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# INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGISTS

# NEWSLETTER

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## Executive Council of IAMM

### President :

Dr. Pallab Ray, (PGIMER, Chandigarh)

### Secretary :

Dr. Satish Patil, (KIMS, Karad)

### Treasurer :

Dr. Manoj Kumar, (RIMS, Ranchi)

### Chief Editor :

Dr. Chand Wattal, (SGRH, New Delhi)

### Joint Secretary :

Dr. Sonal Saxena, (LHMC, New Delhi)

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Dr. Rakesh Maheshwari, (SMS MC, Jaipur)

Dr. Vikas Manchanda, (MAMC, New Delhi)

Dr. Shripad Taklikar, (LTMMC &amp; GH, Mumbai)

Dr. Sanjay Biswas, (TMH, Mumbai)

Dr. Poonam Sood Loomba, (GBPH, New Delhi)

Dr. Sheela Devi. C, (PIMS, Pondicherry)

### Ex-Officio Member :

Dr. B. L. Sherwal, (RGSSH, New Delhi)

## Message from the Desk of President

### Greetings from President's Desk!

I wish all the members and their families a very happy and prosperous New Year 2020. I also express my sincere gratitude to all Members of the Executive Council and General Body of IAMM for the confidence reposed and electing me the President of this prestigious Association. I hope to continue with the glorious traditions of our association and strive hard to nurture and uphold the high standards of all the activities.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the IAMM, held at Mumbai, was a memorable event and Dr Sujata Baveja and Dr Geeta Natarajan, Organizing Secretaries, and their energetic team put up a great show, academic, social and cultural, which demands applauds and congratulation.

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the IAMM will be held at Guwahati jointly by the Department of Microbiology, Gauhati Medical College, and IAMM, Guwahati Chapter. From the enthusiasm and commitment of the organizers, I am sure it will be an excellent feat of academics, research, social and cultural interactions. I invite all members to attend the same and encourage their students to participate. The early bird registration packages are very attractive and affordable, and I specially congratulate the Organizing Committee for the same.

The previous EC, under the able guidance of Dr BL Sherwal as President, has done a commendable job in visibility of IAMM in prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance. The Delhi chapter has been rightly pursuing issues pertaining to the rights of medical microbiologists in laboratory services and revamping the microbiology curriculum to make it more relevant clinically. In the last few years, IAMM has been working closely with national and international organizations like ICMR, NCDC, CDC, WHO, FAO and others in vital areas like AMR and "One Health". I am sure this will give IAMM good visibility at national and international levels. Working in the field of AMR for a long time, I have the privilege of closely interacting with key people in these organizations. I commit to keep the momentum alive and utilize the same in the interest of IAMM. On behalf of IAMM, with help from CDC, we have already initiated a poster competition in zoonotic diseases and from the number of phone calls I receive, it has already received wide attention.

The United Nations General Assembly has emphasized that the next 10 years will be the "decade of action" to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. As a new year and a new decade ushers in, WHO is releasing a list of urgent, global health challenges. Three of the thirteen points include 'Stopping infectious diseases', 'Preparing for epidemics' and 'Protecting the medicines that protect us' and the third includes antibiotics as an important component. We need to think how IAMM can actively contribute to these sustainable goals.

Serving as the President of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists is truly my privilege. I will be very happy to receive any suggestions, views, and ideas which could be deliberated by the Association for improvement.

Best wishes,

**Dr. Pallab Ray**  
President IAMM  
PGIMER, Chandigarh



## Office of IAMM EQAS (Delhi)

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Chairman, IAMM-EQAS

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### Dr. S. R. Patil,

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Off.: 02164-241555/6/7/8 Extn.: 323, Email: [secretary.iamm@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.iamm@gmail.com)

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

Dear Colleagues,  
Seasons Greetings from KIMS, Karad! Wish you a Happy and Prosperous New year 2020.  
My heartiest congratulations to our New President Dr Pallab Ray, PGIMER, Chandigarh. I am certainly looking forward to working together with him for the betterment of the association.  
The next IAMM Annual Conference MICROCON 2020 is going to be held at Guwahati from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2020. Assam has rich cultural heritage tracing back to the times of the great epic of Mahabharata. Please spend a couple of extra days to enjoy the scenic beauty of Assam and adjoining states. I encourage everyone to participate in the conference as it is an excellent opportunity to connect with our professional peers. We are also expecting plenty of scientific presentations and a good deal of participation in the IAMM awards.  
My humble request to all the IAMM members to update their addresses and e-mail for better communication and request the state chapters office bearer to inform the activities of the chapter at the under mentioned address.  
I request all the Senior faculty/HODs in various Medical colleges/ Institutes/ Hospitals to encourage the microbiologists working in their premises to become the life members of IAMM and will also like them to interact with the clinicians frequently.  
Kindly circulate this IAMM Newsletter among other members.



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

## Profile of Executive Council IAMM

### President : Dr. Pallab Ray



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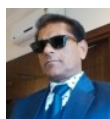
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### Executive Member : Dr. Sheela Devi. C



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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF IAMM AWARDS & PRIZES 2020

(Last date of receipt of all nominations July 31, 2020)

**1. Dr SC Agarwal Oration 2020:** This award is supported from the interest incurred from a fund donated by Dr SC Agarwal, to be given to a senior member of the association for his /her outstanding contribution to the field of Medical Microbiology. Nominations for the award, duly proposed and seconded with consent of the nominee along with the consent of the nominee as a soft copy of his/her biodata should reach the IAMM Secretary's office on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The awardee is to deliver an oration at the National IAMM Conference held in 2021. Nominations must come as a soft copy to be sent to Secretary IAMM by the last date.

**2. Dr. H. I. Jhala Memorial award 2020:** This award is given to a senior member of the association above the age of 50 years, who has made significant contribution to the development of Medical microbiology in India. This award is supported from the interest from the fixed deposit donated by the organizers of the IAMM congress held at Sholapur in 1983. Nominations for the award, duly proposed and seconded with the consent of the nominee along with consent of the nominee as a soft copy of his/her biodata should reach the IAMM Secretary's office on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The award will be conferred at the National IAMM Conference held in 2021. Nominations must come as a soft copy to be sent to Secretary IAMM by the last date.

**3. IAMM Endowment lecture award 2020:** This award is supported by the annual interest obtained from the fixed deposit, donated by the organizers of the IAMM congress held at Hyderabad in 1985. This award is given to an eminent Medical Microbiologist, over the age of 50 years from India and abroad for their outstanding work in the field of Medical Microbiology, Bacteriology, Virology, Mycology, Parasitology/Immunology/Epidemiology and Microbiological techniques. Nominations for the award, duly proposed and seconded with the consent of the nominee along with consent of the nominee as a soft copy of his/her biodata, including a write up on the contribution of the nominee to Medical Microbiology should reach the IAMM Secretary's office on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The awardee is to deliver an oration at the National IAMM Conference held in 2021. Nominations must come as a soft copy to be sent to Secretary IAMM by the last date.

