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## Message from the Desk of President

Dear Members

There is urgent need to reduce the spread of antibiotic resistance both in hospital and community settings. Microbiologists need to diagnose infections quickly and accurately, helping to curb the overuse of antibiotics that causes drug resistance. Many people around the world are working on numerous projects to stop infections from spreading in the first place, whether by producing new vaccines or by 'developing surfaces that superbugs can't attach to or by using modalities like phage therapy.

But you don't have to be an engineer or a microbiologist to play your part in tackling this problem: we can all help in slowing the spread of resistance through good hand hygiene, and healthcare workers in particular have a crucial role to play.

An important strategic objective of GAP-AMR of WHO and NAP-AMR Govt. of India initiative for AMR containment is to "Reduce the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and infection prevention measures". This year's IAMM campaign is all about reducing antibiotic resistance, highlighting the vital role of effective handwashing in preventing the spread of drug-resistant infections and helping to conserve our antibiotics.

"Healthcare-associated infections are one of the most frequent adverse events in healthcare delivery and are a major public health problem that affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide." According to the World Health Organization, one in 10 patients will get an infection while receiving care. For surgical care this number is even higher - up to 32% of patients will contract a post-operative infection and up to 51% of these infections are resistant to the antibiotics used to treat them. Problems with multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs) are also rising alarmingly.

"HAIs cause harm and suffering to patients which can easily be avoided, they also result in additional financial burden and sometimes even long-term disabilities or death. Adequate hand hygiene by following the 5 moments and 6 steps reduces the risk of HAIs and has the potential to save eight million lives a year in hospitals alone.

Of course, raising awareness of the importance of hand hygiene is only part of the solution. Even when awareness and understanding exists, as is often the case in healthcare settings, time-constrained schedules and fast-paced demands can sometimes mean basic hygiene procedures are foregone. Outside the hospital, and around the world, access to water and soap can also be very limited, requiring extensive infrastructural changes.

While WHO's campaign is focused on health workers, good hand hygiene is something we all can practice preventing illness, infections and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). For many people, handwashing is a simple task, part of everyday routine, but we must remember it is one of our best defenses against illness, and, importantly, in helping to prevent the spread of infection and AMR. There are obvious times that call for handwashing with soap essentially to prevent the spread of germs, like after using the toilet, before cooking, and before eating.

Every year, 1.7 million children die before reaching five years of age because of illness like diarrhoea and pneumonia, both of which can be prevented with good hygiene and sanitation. In fact, universal adoption of handwashing with soap could save 1 million lives annually. Hand hygiene helps prevent the spread of infection, including resistant bugs like those that cause MRSA, VRE, MDR Acinetobacter spp. and is one of the most important public health interventions in the world.

*Continued...*

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

### Dr. S. R. Patil,

Secretary, IAMM &amp; Professor, Dept. of Microbiology, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad, Dist. : Satara, Maharashtra - 415 539. Mob.: 9423033060

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Hand Hygiene on 5 May and Global Hand Washing day on 15 October every year, aims to increase understanding about handwashing with soap as a way to prevent diseases and save lives. In helping to stop the spread of germs, including superbugs, handwashing reduces infections and the need for antibiotics in the first place. This simple practice therefore helps conserve our antibiotics for longer.

For most of us it's easy enough to find a nearby washroom with running water and soap. When water and soap aren't an option, WHO recommends rubbing ash or sand on hands. During the trips one can use paper shops or Antibacterial gel/Alcohol base Hand Rub. In her book, Dame Sally Davies, says the ideal way to wash your hands is to rinse them with soap for as long as it takes to sing the Happy Birthday song three times.

IAMM members let's join hands for "Clean care for all, It's in your hands".

**Dr. B. L. Sherwal**  
President IAMM  
Director, RGSSH

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

Dear Members,

Seasons greeting from IAMM!!

At the outset, my wishes and encouragement to the team at LTMMC & GH, Mumbai for hosting the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of IAMM this year from 27<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2019. I would like to welcome all the members to get registered for the conference and be a part of this grand scientific fiesta.



