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# INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

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## Executive Council of IAMM

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Dr. Neeraj Goel, (SGRH, New Delhi)

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

*“IAMM Salutes all the Covid Warriors for their untiring & relentless efforts to serve the humanity in the era of pandemic. Microbiologists too played their part and emerged as frontline soldiers in these testing times. We are proud of your dedication and service towards the nation”*

## Message from the Desk of President

Dear friends,

The year 2020 has been an exceptional year most of us will love to but can hardly forget. Mankind will be haunted forever by the deep etching memories of the sudden and devastating Covid pandemic overwhelming the resources of the health care systems, the unique and unpredictable behavior of the virus defying all astrological and scientific modelling-based predictions, the lockdowns, the panic, amplified by the infodemic, and the political and social responses discrepant to the limited evolving scientific evidence, will haunt us forever.

As of the third week of February, Covid-19 pandemic has affected nearly 113 million and killed two and half million people globally, and in India, affected more than 110 lakh and killed more than 1.5 lakh people. In the health sector, it inflicted heavy collateral damage to people with non-Covid ailments and the healthy population. The media-created pseudo-infodemic took the logic away from most of us, including the medical fraternity. Scientific evidence took back seat and we resorted to believe in and practicing anything that came our way. As a microbiologist, I am also bothered by a potentially more serious casualty, antimicrobial stewardship; almost all cases of Covid-19 have been given multiple antibiotics, mostly without indication.

On the positive front, Covid-19 taught us many scientific, social, and philosophical principles that we ignored while basking in the glory of ever-growing technological, economic, and social progresses. We learnt the value and need for behavioral changes, from handshake to 'namaste', the 'New Normal'. We learnt how to optimally utilize the technological advancements to fast track scientific knowledge during a crisis. It also taught us how to use digital technology optimally to work remotely saving resources without compromising productivity, both in profession and academics. Human interactions have become virtual, and 'cloud' has become the safest and most convenient meeting place.

We, the Members of the Executive Council, are no exception. We had virtual meetings with the Guwahati organizers of next Microcon and senior members of IAMM and unanimously resolved to postpone Microcon 2020 to 2021 on obvious logistic grounds. At the same time many members felt a void in organized academic activities and the need for discussing contemporary scientific topics relevant to the current situation. The idea of a virtual eMicrocon was conceived and I thank the Delhi Chapter of IAMM under the leadership of Dr Chand Wattal and Dr Sonal Saxena to rise to the challenge of organizing this conference in such a short notice. We didn't have time for the logistics of holding the IAMM sessions (orations, award sessions, IAMM symposia, etc) signatures of Annual Conferences and consequently eMicrocon had a standalone status (not 44th Annual Conference) with its own format based on contemporary topics. eMicrocon was a roaring success, and the credit goes to the organizers under the



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leadership of Dr Chand Wattal and Dr Sonal Saxena. There are demands from IAMM members to hold on-line CMEs more frequently on contemporary issues. 2020 is finally over. Except for few states, covid-19 pandemic is showing an overall downward trend though the possibility of further peaks cannot be totally ignored. Let's hope that, with the availability of vaccine and practice of masking and social distancing, 2021 will hold promise to restore normalcy in all spheres of life and mankind will emerge wiser to work together for a better world.

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

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

Season's greetings!!  
 Happy New Year 2021!!

On behalf of IAMM, we extend our deep thanks to you as you have worked tremendously and tirelessly as frontline worker in this time of uncertainty of COVID-19 pandemic.



At the outset we are adopted to new normal, the last year was a time of great stress and uncertainty. Due to COVID-19 pandemic our Guwahati MICROCON-2020 was postponed to this year and we hopefully are joining together for National meet (MICROCON-2021) at Guwahati. We are sorry for period of uncertainty and unavoidable circumstances our two newsletters cannot be published.

I request members to update email addresses as well request to the state chapters to update the activity reports to secretary office as they can be included in newsletter. I humble request to all to communicate the outstanding achievements of members. Best wishes !!