**4. Dr KB Sharma Memorial Junior Best paper award 2020:** Nominations are invited for the Best paper award competition to be held at National Conference of the IAMM at Guwahati in November 2020. This award is supported by the annual interest obtained from the fixed deposit, donated by the Dr. Urmil Sharma W/o Dr. K.B. Sharma. The contestant should be a member of IAMM, less than 35 years of age as on Aug 31, 2020 (certificate showing the proof of age should be attached) and be the principle author of the paper. The same paper should not have received any other award or be published in any other award or be published in any journal and should be so certified, as a signed declaration by the contestant. The above mentioned declarations as a soft copy of the full paper complete with tables, figures, etc. (prepared according to the format of the IJMM) should reach the IAMM Secretary's office on or before July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The selected candidate will receive the citation and a gold medal at the valedictory function of the IAMM Conference Guwahati in November 2020. Nominations must come as a soft copy to be sent to Secretary IAMM by the last date.

**5. Prof AN Chakrabarty memorial Prize for the best published paper in Mycobacteriology 2020 :**

Any member, who has published a paper in the field of Mycobacteriology during the preceding year i.e. 2019, in any National/ International journal will be eligible to submit paper for the award. The paper should not have received any other award and a

declaration to that effect should be submitted while applying for the award. The above mentioned declarations and soft copies of the full paper should reach the IAMM Secretary's office on or before July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The awardee will receive the award at the valedictory function of the IAMM Conference at Guwahati in November 2020.

**6. Prizes for the best papers during the IAMM Conference 2020**

(total six categories listed below):

The following six prizes are given during the National Conference of the IAMM in Various categories:

1. NAWOPIA Dr. Pankajlaxmi V Venugopal Prize for the Best paper in Mycology.
2. Dr. SR Sengupta- Dr. AM Saoji memorial prize for the best paper in Immunology.
3. Dr. SS Kelkar Memorial prize for the best poster (any subject in Medical Microbiology).
4. IAMM silver Jubilee Prize for Best Paper in Parasitology.
5. Mumbai-Belgaum Prize for the best poster in Medical Mycobacteriology.
6. Belgaum-Mumbai Prize for the best paper in Bacteriology
7. I. D. Aggarwal-Broor Prize for the Best paper in Virology

Nominations are invited for the above said prizes. Any IAMM member is eligible to contest for these awards. Abstracts for the award papers from interested members must be submitted to the IAMM Secretary's office in a soft copy and also to the Organising Secretary. These will be subjected to peer review and only selected abstracts will be allowed to be presented as a paper at the respective oral/ poster sessions. The best paper amongst those will be adjudged the best paper by the panel of judges. The authors of an abstract must express their interest in a particular category while submitting the abstract. All the awards will be presented at the valedictory function of the IAMM Conference MICROCON 2020 to be held at Guwahati in November, 2020.

The Top Ten papers received for MICROCON will also be included for the Awards in the above mentioned subjects.

**7. IAMM Mérieux Award 2020:**

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major public health issue worldwide. In order to provide an incentive for promising young investigators working in the field of AMR, Institut Mérieux has decided to institute a special Mérieux Award in partnership with IAMM in announcing, selecting and giving the Award at IAMM annual conference. The value of the award is approximately Euro 10,000, paid in equivalent Indian Rupees.

Selection criteria for the Mérieux Award is: Investigators identified through IAMM and Serving in a hospital or in a relevant research institution on a full time basis as infectious diseases clinician, clinical or molecular microbiologist or epidemiologist, with less than 10 years of either clinical practice experience or < 10 year of working experience in microbiology after their M.D / Ph.D. and who are involved and have made significant contribution in AMR research and/or patient management with a national impact.

The applications received for the said award will be assessed by the jury and 2 or 3 suitable applications will be forwarded to the scientific board of the Institut Merieux with their recommendations for the selection of the laureate. Institut Merieux will notify the association the name of the laureate, then the association will organize an award ceremony during its annual congress. In order to receive the award money, the institution (university, hospital...) hosting the laureate should engage an agreement with Institut Merieux. The award money will be transferred only to the hosting institution of the laureate, and the institution will hold responsibility for proper utilization of the fund for research by the laureate. All interested applications should reach the IAMM Secretary's Office in hard and soft copies both on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2020.



## Proceedings of 43<sup>rd</sup> National Conference held at Mumbai- MICROCON 2019



**Dr. Gita Nataraj,**  
Organizing Secretary



**Dr. Sujata Baveja,**  
Organizing Secretary

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, MICROCON 2019, held at Nehru Centre, Mumbai was completed successfully. Hosted by the Departments of Microbiology at Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and General Hospital and Seth G.S Medical College and K.E.M Hospital, the event was well appreciated for its hospitality and scientific content. With a dedicated and motivated team of the organizing committee and those who supported us at the back end, the planning and implementation went without a hitch.

The inaugural function was held on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> November and was well attended. It was heartening and humbling to see many of the past presidents and stalwarts in medical microbiology attend this event and the conference thereafter including the doyen, legendary Professor, Padmashri awardee, Prof. Dr. Shriniwas. Dr. Sunil Gupta (Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital) and Dr. R. N. Bharmal, Director, Medical Education and major Hospitals, M.C.G.M were the chief guest and guest of honour respectively. A souvenir was released at this event and so was the revised Directory of IAMM members (supported by Biomerieux).

The theme of the conference was “Newer Diagnostics, Emerging Diseases and Preparedness”. Dr. B. L. Sherwal delivered the presidential oration on the much needed antimicrobial resistance delimiting actions and the session was chaired by Dr. Tapan Dhole. The IAMM symposium was coordinated by Dr. Arunaloke Chakrabarti. Dr. A Chakrabarti, Dr. Sanjay Bhattacharya, Dr. Pallab Ray and Dr. Camilla Rodrigues spoke on difference aspects of “Biologics – it's effects on infectious diseases”. This new concept was the right way to ignite many a standstill mind and paved the way for many similar ones to follow. The IAMM student symposium on “Plasmids to WGS- a journey complete” was coordinated by Dr. Tapan Dhole. Neglected diseases such as leprosy and listeriosis, diseases under one health, antimicrobial - resistance, surveillance and stewardship, multiple clinical sessions (diagnostic stewardship and discordance, infections in the critically ill, antimicrobial must knows , challenging infections), a paradigm shift in detection, the ever enigmatic Biomedical Waste Management, vaccines and the various keynote addresses were well received and highly appreciated. Sessions on clinico-microbiological correlation

spearheaded by microbiologists and clinicians in tandem was considered a welcome addition and received a big thumbs up.