Hope you have received the first circular regarding 43rd annual conference of IAMM. However, once again I take the pleasure of inviting you on behalf of IAMM to this esteemed meeting to be held at Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai. The Conference Organizing Secretaries, Dr Gita Nataraj, Dr Sujata Baveja and their team are putting all efforts for the success of this mega event. Please note that the dates of the conference are from 27<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2019. I request you to visit the website for more details ([www.microcon2019.org](http://www.microcon2019.org)).

I would personally call upon all members, not to miss this wonderful conference. This is another reminder for our members to put in nominations to the awards for the year 2019 as well as to the young colleagues to compete in the prize paper sessions in a healthy manner.

Further, I request all the members to kindly,

1. Up-date their e-mail ID and Addresses so that you will receive all IAMM updates.
2. Send us the information about local chapter meets to me and to Dr. Sonal Saxena Joint secretary.
3. Note that, the award winners in various categories should send the details of award so as to enable us to update them on IAMM website. With Seasons best wishes!

**Dr. S. R. Patil**  
Secretary IAMM  
KIMS, Karad

### REQUEST

*Dear Members, please update your Address and Email ID in case of a change and circulate the Newsletter among members and friends!*

*Kindly share your achievements or other relevant information with us to update in the Newsletter.*

## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists

Dear IAMM Members,

It is a matter of great honour and privilege to be hosting the 43<sup>rd</sup> MICROCON in Mumbai and we thank IAMM for the same. It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us and participate in the **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists**, scheduled from **27<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 at Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai**. The theme of this conference is **"Newer Diagnostics, Emerging Diseases and Preparedness"**.

Diagnostics in clinical microbiology is evolving at a rapid pace due to a better understanding of the pathogenesis, genomics of disease causing agents and improved technology. Some of these advances have translated into better patient care while some are yet being studied to make the transition from bench to bedside. With disease causing agents easily jumping borders to make their presence felt globally, an understanding of newer diseases and preparedness for mitigating their spread is equally pertinent. At the same time, certain diseases which already have their footprints need to be dealt with more aggressively to achieve their eradication, such as rabies and leprosy, which still cause infections in hundreds of patients but do not get the attention they deserve. The ballooning problem due to antimicrobial resistance needs to be tackled strongly, collectively, wisely and with great vigour and passion.

This conference will also give the opportunity to members to renew friendships, strengthen and extend networks between local, state, and central public health systems, across various sectors such as academia, industries and government, across various medical and / or scientific branches. The organizing committee is committed to bring together experts with rich expertise in their fields, both national and international. We are sure that participating in this conference will rejuvenate the minds of both the young and not so young and will be an enriching experience.

The city of Mumbai, the dream city, depicts an interesting confluence of urban development and rich history. This city has something to offer and cherish for everybody. Since it is impossible for anyone to soak in the multifarious charms which the city has to offer in a limited time span, the organizing committee assures good hospitality and a great experience. We look forward to seeing your presence with active contribution and support to make this event successful once more.

At this conference let us celebrate what we, as a professional community, have achieved. At this conference let us chart the path that we as professionals need to define, to mitigate infectious disease morbidity and mortality. At this conference let us redefine the new horizons and reignite the self-belief that we can and we will make a difference.

For more details about the conference, please visit the **conference website [microcon2019.org](http://microcon2019.org)**. You can register online through the conference website. Please register early to avail the discounted 'Early Bird Offer.'