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

## Profile of Executive Council IAMM

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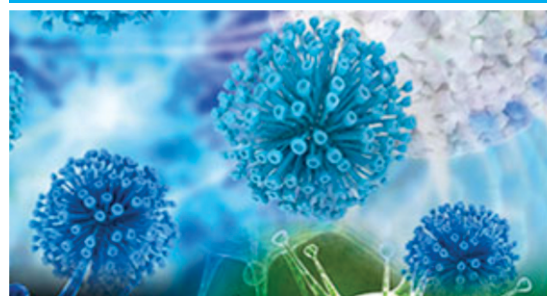


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**Report of e-Microcon**8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

8th - 11th December 2020

**e-MICROCON 2020**

*First Virtual National Congress IAMM (EMICROCON 2020)  
 being organised by the Indian Association of Medical  
 Microbiologists with the theme as  
 "Surging ahead with clinical Microbiology in  
 current challenging scenario"*



**Dr. Chand Wattal,**  
Organizing Chairman



**Dr. Sonal Saxena,**  
Organizing Secretary

*Dear Members,*

Due to the ongoing pandemic the National conference of IAMM to be held at Guwahati in 2020 was postponed for 2021. The executive committee decided to organize the conference in an online mode. This would allow the participants and members to engage in academic conversations from the safety of their homes and offices

So, the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Virtual National Conference of IAMM "**e-Microcon 2020**" was organized from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 by Executive Committee under the organizing chairmanship of Dr Chand Wattal from Sir Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi. The organizing team had Dr Sonal Saxena, as Organising Secretary, Dr Poonam Loomba and Dr Jaswinder Oberoi as Joint organizing Secretary, Dr Vikas Manchanda as Treasurer and Dr Nilesh Patel as Joint Treasurer.

The theme of the conference was '**Surging ahead with clinical microbiology in current challenging Scenario**'. The conference was a stupendous success. There were a total of 1160 registrations for conference and 579 registrations for various CMEs.

Eight preconference workshops were organized on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. These workshops were hosted by institutions given in parenthesis. The workshops were a resounding success.

- Diagnostic challenges and complication in post covid-19 infections (Sir Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi)
- Fundamentals of RTPCR (Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi)
- AMR Surveillance Tools and WHONET (Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi)
- Whole Genome Sequencing in Clinical Microbiology (Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute, Lucknow)
- Paediatric Infectious disease Grand Rounds: Case based Approach (Chacha Nehru Bal Chiksalaya, New Delhi)
- Diagnosis of Mycobacterial infections: What's new and what's to know! (SMS Medical College, Jaipur)
- Surveillance of hospital acquired infections (GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi)

- Competency Based Microbiology Education (CBME); Challenges, and Road ahead (Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgavi)

The conference began with dedicated full day session on covid on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Dr Randeep Guleria, Director AIIMS delivered the key note address. He highlighted the work done by AIIMS in this pandemic. He spoke at length about the challenges faced and process by which they were overcome.

In meet the professor session, Dr V Ravi laid stress on the challenges and future opportunities of COVID-19. This was followed by a panel discussion on diagnostics in covid. The esteemed panel included Dr Varsha Potdar from NIV, Pune, Dr Nivedita Gupta from ICMR, Dr OC Abraham from CMC Vellore and Dr Debjyoti Chakraborti from IGIB. The discussion focussed on utility of RTPCR, cartridge based nucleic acid detection assay and CRISPER test in varied situations.

In next session, Dr Gagandeep Kang spoke at length about the development of vaccines around the world. This was followed by a talk by Dr V Ravi on Basic virology of Covid-19. Last session covered the clinical challenges seen in COVID-19. This was delivered by Dr Rajiv Soman.

Second day of the conference began with debate on "**COVID-19-bane or boon for microbiologists**". Debatists Dr V. Ravi (for the motion) Dr Arunaloake Chakraborty (against the motion) spoke passionately and supported their arguments with evidence and data. The debate was extremely enjoyable and useful.