With over 850 participants in the conference and over 600 in the pre-conference CMEs and Workshops (6 parallel CMEs and 10 parallel workshops with restricted number of participation) held at seven institutions in Mumbai including private health care establishments, and one in Navi Mumbai, the events had delegates participating from all over India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. We appreciate the immense support we received from one and all, including Dr. B. L. Sherwal, Dr. Satish Patil and Dr. V. Ravi, who helped us fine tune the plan. We are grateful to the support extended by the medical microbiology community of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai both from public and private institutions. We are also grateful to the national and international faculty at the conference, who with their expertise and experience made the event as good as it turned out to be, leaving many budding postgraduates inspired and motivated. There were a total of 419 abstracts in the oral and poster sections. In addition to the IAMM awards in Clinical Bacteriology, Immunology, Parasitology and Mycology in oral category, and Mycobacteriology and overall in poster category, awards were also instituted by the organizing committee in all the categories (some having to be clubbed because of the lower numbers received) for both oral and poster presentations. The organizing committee ensured that every paper whether oral / poster was adjudicated within an acceptable time frame.

We are thankful to BioMerieux India (platinum sponsors), BD India (Gold sponsors), and WHO India, and various other exhibitors at the conference for supporting the conference wholeheartedly and ICMR and MUHS whose support also helped us immensely. During the conference, Abbot introduced the more sensitive rapid diagnostic test for HBsAg. CIM Global was the event manager for this conference and the pre-conference activities and OLA cabs were our travel partners and we are thankful to them. We are also thankful to the administration of Nehru Exhibition Centre for making the facility available.

Mahatma Gandhi has said “Infinite striving to be the best is man's duty; it is its own reward. Everything else is in God's hands.”

The organizing committee put in it's best efforts to host this conference. For the faculty and delegates alike, we hope and pray it has been an enriching and satisfying experience.

**Dr. Gita Nataraj**

**Dr. Sujata Baveja**

**Organizing Secretaries, MICROCON 2019**



## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD AT NEHRU CENTRE, MUMBAI, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. B. L. SHERWAL, ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2019

The President, Dr B. L. Sherwal called the GB meeting in order and chaired the meeting. The Secretary, Prof Dr S. R. Patil conducted the meeting. President informed that two members of our association namely Dr. B. N. Joshi and Dr. Kenneth John have passed away in the last year, and he requested the members to observe silence of one minute in remembrance of the departed souls. After the condolence, meeting was adjourned and after five minutes the members reassembled again to discuss the G.B. meeting agenda circulated to the members in Oct 2019 Newsletter.

### **AGENDA 1: Welcoming the new EC Members/ bid adieu to departing EC members:**

The Secretary informed the house that Dr. Rakesh Maheshwari, (SMS MC, Jaipur), Dr. Vikas Manchanda, (MAMC, New Delhi), Dr. Shripad Taklikar, (LTMMC & GH, Mumbai), Dr. Sanjay Biswas, (TMH, Mumbai), Dr. Poonam Sood Loomba, (GBPH, New Delhi) and Dr. Sheela Devi. C, (PIMS, Pondicherry) were elected as new EC Members in IAMM and their term is upto the year 2022. IAMM appreciates the contribution of the Treasurer Dr. Bharati Malhotra and Chief Editor Dr. V. Balaji who completed their terms this year. They have served the association with their experiences and sincerity. IAMM whole heartedly thanked them.

### **AGENDA 2: To confirm GB meeting minutes held at NIMHANS, Bengaluru:**

The minutes of GB meeting held at NIMHANS Convention Centre, Bengaluru on 30 November, 2019 were circulated to members through January 2019 IAMM Newsletter. The minutes were passed by EC meeting held at MICROCON-2019 at Mumbai on 29 November, 2019. The General Body also confirmed it. The motion was proposed by Dr Nilesh Patel and seconded by Dr. Manoj Kumar.

### **AGENDA 3: Action taken on the minutes of the GB meeting:**

**a) AMR Surveillance in India and the role of IAMM-** It was elaborated in detail in Presidential Oration. It was proposed to upload the Presidential Oration on IAMM and SAM website and Jingle audio to be played in Microcon sessions.

**b) PG Assembly for Clinical Microbiology and Webinar under the banner of IAMM-** One webinar on Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in Indian Hospitals was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> June from 2 pm - 3.30 pm and the second webinar entitled 'Antibiotic Stewardship & Sepsis: A Balancing Act' were broadcast on World Sepsis Day i.e. 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2019. Work of moderators and panelists of both webinars was appreciated by house. For the first time since its inception, PG Assembly was conducted this year in four different cities of India to ensure wider reach and coverage. A total of 110 MD Microbiology students benefitted from the program which was conducted in 4 different cities in India in the month of August 2019. IAMM appreciated the co-coordinators of PG assembly and moderator Dr Wattal for their outstanding work.

**c) Virology Paper Award:** Dr Shobha Broor, will donate Rs 3 lakh to IAMM and award will be instituted after completion of formalities. Money to be transferred by her next month. Award will be given in 2020 for money deposited in 2019 after incurring one year interest.

**d) Donation for court case:** Rs one lakh each were received from IAMM Odisha Chapter and IAMM Guwahati Chapter. Delhi Chapter proposed to donate rupees one lakh to treasurer. The EC members requested Delhi Chapter to give two lakhs more for this noble cause.

### **AGENDA 4: Secretary's Annual report— Dr. Satish R Patil:**

The house ratified the Secretary Annual Report read out by Dr Satish Patil at the Inauguration function of the IAMM Conference (MICROCON 2019) on 29 Nov., 2019. The motion was proposed by Dr Balaji and seconded by Dr Vikas Manchanda.

### **AGENDA 5: Editor's report and statement of accounts- Dr V. Balaji:**

• Dr V. Balaji read out the Editors Report and also declared the best paper in Bacteriology and Virology in IJMM2018. Dr Balaji kept some issues in front of house about the Publication house:

- Real time updating (e pub ahead of print) not taking place. As this is not mentioned in MOU, the publisher is asking for extra payment.
- Website is complicated as the articles are not available on PubMed for free download.
- Publication house is neglecting IJMM as it caters to more than 70 journals. The dealing hand frequently changes leading to lack of consistency.
- There is no updation of posted/dispached journals by the office.
- Dr Balaji informed the house that an amount of rupees five lakhs is to be returned by the journal as royalty but the amount is being claimed as charges for publishing and dispatching charges for journals. An amount of Rs. 2.8 lakh is being claimed back by the publisher. Also, the amount is being claimed in 26AS of IAMM. The same amount is being offset as payment and no actual payment is being received by IAMM. This creates GST problems for the CA.