**Dr Gita Nataraj**

**Dr Sujata Baveja**

Organizing Secretaries

### STATE CHAPTER INFORMATION

*All the office bearers of the State Chapters are requested to send information about their activities and events. Kindly send the names of the Secretaries of the respective State Chapters.*



## NEWS FROM IAMM STATE CHAPTERS

### IAMM Delhi Chapter

#### Academic activities of IAMM Delhi Chapter:

- The first chapter meeting of 2019 of IAMM-DC was organized by Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket, New Delhi on 06<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The theme of the chapter meet was **“Congenital and Perinatal Infections”**. A total of 190 participants registered for the meeting. A total of 30 candidates presented their scientific proceedings as posters. Meghna krishan Baveja Award for pediatric infectious diseases was awarded to Dr Mohd Saquib from ILBS, New Delhi, while Dr Sukhwinder Singh of (VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital) and Ashutosh Singh from VPCI were awarded best posters in MD and PhD category respectively.
- A CME entitled **“Influenza: current scenario in India”** was organized under the aegis of IAMM Delhi Chapter on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at SGT university, Gurgaon. The CME was attended by more than 100 participants. Eminent speakers included Dr Shobha Broor, Dr Ritu Chauhan (WHO India) and Dr Ekta Gupta (ILBS)

**IAMM President AMR containment initiative:** IAMM Delhi chapter stand in solidarity with IAMM President AMR containment initiative and organized many meetings with microbiologists, MBBS students and general public in first quarter.

- IAMM Delhi Chapter organized a CME **“Current Challenges in detection of AMR”** for microbiologists at Indian Habitat Center New Delhi on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The meeting was attended by 30 senior microbiologists and laboratory in-charges. The meeting was opened by Dr B L Sherwal, President IAMM. He talked about the IAMM President AMR initiative. He urged the senior microbiologists present to hold advocacy meeting to generate awareness against AMR. Dr Sonal, Joint Secretary IAMM and Secretary IAMM DC talked about the Current Challenges in detection of AMR. Ms Lau Pierson from Thermoscientific, Singapore delivered talk entitled **“True MIC better informed therapeutic choices”**.
- IAMM Delhi Chapter supported and organized a workshop on **“Antimicrobial stewardship: A competency based approach”** in Student conference ‘Medicus Convectus 2019’ on 31<sup>st</sup> March at LHMC, New Delhi. The workshop was attended by 30 MBBS students from all across the country. Two talks focusing on principles of Antimicrobial stewardship and principles of rational prescription were taken by Dr Sonal Saxena and Dr Sanjib Gogoi.

The workshop was conducted with real case based situations highlighting the importance of judicious use of antimicrobials.

#### • Advocacy meetings for non-medical personnel/General public

- On 8<sup>th</sup> march 2019, Awareness session regarding woman health and AMR held at National Institute of Financial Management by Dr Sonal Saxena, secretary IAMM DC. Target audience included women working in financial institutions in the Govt of India offices. Many questions related to rational antibiotics prescriptions were raised and answered. Approximately 150 women attended the event.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> March as part of theme based health talks a session on awareness regarding AMR was conducted at the Resource center, DGHS in MOHFW. The session was attended by more than 70 employees. The target audience included employees of MOHFW. The talk was followed by a very interactive session with Dr Sonal Saxena. The participants had many questions related to antibiotic resistance and unnecessary prescriptions for sore throat, URI and diarrhea.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> April a session was held at Resource center, DGHS in MOHFW. The session was part of a swatchtha pakhwara which was celebrated from April 1-15. The talk on **“Sanitation and Hygiene”** was taken by Dr Sonal Saxena. The talk was followed by a small skit by drama society of LHMC ‘jijivisha’. The target audience included employees of MOHFW. The need of sanitation and hygiene and its relation to infections and AMR was discussed with the audience. The skit on swatchtha was highly appreciated. More than 100 participants attended the program.



## IAMM Odisha Chapter

The 1<sup>st</sup> Mid Term CME and Workshop of IAMM (Odisha Chapter) was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar with Dr. Suneeta Sahu, as the Organising Secretary, Dr. Pritilata Panda as the President, Dr. Bimoch Projna Paty as the Secretary and Dr. Shreekant Tiwari as the Treasurer. It was attended by 80 participants which included Microbiologists, Microbiology PG students, Critical care Consultants and Critical care DNB students.

