive Fungal Infections- Uphill battle for India” said fungal infection is a great challenge. In a recent survey of 118 diagnostic mycology laboratories of our country, galactomannan, beta-D-glucan and fungal PCR diagnosis are available in 30%, 8%, and 7% laboratories respectively. The new initiatives (microfluidic assay, nano technology, T2 magnetic imaging) in fungal diagnostics are encouraging and may help in point-of-care tests.

Dr. Anil Kanga, Professor and Head, Microbiology, YPSMC, Nahan spoke on “Drug Resistant Tuberculosis- Approach Towards its Diagnosis and Management”. Dr. Varsha Gupta Professor GMCH, Chandigarh, enlightened with “Present Scenario of MDR Salmonella”. Dr. Sumit Rai Associate Professor SSPH PGTI, NOIDA gave a talk on “Management Of MDR Gram Negative Infections”. Inaugural function of the conference was presided over by Mr. Prem Kumar Gupta (Honorary Secretary, Managing Society DMCH) and guest of honour Dr. Arunaloke Chakrabarti. Joint organizing secretary, Dr. Veenu Gupta, Prof Microbiology, thanked all the delegates. This was followed by a talk on “The initiative by WHO to strengthen AMR surveillance: global regional and Indian perspective” by Dr. Anuj Sharma (WHO-technical officer), Dr. Sunil Gupta, Additional Director for Disease control discussed challenges on AMR Containment Country response. The talk on Antifungal Resistance & Stewardship was given by Dr. Malini Capoor, Professor, VMMC & Safdarjang Hospital, Delhi. Dr. Neha Gupta Consultant Infectious Diseases; Medanta updated knowledge on Intriguing Cases in Infectious Diseases – Role of Microbiology. The CME had Postgraduate Quiz conducted by Dr. Vikas Gautam (Prof, PGIMER, Chandigarh).

This was followed by poster and oral presentations and top three participants were awarded prizes in each category respectively. Panel discussion on Antimicrobial Resistance was held. The session ended with General Body Meeting in which Dr. Deepinder Chhina, Professor and Head of Microbiology, Dayanand Medical College, Ludhiana was elected as the President of IAMM (NW Chapter).

## IAMM North West Chapter

## IAMM MAHARASHTRA CHAPTER

MAHAMICROCON - 2018, (IAMM – Maharashtra Chapter) was hosted by the department of Microbiology, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad. The conference was on 29th & 30th September 2018, having pre conference CME on 28th September 2018. The conference was on the theme “Microbiology Today: Time to reflect on Penumbra” included the symposium on anaerobic infections which was moderated by Dr. Renu Bhardwaj. There were guest lectures of “NABL accreditation of laboratory” and “one health aspects.” The CME on “Update on Clinical Virology Laboratory” was moderated by Dr. Abhay Chawdhary. The conference was attended by 167 delegates and was inaugurated by Hon'ble Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Chancellor, KIMSUDU, in presence of Hon'ble Dr. Suresh Bhosale, Chairman & Managing Trustee, KCT. The conference was attended by Dr. Tapan Dhole, National IAMM President and other 8 Past National Presidents attended the conference.

General Body Meeting elected Dr. Mrs. G. S. Karande, as President and Dr. S. R. Patil as Secretary IAMM – Maharashtra

**Chapter 2018-2019.**

## IAMM Maharashtra Chapter





## IAMM STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## IAMM BIHAR - JHARKHAND CHAPTER

**BJ-MICROCON 2018, the 1st Annual Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists Bihar Jharkhand Chapter** was held at **Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi**, Jharkhand on 28th and 29th September, 2018. The Organising Chairman was Dr. Manoj Kumar, HOD, Microbiology, RIMS, Ranchi and Organizing Secretary was Dr. Ashok Kumar, RIMS, Ranchi. The theme of the Conference was “Innovations and We”.

**Workshop on “Fungal Identification of Medically important Fungi and Antifungal Susceptibility Testing”** was conducted on Day 1 of the conference. It was coordinated by Dr. Arunaloke Chakrabarti (President ISHAM & HOD, Medical Microbiology, PGIMER, Chandigarh) and Dr. Shivaprakash MR, (Vice-President ISHAM, PGIMER, Chandigarh). The workshop included demonstrations and hands-on activities like identification of moulds by participants and antifungal susceptibility testing. Day 1 ended with a banquet dinner.