### **Dr Chand Wattal, due to take over as Chief Editor, informed the members:**

- The publisher has not published two issues of IAMM. The MOU with the journal will expire in October 2020. However, as per MOU it can be terminated if the publisher fails to publish issues under the grievance clause upon 120 days of notice. However, this will entail the payment of pending dues.
- The members felt that the publisher must be changed and alternatives explored. Elsevier and Springer have been shortlisted as alternatives to Medknow. Dr Wattal will discuss the modalities and new MOU with them. A 2-3-member committee can be formed with members and the modalities can be discussed with the Elsevier/Springer.
- Dr Arunaloke Chakrabarti suggested the new MOU must be tripartite incorporating IAMM, IJMM and publisher. The Association must generate advertisement and collect revenues from them for running the journal.
- It is important to assess the GST liabilities and archive all material from Medknow before changing them as publisher. There may be consequences of shifting the publication house which the association must be ready to bear. All members ensured full support to Dr Wattal in this matter. Also, it was felt that a huge cost is incurred in publishing hard copies, draining the resources of IJMM. Henceforth only 10% copies may be printed with a subscription charge or with pay and download options. Rest should be made available in e copy format. Download can be made free of cost only to members. An OTP/password can be utilized for this purpose.
- GB approved change of publication house.
- GB approved Dr Wattal for taking care of formalities.
- The house appreciated Dr V Balaji for successful completion of its term with extension.



The Editor's Report was accepted by the house. The motion was proposed by Dr R D Kulkarni and seconded by Dr V Ravi.

**AGENDA 6: Presentation of annual statement of accounts by Treasurer - Dr. Bharti Malhotra:**

Dr Bharti Malhotra, Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report and statement of accounts. The house accepted the Treasurer's Report. The treasurer report was proposed by Dr. C.S. Patil and seconded by Dr. D. Raghunath.

The house appreciated Dr Bharti Malhotra for successful completion of her term as treasurer inspite of her very busy schedule.

**AGENDA 7: Report of IAMM EQAS programme by coordinators:** Dr V. Balaji, Dr Rajesh Kannangai and Dr Chand Wattal presented the EQAS reports of south and north India EQAS centers respectively. South centre coordinators informed that EQAS is smoothly going on at their centre. Dr Wattal, coordinator North centre requested IAMM for funds to purchase lyophilizer for south centre. The request was granted. The motion was proposed by Dr Renu Bharadwaj and seconded by Dr. Baijayantimala Mishra.

**AGENDA 8: Selection of topics for IAMM Symposium and Student Symposium for 44<sup>th</sup> IAMM Conference:**

GB discussed various topics for IAMM Symposium and Student Symposium and approved the following topics:

For the IAMM Symposium- "Climate change and Infectious Diseases", will be moderated by Dr Vikas Manchanda. For Student Symposium "Parasitology & Tropical Diseases" was selected and Dr RD Kulkarni accepted to moderate the student symposium. It was decided to have name of IAMM Symposium to be retained as earlier.

**AGENDA 9: Announcement of venue for 44th IAMM Conference:**

As per the request for venue of 44th MICROCON-2020 from Department of Microbiology, Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati, and approval in EC, it was declared that the 44<sup>th</sup> IAMM conference will be held at Department of Microbiology, Guwahati Medical College, Guwahati, MICROCON 2020. Website of MICROCON-2020 was launched. By popular demand and votes the venues of MICROCON-2021 was proposed at Bhubaneswar and MICROCON – 2022 at Lucknow, the organizers have to ratify the same in 44<sup>th</sup> MICROCON G.B. meeting.

Dr Ravi & Dr Arunaloke emphasized that the Organizing Committees of Microcon conferences should not change the timings of conduction of IAMM activities. This should be followed strictly by the organizers of upcoming MICROCONS and Secretary and President must look into this seriously.

**AGENDA 10: Decision of various awards for 2019:** The awards for the year 2019 were announced as per the recommendations received from the Award Committees for the various awards:

- Dr S C Agarwal Oration Award – not awarded
- Dr H I Jhala Memorial Award – Dr V L Jahagirdar
- IAMM Endowment Oration Award – Dr K N Prasad
- Dr U C Chaturvedi Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr S Badrinath

**AGENDA 11: Election of Office Bearer:** GB approved the election of new office bearer, as recommended by Executive Committee:

PRESIDENT IAMM 2019-2020 – **Dr Pallab Ray**

TREASURER 2019-2022 – **Dr Manoj Kumar**

CHIEF EDITOR IJMM 2019-22 – **Dr Chand Wattal**

**AGENDA 12: Any other matter with permission of chair: Application for IAMM Special Awards – Secretary pointed**

out that the applications for special awards have earlier been sent as hard copies to Secretary's Office. In future, instead of 5 hard copies to be sent to Secretary's Office, only soft copy (scanned copy of signed application) will be sent to Secretary. House agreed for the same. The motion was proposed by Dr Renu Bhardwaj, and seconded by Dr Sonal Saxena.

**Chapter secretaries meeting with EC in MICROCON:**

Secretaries of state Chapters should have a meeting in MICROCON to inculcate a sense of ownership. The idea was welcomed by house but no TA/DA would be provided.

**Request organizers to reduce delegate fee to PG student / or add one CME as complimentary -** Some members voiced concern over high registration fees. Organizers of Microcon 2020 were requested to keep fees less or offer some discount/complimentary CME with registration to PGs.

**Application of IAMM North East Chapter:** Dr Supriya from JNIMS Imphal, Manipur submitted request for creation of IAMM North East Chapter. The request was unanimously granted by the house.

The GB Members placed on record the excellent services rendered by the President of IAMM, Dr B.L.Sherwal, Dr Bharati Malhotra, Treasurer and Dr V Balaji, Editor, IJMM.