The CME and Workshop was inaugurated in the presence of Mr Sudhir Diggikar CEO Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar, Dr Ashish Chandra, DMS Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar, Dr Pritilata Panda, President IAMM (Odisha Chapter). The programme started with Panel discussion on "Difficult cases encountered" with Dr Nirupama Chayani (Prof & HOD, Department of Microbiology, S C B Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack), Dr Samir Sahu (Director, Critical Care & Pulmonology, AMRI Hospitals, Bhubaneswar), Dr Aruna Poojary (HOD, Dept. of Pathology & Microbiology, Breach Candy Hospital Trust), Dr Sharmili Sinha (Senior Consultant in Critical Care Medicine, Apollo hospitals, Bhubaneswar) being the panelists. The programme was moderated by Dr Suneeta Sahu (Sr Consultant Clinical Microbiology and Immunoserology, Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar). Highlights of the panel discussion was a case of Strongyloides stercoralis, intestinal miasis which was presented by Dr Nirupama Chayani. Dr Samir Sahu highlighted the emergence of Adeno virus as a cause of Pneumonia, Dr Aruna Poojary gave a very lucid presentation of Anaerobic infection with Bacteroides fragilis, Dr Sharmili Sinha presented a difficult case of ARDS. The session was an interactive one and lot of lessons were learnt by PG students and others alike. The panel discussion was followed by guest lecture by Dr Aruna Poojary on "Conventional Vs Syndromic testing for Pneumoniae, Septicaemia and Meningitis" and Dr Debkishore Gupta on "Art of Reading an Antibigram". Both the lectures were case based discussion and was interactive with question and answer session. This was followed by two workshops on Rapid ID plus ABST testing (Vitek 2) and Syndromic testing by multiplex PCR (Biofire) which was coordinated by Dr Suneeta Sahu and Dr Rani Sahu. Dr. Ipsita Dash compered the entire meeting very efficiently.

## IAMM Rajasthan Chapter

The IAMM Rajasthan Chapter was formed in 2018 with its Executive Committee. Dr. Rakesh Maheshwari, Senior professor at SMS Medical College took over the charge of President, while Dr. Bharti Malhotra Senior professor & HOD Microbiology SMS Medical College, Dr. Yogesh Kumar Gupta Consultant Fortis Escorts Hospital and Dr. Sunita Gupta Consultant SDMH took over the posts of Vice president, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The first Rajasthan Chapter CME was organized on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Jaipur. The theme for the CME was Anti-microbial Resistance. A total of 100 participants registered for the CME including senior Microbiologists and post graduate students all across the Rajasthan.

CME was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Ram Babu Sharma Additional principle & senior professor Pediatrics SMS Medical College, Jaipur and Guest of Honor Dr. B L Sherwal National President IAMM. Dr. B. L. Sherwal President IAMM delivered key note address on "IAMM AMR Initiatives". This was followed by talk on "What's new in the diagnosis of AMR" by Dr. Sonal Saxena and "Role of vaccine in prevention of AMR" by Dr. Amit Vohra.

A Panel Discussion on Anti-Microbial resistance was conducted, the pannelist for the discussion were Dr. B L Sherwal, Dr. Shabbar H K Joad (Head critical care Fortis Escorts Hospital, Jaipur), Dr. Ram Babu Sharma (Additional principle & senior professor Pediatrics SMS Medical College), Dr. Puneet Saxena (Senior professor Medicine SMS Medical College), Dr. Aruna Vyas (Senior professor Microbiology SMS Medical College), Dr. Bharti Malhotra (Senior professor & HOD Microbiology SMS Medical College) and Dr. Sonal Saxena, Panel Discussion was moderated by Dr. Yogesh Kumar Gupta.

The CME was well attended and highly appreciated by delegates.