On Day 2, **CME** was conducted. It was coordinated by Dr. Chand Wattal (Chairman, Dept. of Clinical Microbiology & Immunology, GRIPMER, New Delhi). The topic of the CME was “**SEPSIS**”. The talks were followed by a panel discussion on “Empirical antimicrobials in the era of AMR”. The CME was chaired by Dr. J K Mitra (HOD, Medicine, RIMS, Ranchi), Dr. Amar Verma (Paediatrics, RIMS, Ranchi), Dr. S K Shahi (HOD, Microbiology, IGIMS, Patna) and Dr B L Sherwal (Secretary IAMM & Director, RGSSH, Delhi). The eminent speakers included Dr. Arunaloke Chakrabarti (PGIMER, Chandigarh), Dr Chand Wattal (GRIPMER, New Delhi), Dr. Ashok Rattan (Advisor, Path-Kind Labs) and Dr. Ashutosh Bhardwaj (Head and Senior Consultant, Dharmshila Narayan Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi). A session on Lab Mapping and Strengthening Initiative of IAMM supported by CDC was conducted by Dr. B. L. Sherwal, Secretary IAMM, President IAMM BJ Chapter. The CME was preceded by poster presentations.

Being the first of its kind State Conference being organized in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand, it is a boon for both the states. The day ended with General Body Meeting by electing a new Executive Body. It was decided that the term of office of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and EC Members should be 3 years and that of President 1 year. The new executive body formed is as below:

President: Dr S K Shahi, IGIMS, Patna.

Secretary: Dr Manoj Kumar, RIMS, Ranchi.

Joint Secretary: Dr Shailesh Kumar, IGIMS, Patna

Treasurer: Dr Asim Sarfaraz, AIIMS, Patna

EC Members: Dr. Atnu Ray (MGM, Kisenganj), Dr. R P Diwakar (DMCH, Darbhanga), Dr. Prakash Mishra (SKMCH, Muzaffarpur), Dr. R K Mahto (MGMCH, Jamshedpur), Dr. Pratulya Nandan (PMCH, Patna), Dr. Ashok Kumar Sharma (RIMS, Ranchi) and Dr. Noman Alam (Medanta, Ranchi).



Dr Sherwal suggested that the Chapter could hold Mid-term Conference anytime in the coming year. Dr Shahi proposed IGIMS, Patna as the venue for the next annual conference of this chapter. Dr Shahi also suggested that a CME/workshop can be organized at IGIMS, Patna on Transplant Immunology and further details will be shared soon after discussion. Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and all the members.

**Dr. Namrata Kumari**

Secretary, IAMM BJ Chapter

## IAMM DELHI CHAPTER

**The second chapter meet** of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists- Delhi Chapter (IAMM-DC) was jointly organized by East zone-Delhi Institutions: Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital (RGSSH), University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) and Institute of Human Behavior and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) on 11th August 2018. The venue of the meet was Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital. The theme of chapter meet was “**Future Viral Threats: Are We Prepared?**” A total of 130 participants registered for the meeting including senior IAMM members and post graduate students. The event was graced by renowned Senior microbiologist Dr. Srinivas who inspired the young microbiologists with his motivating words. Dr. B.L Sherwal (Director, RGSSH) and Dr.N.P.Singh (HOD Microbiology, UCMS) inaugurated the meet. Interesting cases were presented by Dr. Renu Gupta (IHBAS) and Dr. Sonali Bhattar (RGSSH). Dr. Rajesh Bhatia enlightened the audience on the topic “Viruses of the future: Role of Microbiologists” followed by engrossing panel discussion on “Viruses on Rampage: Addressing the threats” moderated by Dr. Ekta Gupta. Dr Rajesh Bhatia, Dr Shobha Broor, Dr V.K.Gupta and Dr Suman Kushwaha were the panelists representing public health, virology, veterinary sciences and clinical fields respectively. A total of 25 scientific posters were presented at the meet. Dr. Srinivas Award for best poster on “Outstanding scientific work in Antibiotic susceptibility testing” was awarded to Dr. Anupam Kumar Anveshi (Safdarjung Hospital) on Topic “Nasal carriage of Staphylococcus aureus among Health care workers (HCW): Antimicrobial susceptibility, virulence profile and risk factors”. Dr Shariqa Qureshi (RGSSH) was adjudged winner for her poster presentation on topic – “Hand hygiene audit: a tool for leveraging hand hygiene compliance and rejuvenating its strategies in a Super Speciality hospital” in the free Poster category. Dr. Rishabh Tomar (Santosh Medical College) and Dr Charu Jain (ESI, Faridabad) were jointly adjudged runnerup on topics – “Occurrence of various dengue serotypes in a tertiary care hospital in Ghaziabad” and “Antimicrobial Susceptibility Profile of Salmonella Species in Faridabad, Haryana” respectively.