**The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.**

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

## IAMM AWARDEES 2019/2020

**Dr. UC Chaturvedi Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Dr S Badrinath

**Dr S C Agarwal Award**

- Not Awarded

**IAMM Endowment Award-**

- Dr K N Prasad

**Dr. H.I. Jhala Memorial Award**

- Dr V L Jahagirdar

**Dr KB Sharma Memorial Junior Best Paper**

- Not Awarded

**Prof. AN Chakrabarty Memorial Prize for the best published paper in Mycobacteriology**

- Not Awarded

**IAMM Silver Jubilee Award for best paper in Parasitology**

- Suranjana Chaliha Hazarika

**Belgaum-Mumbai prize for best paper in Bacteriology**

- Lydia Jennifer

**Dr. S.R. Sengupta - Dr. A.M. Saoji Memorial Prize for best paper in Immunology**

- Dr Nirjhar Chatterjee

**Nawopia Pankajalaxmi V Venugopal prize for best paper in Mycology**

- Dr Rakesh Singh

**Mumbai - Belgaum prize for best poster in Medical Mycobacteriology**

- Dr Sivasankar Das

**Dr. S.S. Kelkar Memorial Prize for best poster (Any subject in Medical Microbiology)**

- Dr Amala Arumugam

**IAMM Merieux Award**

- Not Awarded

**Best Paper Published in IJMM Virology**

- L S Singh *et al.*

**Best Paper Published in IJMM Bacteriology**

- Sheila Chetri *et al.*

## IAMM STATE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## IAMM Odisha Chapter

**Workshop on antimicrobial stewardship programme (AMSP) on 28.9.19 and 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference on 29.9.19 under the aegis of IAMM (Odisha Chapter) 2019.** A workshop on antimicrobial stewardship programme (AMSP) and 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference with the theme: Preventing antimicrobial resistance : a step towards preserving antimicrobials for the future, under the aegis of IAMM (Odisha Chapter) 2019 was inaugurated in the presence of *Dr B L Sherwal* President IAMM , *Dr Pritilata Panda* , *Dr Bimoch Projna Paty*, *Dr Suneeta Sahu* and *Dr Rani Sahu*, President , Secretary organising secretary and joint organising secretary respectively of IAMM ( Odisha Chapter). The AMSP workshop was attended by 78 participants and the registered delegates for the conference were 122.

*Prof Gita Satpathy* gave a guest lecture on “*Role of Antimicrobial Stewardship in combating antimicrobial resistance: An introduction*”. The workshop programme was kept as case based discussion. *Prof Baijayantimala Mishra*, HOD Microbiology AIIMS BBSR, stressed on the “*Importance of AMSP*”, *Dr Sumit Rai* Assoc Prof, Microbiology & Infectious diseases, SSPH & PG teaching institute ,Noida gave a lucid presentation on “*Application of CLSI guidelines in AST reports*”. The workshop had clinicians discussing some difficult cases like *Moraxella catarhalis* in ET secretion by *Dr Sharmili Sinha*, Sr Consultant Critical Care, Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar(AHB). Treating oncology patients and reporting their culture and AST has always been a challenge and *Dr Chinmaya Pani*, Sr Consultant, Oncology, AHB explained “*febrile neutropenia*” cases and made the discussion very interesting. Surgical patients also have their own antibiotic policies to be followed as per international, national guidelines and local policies which was agreed upon by the participants when *Dr Ambika Prasad Dash*, Sr Surgeon, AHB, explained on “*Antibiotic policy in surgical ICU*”. *Dr Pragyan Routray*, Consultant Critical Care, CARE Hospital, BBSR compared procalcitonin and CRP while presenting on “*use of biomarkers in deciding antibiotics*”. “*Microbiology challenges*” sometimes poses dilemma for the urologists and *Dr Samiran Das Adhikary* Sr Consultant Urology, AHB, accounted for the same with video presentation of the urology procedures. *Dr Bhaskar Narayan Chaudhuri*, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, Peerless and Fortis Hospitals, Kolkata , explained a very important topic of “*De-escalation of antibiotics*”, and the workshop was summed up by *Dr Samir Sahu*, Critical Care & Pulmonology, AMRI Hospitals, BBSR as to “*how AMSP can be implemented*”.

The next day saw the main conference where *Dr Camila Rodrigues*, Consultant, P D Hinduja, Mumbai, gave the prestigious Dr Bikram Das oration on the topic “*In the era of MDR and XDR pathogens: what can we do to prevent and manage these bugs*”. Anaerobes have always been a neglected topic and *Dr Rakhi Biswas* Associate Prof Microbiology, JIPMER Puducherry presented “*drug resistance in anaerobes*”. *Dr V Ramsubramanian*, Consultant infectious diseases & tropical medicine, Apollo Hospitals Chennai justified use of proper “*antibiotic prophylaxis in case based scenarios*”. *Dr Sumit Rai* made the participants understand PK PD of antibiotics with clinical cases as examples and *Dr Bhaskar Narayan Chaudhuri* tried to resolve clinicians dilemma by “*interpretation of antibiogram*”. *Dr Sarita Mohapatra* Asst Prof, Microbiology, AIIMS Delhi, elaborated “*present scenario of carbapenem resistance*”.

Om Award was presented to the meritorious student from different medical colleges across the state of Odisha who had secured highest marks in the subject of Microbiology. There were oral paper and poster competitions. The 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for oral presentation was won by *Dr Punyotaya Kar*, AIIMS BBSR for “*Evaluation of rapid Polymixin NP test for detection of colistin resistance in clinical isolates of Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae*” and runner up prizes were won by *Dr Rahat Jahan*, AIIMS BBSR for “*Study of prevalence of Respiratory viruses in Acute Exacerbation of COPD*” and *Dr Samir kumar Sarangi* from MKCG MCH for “*Bacteriological Profile of community acquired pneumonia (CAP) in southern Odisha with special reference to Mycoplasma pneumonia*”. Best poster was won by *Dr Prashanth P* from AIIMS BBSR for *Melioidosis: Spectrum of skin and soft tissue manifestation , a case series from Odisha* and runner up prizes were won by *Dr Bharat Patel* , VIMSAR for “*Incidence of JE amongst Acute Encephalitis Syndrome Cases in a Tertiary Care Hospital of Western Odisha*” and *Dr Jyotirmayee Panda* SCB MCH Cuttack for “*A rare case of Ocular Onchocerciasis in Odisha*”.





## IAMM Bihar Jharkhand Chapter

**Report of Bihar Jharkhand Chapter of IAMM (BJMICROCON-2019) held at IGIMS Patna, Bihar, on 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019.** “Every conference brings new horizons” and so did the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual state conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists Bihar – Jharkhand chapter, BJMICROCON – 2019. It was successfully conducted at Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sheikhpura, Patna, Bihar from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019, under the able guidance of President IAMMBJC cum Organizing Chairperson Prof (Dr) S. K. Shahi, Organizing Co-chairperson Prof (Dr) Anima Xess, Secretary IAMMBJC Prof (Dr) Manoj Kumar and Organizing Secretary Prof (Dr) Namrata Kumari, along with the whole hearted participation of team of Department of Microbiology, I.G.I.M.S Patna. The chief Guest of the conference was Prof (Dr) B. L. Sherwal, President IAMM and the guest of honour was Prof (Dr) N. R. Biswas, Director IGIMS Patna.

The theme of the conference was “Journey from Microscopy to Microarray – Need to move from strategies to action”, which was aptly chosen to increase our motivation so that the field of Microbiology may reach to its highest levels in terms of diagnostic, research and patient management. The conference was kicked start by two very useful workshops on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019. First workshop was on “Clinical Applications of Flow Cytometry in Cell Biology and Immunology,” which was coordinated by Dr Abhay Kumar, conducted by Dr Ritesh Kumar and attended by 35 participants from different institutes of Bihar and Jharkhand. Second workshop was on “Updates in TB diagnosis” which was coordinated by Dr Rakesh Kumar, conducted by Dr Rajeev Pathak, Dr Shubhada Shenai and attended by 35 participants.