## XXV MAHAMICROCON 2019, NAGPUR

### XXV Maharashtra State Chapter Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

**Theme:**

**Emerging Role of Microbiologists: From bench to bedside**

Organized by

**Department of Microbiology, NKP IMS & RC**

**Dr. Neena Nagdeo**

Organizing Secretary

**Dr. Vilas R. Thombare**

Organizing Chairman

**Venue:** NKPSIMS & RC & Lata Mangeshkar Hospital  
Digdoh hills, Hingna Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

**For more details please contact organizing Secretariat**

Email: mahamicrocon2019@gmail.com

Website: www.mahamicrocon2019.com

## PG ASSEMBLY

As per announcement at MICROCON, 2018 in Bangalore that IAMM PG assembly will be held at national level in 2019 in each of 4 zones: North, East, West and South in collaboration with bioMerieux continue to be the exclusive industry partner in this initiative.

We are pleased to share that **Dr Chand Wattal** is nominated to be the IAMM Course Coordinator for PG Assembly, 2019 and he will be your point of contact for further details.

As per directives from Dr. B. L. Sherwal, President, IAMM PG Assembly host sites and course coordinators for 2019 are as follows.

**North:**

**Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalya, New Delhi**

Course Coordinators: Dr Chand Wattal, Dr Sonal Saxena, Dr Karnika Saigal

**East:**

**Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata**

Course Coordinator: Dr Sanjay Bhattacharya

**West:**

**King Edward Memorial Hospital, Mumbai and Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai**

Course Coordinators: Dr Gita Nataraj and Dr Shashikala Shivaprakash

**South:**

**Kasturba Medical College, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal**

Course Coordinator: Dr K.E. Vandana

Kindly visit IAMM website (www.iamm.in) for further details and registration procedure. The details will be uploaded soon.



## New Members of Executive Council of IAMM 2019

The following members have been elected unopposed to the executive council of the IAMM. I heartily welcome them all and look forward to working with them.

### Dr Rakesh Kumar Maheshwari, LM - 2514



Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology, SMS Medical College, Jaipur

**Qualifications:** MD (Medical Microbiology)

Total more than 36 years experience in Medical Microbiology. 5 years working abroad as specialist, clinical microbiology in Saudi Arabia

Coordinator for MCI to assess various medical colleges.

**Publications:** More than 23 publications.

### Dr Vikas Manchanda, LM - 1109



Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi

**Qualifications:** MD (Microbiology), MBA

Member Project Review Committee, ICMR

Member State AEFI Committee, Govt of NCT of Delhi

Member Institutional Ethics Committees of MAMC, CNBC

Member Technical Committee, State Action Plan, Govt of NCT of Delhi

**Publications:** 54 publications in peer reviewed journals.

### Dr. Shripad Taklikar, LM - 1576



Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and General Hospital since 2005.

**Qualifications:** M.B.B.S; M.D (Microbiology, Mumbai University), D.H.H.M (Dip. In Hospital and Healthcare Management, Symbiosis), D.H.A (Dip. In Hospital Administration, Tata Institute of Social Sciences), I.D.C.C (Infectious Diseases Certificate Course, Hinduja Hospital), C.C.I.D.C (Critical Care Infectious Diseases Course, Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine)

**Publications:** 19 publications in National and International Peer Reviewed Journals

**Award:** C K Deshpande Gold Medal for MD Microbiology of Mumbai University year 2004-05

### Dr. Sanjay Biswas, LM - 2440



Professor & Microbiologist, Dept of Microbiology, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai

**Qualifications:** MD (Medical Microbiology)

Member of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists

Member of the Hospital Infection Society of the India

Member of European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

**Publications:** 12 publications in peer reviewed journals.

### Dr Poonam Sood Loomba, LM - 1814



Director Professor, Department of Microbiology, GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi

**Qualifications:** MD (Medical Microbiology)

20 years experience in various fields of Microbiology. This includes practical and theoretical experience in Bacteriology, Mycology, Mycobacteriology, Serology, Virology and immunofluorescence testing.

**Publications:** 53 publications in peer reviewed journals. Total 63 number of papers presented in the conferences.

### Dr. Sheela Devi. C, LM - 1524



Professor of Microbiology & Dean –Postgraduate studies Adjunct faculty of Medical Education Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences-Pondicherry

**Qualifications:** MD (Medical Microbiology)

17 years experience in teaching under graduate and post graduate students.