The 10th Annual conference of IAMM Delhi Chapter: “Micro-D-Con” will be held between 31st Oct-3rd Nov 2018 with the theme “**TB Elimination by 2025: What We Need to Get There.**” Four Preconference Satellite Hands-on workshops will be organized at various participating Medical Institutes on October 31st 2018, followed by 2 CMEs. The first CME will be held on 1st November 2018 at Vallabhbbhai Patel Chest Institute on “**Mapping the footprints of NTM: The neglected mycobacteria.**” The 2nd CME will be held on 2nd November, 2018 at India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi on “**Reliable Antimicrobial Sensitivity Testing In Era of AMR**” followed by the main conference at IHC on 3rd November. Around 250 delegates are expected to participate in the event from Delhi NCR and also from other states in the North including UP, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

**Dr Sonal Saxena**  
Secretary IAMM-DC

## GENERAL BODY MEETING

**Venue: Hall A, NIMHANS Convention Centre, Bengaluru**

**Date:** 1st December, 2018 **Time:** 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM

Dear Members,

The General Body Meeting will be held during the National Conference of IAMM on 1st December, 2018 between 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm. Please note the timings and kindly make it convenient to attend the same.

**Agenda**

- 1) Welcoming of New EC Members.
- 2) To confirm the EC/GB Meeting minutes held at RIMS, Ranchi.
- 3) Action taken on minutes of the GB Meeting.
  - a) Court Cases:
    - i. Progress of the Court Cases
    - ii. Minutes of the Sub-committee chaired by DGHS
    - iii. Representation to MCI
    - iv. Funds for the cases
  - b) Formation of Working Group on Zoonosis
  - c) AMR Surveillance in India and the role of IAMM.
  - d) Progress for change of syllabus of Microbiology to Clinical Microbiology.
  - e) PG Assembly for Clinical Microbiology and Webinar under the banner of IAMM
- 4) Secretary's Annual Report- Dr B L Sherwal
- 5) Editor's report and statement of IJMM accounts- Dr V Balaji
- 6) Presentation of Annual Statement of IAMM Accounts by Treasurer- Dr Bharti Malhotra
- 7) Report of IAMM EQAS programme by the Co-ordinators:
  - a) South Centre (Vellore)- Dr V Balaji and Dr R Kannangai
  - b) North Centre (New Delhi)- Dr C Wattal
- 8) Selection of topics for 43rd IAMM Conference: a) IAMM Symposium and b) Student Symposium
- 9) Decision Regarding the venue for 43rd IAMM Conference.
- 10) Decision of various Awards:
  - a) Dr S C Agarwal Oration Award
  - b) DR H I Jhala Award
  - c) IAMM Endowment Oration Award
  - d) Dr U C Chaturvedi Lifetime Achievement Award
  - e) IAMM Merieux Award
- 11) Election of Office Bearers IAMM 2018
- 12) Laboratory Mapping and Strengthening Activity
- 12a) Supplementary Agenda: Ratification for formation of Rajasthan Chapter & Madhya chapter of IAMM
- 13) Any other matter with permission from chair.

**Agenda No. 1, 2, 3, 8, 12 and 13 were discussed in the EC meeting on 26 May, 2018 in Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr T.N. Dhole, President IAMM and rest will be discussed in the EC Meeting in Bengaluru on 30th November, 2018 at 5:00PM.**

**Dr B L Sherwal**  
Secretary IAMM



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