Second day witnessed some serious academic deliberations which was the part of CME on “Antimicrobial Stewardship and HAI Surveillance – Leveraging the Synergy.” Dr B. L. Sherwal gave his deliberation on “Antimicrobial Stewardship: Basic Concepts and Implementation” which was followed by the talk from Dr Vikas Manchanda on “Monitoring trends and practices in infection control – simple tools to

start with.” Mr Ujjwal Chakraborty made the participants aware about the role of CSSD in a hospital set up through his talk on “CSSD – Challenges and Solutions.” The world is moving to an era which will see serious crunch of useful antibiotics due to increasing antibiotic resistance worldwide. Antibiotic stewardship is the need of this hour which was highlighted by Dr Neeraj Goel through his deliberation on “Choosing right antibiotics – Tips & Traps.” The CME was concluded by a very useful talk by Dr Chimanjita Phukan on “Outbreak Investigation – a microbiologist perspective.” The CME was supported by CDC New Delhi. There was also a guest lecture by Prof (Dr) D. K. Mitra who delivered his talk on “Immunology of Tuberculosis: Newer Insight into an Ancient Disease.

The third and last day was the day of students and researchers who presented their research papers in free Oral and Poster sessions. A total of 16 papers were presented orally and 50 papers were presented through posters. Two prizes were awarded in Oral and three prizes in poster presentations respectively. At last, a general body meeting was held which was attended by all the past and present office bearers of IAMM Bihar Jharkhand Chapter and many important decisions were taken. Darbhanga medical college Laheriasarai was chosen as the venue for BJMICROCON 2020. Throughout the Conference, the message highlighting the Antibiotic Stewardship and its importance was spread with the help of stickers and posters.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

**1) First CME ON CORONAVIRUS: CAN WE STOP THE MARCH**  
IAMM Delhi Chapter will conduct the CME on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at G B Pant hospital.

IAMM Delhi Chapter has elected new governing body.

President: Prof. Chand Wattal, SGRH

Secretary: Prof. Poonam Loomba, G B Pant Hospital

Treasurer: Prof. Vikas Manchanda, MAMC

### 2) MICROCON 2020

Department of Microbiology, Gauhati Medical College and IAMM – Guwahati Chapter will host the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists in Guwahati from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Pre Conference workshops and CMEs will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Situated on the banks of the mighty Brahmaputra, Guwahati is the gateway to the North East India and a key urban centre of India. The conference promises to showcase the best talents along with latest updates in all branches of Medical Microbiology.

Early bird discounts are now available for registrations. Early bird discounts have been extended till 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. For Registrations, log in to [www.microcon2020.com](http://www.microcon2020.com).

For any queries you can contact : +919435011302/ +919706037060

### 3) MAHAMICROCON-2020

The XXVI Maharashtra Chapter Conference of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologist will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 with a pre-conference CME and Hands-on Workshop on 11<sup>th</sup>, in BJ Government Medical College, Pune, Maharashtra. The theme of MahaMicroCon-2020 is, “**Microbiome – Friends Forever...**”. The topic for CME is, “The Role of a Clinical Microbiologist in Hospitals” and the Hand-on Workshop is on, “Surveillance and Diagnosis of Hospital Acquired Infections”. Kindly visit the website of MahaMicroCon-2020 (<http://www.xxvimahamicrocon2020.in>) for further details. Contact us on [os@xxvimahamicrocon2020.in](mailto:os@xxvimahamicrocon2020.in) or by clicking/ tapping the WhatsApp link available on the website. Kindly attend to taste the academic feast at MahaMicroCon-2020 at BJGMC, Pune!



## Report of CMCVIRROEQAS under the aegis of IAMM-2019

The EQAS program in Microbiology was started in the Christian Medical College, Vellore in the early 1993. It was in the late 2016 that a Virology EQAS under the aegis of IAMM (CMCVIRROEQAS) was started. This is an indigenous EQAS program with an objective to provide PT items in various virus related markers for both serological and molecular assays at an affordable cost. This may help in improving the quality of labs from government and private institutions and standalone labs. With the introduction of national programs for testing of viral diseases like HIV, hepatitis and dengue, there is a need for strengthening the quality of labs in our country.

The PT unit of our department caters to both virus serology (BBVS, HBV, AHS and dengue serology) and molecular (HIV-1 RNA, HBV DNA, HCV RNA and CMV DNA) panels. Each year we conduct 3 cycles for serology (4 challenges per cycle) and 2 cycles for molecular (2 challenges per cycle).

Last year (2018), we had about 646 participants for various serological panels. In this year (2019) we have 509 labs participating in BBVS, 62 for AHS, 40 for HBV and 214 for dengue, while for molecular parameter, 38 for HIV RNA, 36 for HBV DNA, 41 for HCV RNA and 21 for CMV DNA. The number of participants in each panel for both serological and molecular parameters for the year 2018 and 19 is shown in table 1a and 1 b.

**Table 1a: Number of participants in various serological panels for 2018 and 2019**

Year/Panel	2018	2019
<b>BBVS serology</b>	584	509
<b>Hepatitis B Virus serology</b>	26	40
<b>Acute Hepatitis Serology</b>	32	62
<b>Dengue serology</b>	133	214

**Table 1b: Number of participants in various Molecular panels for 2018 and 2019**

Year/Panel	2018 (M118)	2018 (M218)	2019
<b>HIV-1 RNA</b>	26	32	38
<b>HBV DNA</b>	25	27	36
<b>HCV RNA</b>	27	33	41
<b>CMV DNA</b>	16	19	21

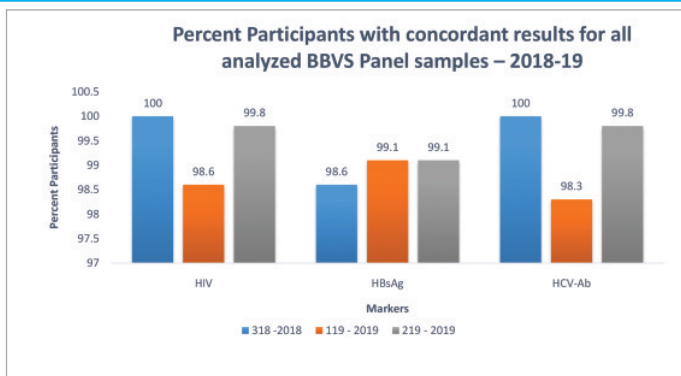
The overall percentage concordances for the serological parameter are 99.3% (BBVS), 92.5% (HBV), 96.8% (AHS) and 87.6% (dengue) for the year 2018-19 (318-2018, 119-2019 and 219-2019 surveys). For molecular parameter the same are 100% (HIV-1 RNA), 92.2% (HBV DNA), 98.5% (HCV) and 97.4% (CMV DNA) for the year 2019 (119-2019 and 219-2019 surveys).