Has been appointed as Laboratory Assessor of Central TB Division, Govt. of India.

**Publications:** 34 publications in National and International Peer Reviewed Journals.

**Dr. S. R. Patil**  
Secretary IAMM  
KIMS, Karad

## WHO-IAMM Network for Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (WINSAR)

### INCEPTION MEETING REPORT

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is recognized as a complex global public health threat that requires joint efforts by stakeholders across various disciplines. Strengthening AMR surveillance is the focus of second strategic priority of Global and National action plan on antimicrobial resistance (GAP-AMR and NAP-AMR). Surveillance of AMR helps tracking of changes in microbial populations, permits the early detection of resistant strains of public health importance, and supports the prompt notification and investigation of outbreaks of resistant bugs. Surveillance findings are needed to inform clinical therapy decisions, to guide policy recommendations, and to assess the impact of resistance containment interventions.

Data regarding AMR in a vast country like ours is a challenge. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) established their AMR surveillance networks across India, and currently both have approximately 20 surveillance centres in their network. India is a huge country and hospitals and institutions currently networked for AMR surveillance are probably not sufficient to represent the diversity across India. Although few private institutions are part of ICMR network, NCDC network has institutions that are exclusively from the public sector. In addition, gaps exist when the institutions in these 2 networks are mapped, with no representation from many states and union territories. Therefore, the number of surveillance sites needs to be augmented for a more comprehensive and representative surveillance of AMR across India that better captures the AMR burden across the country.

AMR containment is recognised as a priority under WHO's Global Programme of Work (GPW). IAMM recognizes AMR containment as its priority. Keeping in view the population and geographical area of the country there is a need to expand AMR surveillance to ensure representative AMR data from India, which consequently shall help in devising evidence-based policies and interventions to limit the spread of AMR. And to strengthen and expand this AMR surveillance in India, WHO and IAMM have collaborated to establish a supplementary AMR surveillance network called the WHO-IAMM Network for Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance

(WINSAR). Hence, the inception meeting of WINSAR was organized by Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists (IAMM) and World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office for India on 28-29 March 2019 at the Hotel Fortune Park Orange, Sidhrawali (Gurgaon).

WINSAR shall serve as a dynamic platform to share reliable and representative AMR data from hospitals/laboratories across India, including private centres of excellence. The aim is not to compete with existing networks but to generate good country representative data to supplement the good work already being done in the two existing networks and the WINSAR data shall be shared with NCDC, which is designated as national coordinating centre for AMR Surveillance in India.

In the meeting we had representations from over 20 states of the country. During inaugural session, Dr B L Sherwal and Dr Anuj Sharma introduced the IAMM and WHO initiatives for AMR containment in the country to the participants. Dr Sunil Gupta provided the insights about the AMR Surveillance scenario in India and Dr Lata Kapoor shared her experiences with NCDC AMR Surveillance Network. Dr Arunaloke Chakrabarti represented ICMR AMR Surveillance Network and briefed about the activities being done in various centres of the network. On Day-2, Dr Vikas Manchanda initiated the session with previous days' proceedings summary. Subsequently, through e-poster presentations, 29 participating institutions highlighted the AMR status and antibiograms for their respective organizations. Various anticipated challenges and collaborative works with existing surveillance networks was deliberated through group work by all participants. Few of the aspects discussed included organisms for AMR surveillance and types of specimens from where these have been isolated. Furthermore, AST panels for different bacterial species, IQAS and EQAS requirements, data structure and sharing mechanisms were also deliberated.

It was decided that after finalization of networking laboratories, training for WHONET shall be conducted in the coming months. National level Standards for AMR Surveillance shall be prepared and disseminated. Bench aids for AST & QC shall be prepared and made available to the participating laboratories.





## Biosafety Cabinets Certification and Maintenance- Sensitization and Hands-on Workshop, 13 – 18 May, 2019

Laboratories handling infectious material should address biosafety and biosecurity by establishing and sustaining biorisk management systems which is also one of the core capacities required to become compliant to International Health Regulations (IHR). One of the key components of BRM capacity building is ensuring safety of laboratory staff by ensuring functionality of biosafety cabinets (BSCs). Therefore, Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists (IAMM) with support from National Institute of Biologicals (NIB) and international agencies (WHO, CDC) developed a biosafety certification training program to raise awareness regarding functioning and certification of BSCs and to develop a cadre of BSC certifiers in the region.

A one-day Sensitization Workshop was conducted on May 13, 2019 at National Institute of Biologicals (NIB), Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India followed by five-day hands-on workshop on maintenance and certification of BSCs. At the sensitization meeting, Dr Mandeep Bhandari, Joint Secretary, MoHFW, GoI was the Chief guest. Dr Bhandari appreciated the initiative and talked about the importance of biosafety. The sensitization workshop was attended by 63 dignitaries including IAMM EC members, officials from WHO, CDC, NCDC and Directors of medical colleges, Professors of Clinical Microbiology, Scientists, State Microbiologists and

other scientific officials. The workshop comprised biosafety / biosecurity awareness including deliberations on basic biosafety knowledge, do's and don'ts on BSCs, airflow mechanisms in the different BSCs, their upkeep and maintenance in microbiology laboratory.

The first round of BSC certification training and Hands-on workshop comprised of a five days' BSC field maintenance and certification hands-on training with subsequent theory and practical qualifying examinations for a multinational group of participants with help from Thermo Fisher Scientific and NSF International (USA). A group of 15 participants from India, Nepal and Indonesia underwent the entire training and appeared for the examination. All successful participants shall be able to certify Class II Type A2 cabinets in their respective countries. Additionally, they shall be able to certify other types of cabinets under mentorship of advanced certifiers.

The program shall help improve the biosafety preparedness within this region of the globe and in containment of dangerous pathogens. This training will lead to formation of a cadre of certifiers in our country for Class II type A2 cabinets and help in certifying cabinets in various institutions. Certified Biosafety cabinets will promote laboratory safety which is one of the important components of BRM capacity building.



## WEBINAR ON ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IN INDIAN HOSPITALS

Under AMR initiative by IAMM President Dr. B. L. Sherwal webinar on Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in Indian Hospitals was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> June from 2 -3.30 PM. Webinar was moderated by Dr Arunaloke Chakrabarti, Past President, IAMM. Pannelist for the webinar were Dr. Kamini Walia, Senior Scientist, ICMR, Delhi, Dr. Subhash Todi, Director Critical Care, AMRI Hospitals, Kolkata, Dr. Chand Wattal, Chairman & Hony. Consultant, Sir Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Rakesh Lodha, In-charge Pediatric Intensive Care Services, AIIMS, New Delhi. More than 1500 participants attended webinar and above 100 questions asked by audience.



## AMR ACTIVITIES OF Maharashtra Chapter IAMM along with the Department of Microbiology KIMSDU, Karad.

**1. Hands – on Workshop on WHONET and BacLink** was conducted on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Total 20 Microbiologist from Maharashtra and other states attended the workshop. The resource person for this workshop was Dr. Sonal Saxena Director Professor. Department of Microbiology, LHMC, New Delhi and Dr. Poonam Loomba Director Professor. Department of Microbiology, G. B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi

**2. AMR Walkathon & Poster Exhibition on AMR** - An awareness programme on **Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR)** on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019. A walkathon was arranged to create awareness

on AMR. For this active participation was taken by the students of Medical, Dental, Physiotherapy and Nursing to the tune of 450 students. The poster exhibition on AMR was arranged at Krishna Hospital and skit was also performed by students for patients and relatives on AMR.

**3. CME on “Infection Control”** on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019. CME was arranged for nursing staff mainly, Clinical staff also attended the CME. Dr R D Kulkarni Past President IAMM inaugurated the CME. The eminent speakers for this CME were the infection control team members from Bharati Vidyapeeth, Deemed University, Pune.



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**Dr. S. R. Patil**  
Secretary IAMM

BOOK-POST

To,

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From,

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