The details of percentage concordance for each markers in the serology panels for the surveys 318, 119 and 219 for the year 2018-2019 is given below. Refer: Figure 1 (a-d) and for the molecular panels for the surveys 119 and 219 for the year 2019 is given below. Refer: Figure 2 (a-d)

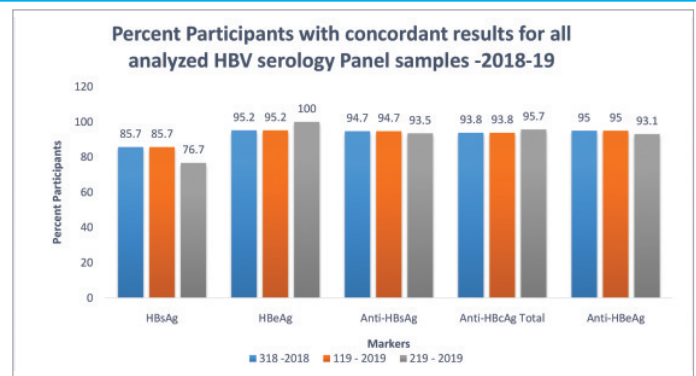
The PT unit (CMCVIRROEQAS) was accredited by the NABL (PT 1034) as per ISO 17043:2010 in March 2019.

The CMCVIRROEQAS was awarded the best PT Provider (PTP) of the country in the 3rd PT-RMP Conclave, conducted by the NABL on 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 held at ITC Kakatya, Hyderabad. This was a national level gathering of various PT Providers and Reference Material Producers (RMP) from all across India.

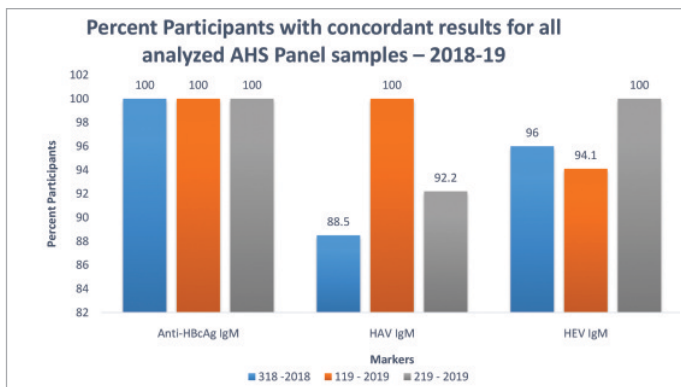




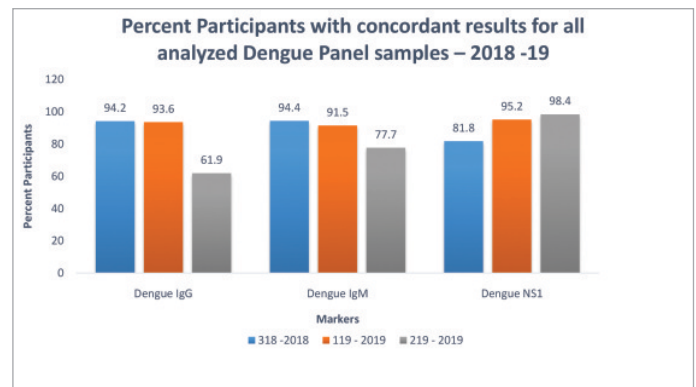
**Fig 1a: Participants with concordant results for Blood Borne Virus serology (BBVS) panel in S318, S119 and S219 surveys**



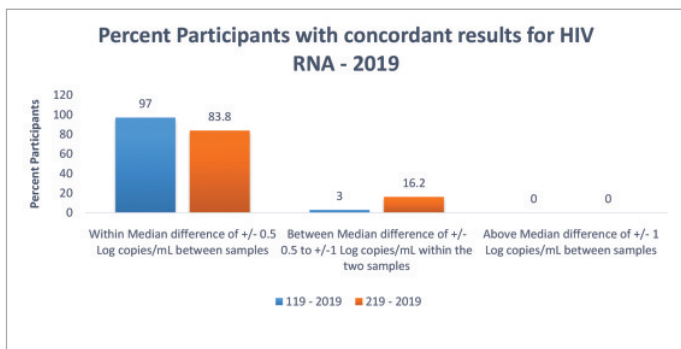
**Fig 1b: Participants with concordant results for Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) serology panel in S318, S119 and S219 surveys**



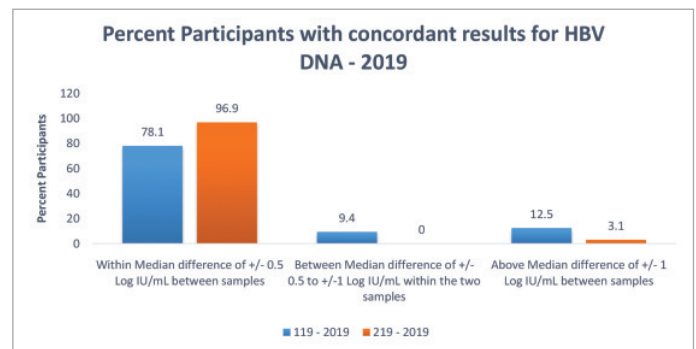
**Fig 1c: Participants with concordant results for Acute Hepatitis Serology (AHS) panel in S318, S119 and S219 surveys**



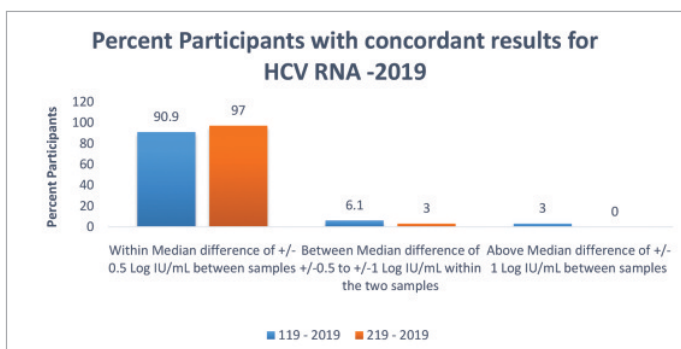
**Fig 1d: Participants with concordant results for Dengue serology panel in S318, S119 and S219 surveys**



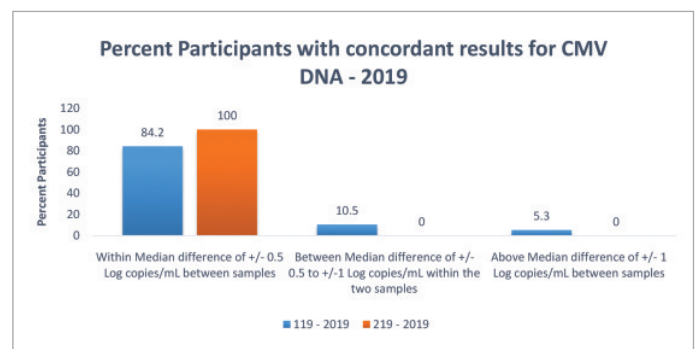
**Fig 2a: Participants with concordant results for HIV-1 RNA molecular panel in 2019**



**Fig 2b: Participants with concordant results for HBV DNA molecular panel in 2019**



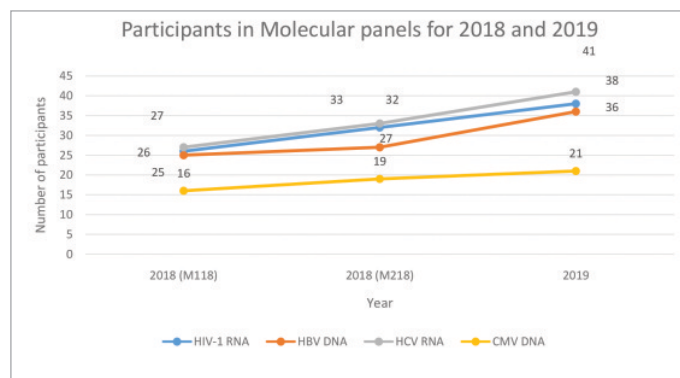
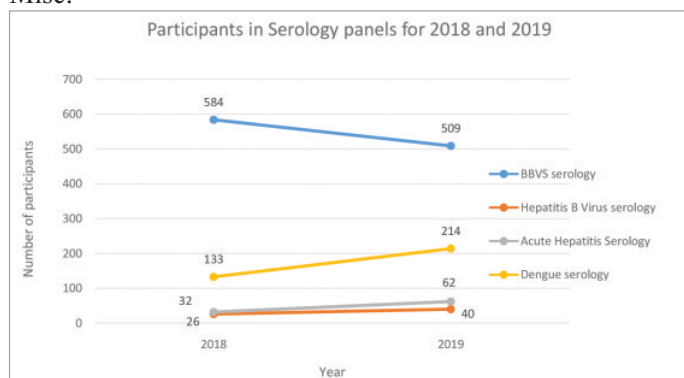
**Fig 2c: Participants with concordant results for HCV RNA molecular panel in 2019**



**Fig 2d: Participants with concordant results for CMV DNA molecular panel in 2019**



## Misc:



### BBVS panel – Percentage Concordance between surveys for various markers

Marker/Survey	HIV Ag/Ab (%)	HBsAg (%)	Anti- HCV Ab (%)
S318	100	98.6	100
S119	98.6	99.1	98.3
S218	99.8	99.1	99.8

### Dengue serology panel – Percentage Concordance between surveys for various markers

Marker/Survey	Dengue IgG (%)	Dengue IgM (%)	NS1 Ag (%)
S318	94.2	94.4	81.8
S119	93.6	91.5	95.2
S218	61.9	77.7	98.4

### Acute Hepatitis serology panel – Percentage Concordance between surveys for various markers

Marker/Survey	IgM anti HBc (%)	IgM anti-HAV (%)	IgM anti-HEV (%)
S318	100	88.5	96
S119	100	100	94.1
S218	100	92.2	100

### Hepatitis B serology panel – Percentage Concordance between surveys for various markers

Marker/Survey	HBsAg (%)	HBeAg (%)	Anti-HBs (%)	Anti-HBc (%)	Anti-HBe (%)
S318	85.7	95.2	94.7	93.8	95
S119	85.7	95.2	94.7	93.8	95
S218	76.7	100	93.5	95.7	93.1

### Overall Concordance (%)

BBVS	99.3
HBV	92.5
AHS	96.8
Dengue	87.6

The Clinical Virology department at CMC Vellore thank the IAMM for giving us this opportunity be part of improving the quality of virological tests carried out in the country

**Dr. Rajesh Kannangai,**  
IAMM EQAS, Vellore

## The Third National Proficiency Testing Providers / Reference Material Producers (PTP/RMP) Conclave

The Third National Proficiency Testing Providers / Reference Material Producers (PTP/RMP) Conclave organized by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) was held on 30-31 August 2019 at ITC, Kakatiya, Hyderabad. The conclave had seventeen presentations from Proficiency Testing Providers and Reference Material producers from across the country in different fields covering Testing, Calibration and Medical Laboratories on their individual program. All presentations and discussions were evaluated by eminent panelists of officials from different government regulatory bodies including NABL on the basis of several predetermined criteria. The Proficiency Testing Program conducted by the Department of Clinical Virology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, [CMCVIROEQAS] under the aegis of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists (IAMM) was awarded the First Prize. Currently there are 626 laboratories across the country participating in CMC PT program which started in the year 2017 and obtained accreditation by NABL in March, 2019. The program has 13 viral serological markers sent out in 3 surveys and 4 molecular markers sent out in 2 surveys every year. Next conclave will be held in Vellore as a token of appreciation to the First prize winning CMC team.

## Notification for Elections of Executive Council (EC) Members of the IAMM

The Executive Council of the IAMM has **Two** vacancies in the year 2020. As per the constitution of the IAMM, notice is hereby issued by the Secretary IAMM, inviting the nominations to these positions in EC of the IAMM. The following rules apply as per the Constitution of IAMM.

1. Members who have already served the Executive Council of the IAMM in the past are not eligible for re-election until after the lapse of two years.
2. Nominations for the memberships of Executive Council may be made by any two founder/Life members and shall be sent to Secretary's office. Such nominations must be accompanied by written undertaking from the nominee that he/she is willing to serve Executive Council. Candidates for the Executive Council membership must have been the **IAMM member for at least 5 years** continuously.
3. All nominees should send a written intimation, duly proposed and seconded by two founder/Life members as aforementioned along with a copy of their brief CV and a photograph (scanned on email as a copy. The same must be sent to as a hard copy to the Office of the Secretary. This must reach Secretary's office by March 31, 2020.
4. Nominations sent only by email or fax communication are not valid and will not be accepted.
5. Number of Vacancies to the Executive Council: 2 (Two)
6. Last date for submission of nominations: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

**Dr. S. R. Patil**  
Secretary, IAMM &  
Professor, Dept. of Microbiology, Krishna Institute of  
Medical Sciences, Karad, Dist. : Satara,  
Maharashtra - 415 539

**Here's wishing all the members a new year  
filled with happiness and prosperity,  
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!**



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

BOOK-POST

To,

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

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From,  
**Dr. S. R. Patil**,  
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Director, IQAC, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences "Deemed To Be University", Karad,  
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