Sessions on second day included two guest lectures; one was on Chronic diarrhea in parasitology: Diagnostic Challenges by Dr Sumeeta Khurana from PGI Chnadigarh, while second was on Invasive fungal infections in hemato-oncology by Dr Jaswinder Oberoi from Sir Gangaram Hospital. This was followed by Symposium on AMR Surveillances network. Representatives of National and state level networks discussed the good practices and challenges faced by them in setting up and managing these networks. Dr Lata Kapoor and Dr Kamini Walia talked about the NCDC and ICMR networks respectively. Dr Sharda, Dr Jyoti Irvane and Dr Sonal Saxena discussed the state networks of Kerala, Maharashtra and Delhi. The symposium was moderated by Dr Anuj Sharma from WHO India office. Artificial intelligence is slowly gaining importance in the field of Microbiology. This was highlighted in the next talk by Dr. Ravikrishnan Elangovan and Professor Alex Van Belkum. Meet the professor session highlighted the importance of

MDROs. Dr V Balaji from CMC Vellore discussed at length the various antimicrobials beside colistin available to address these pathogens. Dr Dilip Nathwani from UK discussed the Education and E- Learning opportunities available for AMR. Whole genome sequencing has been a new tool in the field of microbiology. It applications in clinical Microbiology were discussed by Dr Arindham Maitra from NIBMG, West Bengal. He discussed the genomic work done at his institute on sequencing of SARSCoV2.

Third day began with student symposium moderated by Executive member, Dr B. Mishra from AIIMS, Bhubneshwar. Three students covered the most pertinent topic of practical aspects of molecular diagnostics. The students Dr Nazia Nagi (MAMC, New Delhi), Dr Anjuna Radhakrishnan (AIIMS, Bhubneshwar) and Dr Aakriti Aggarwal (SMS Jaipur) talked at length about pre and post PCR phases along with molecular technology.

Session on laboratory strengthening highlighted the work done to strengthen the labs and integrating them at peripheral levels. The panel discussion on Career options in Microbiology had speakers from private and public forums including industry was interesting and very informative to young microbiologists. It highlighted various options available in corporate sector, industry and academia for young students. This was further highlighted by Dr Dang who discussed Clinical Microbiology Laboratory as an Entrepreneurship.

The panel discussion on CLSI 2020: what we can expect in 2021 was an extremely popular event with lot of queries and questions. The talk by Dr Audrey Sanchez from USA provided a bird's eye view on the 2021 CLSI and covered topics like direct sensitivity testing, Colistin agar dilution and newer antimicrobials such as cefiderocol. Interpretation of biomarkers in fungal infections has been an important diagnostic tool in recent time. The interpretation, pitfalls in diagnosis and scope of advancement of proteomic and genomic biomarkers were discussed by two international speakers of eminence; Prof. Cornelia Lass Florl and Dr Ana Alastruey.

Infection Control Symposium entitled 'What to learn in current scenario!' brought the discussion of infection control activities and problem faced in current times. The audience had many issues related to these activities and their impact in future. Dr Ujjala Ghoshal from SGPGI, Lucknow talked about POCT in parasitology while Dr Ashwini Khanna discussed the changes in the TB elimination program.

The last plenary session saw stalwarts like Dr N K Ganguly and Dr Swarap Sarkar discussing India's response in pandemic management. The panel appreciated the efforts of ICMR, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and NCDC in this pandemic.

In addition to the sessions being attended by registered delegates it was watched avidly on you tube and gathered more than 1200 views on each day. The links for sessions are being made available on IAMM website.

On all three days four parallel session were hosted for oral papers in various categories like covid-19, antimicrobial sensitivity, infection

control etc. A total of 124 oral papers were presented.

On all days poster presentations were uploaded online in the poster walk area. These were posters as well as recorded voice over powerpoints. These could be accessed at all times. 282 posters were presented in e-microcon. The posters and live oral presentations were evaluated and award certificates were given.

The Organizing Committee provided free registrations for senior IAMM members, faculty and Executive members. More than 100 faculty as experts, microbiologists and clinicians from India and abroad participated in the conference. Time management was utmost priority in this conference. All the speakers completed the sessions within the time-frame provided.

The conference was held in most eco-friendly manner. The souvenir book was uploaded on conference website as e-souvenir. It contained abstracts and synopsis of talks and workshops. All certificates were given electronically by mail. The conference received many praises and compliments and could act as an inspiration to other organisations who want to host electronic conferences in the "new normal" future.

#### List of awardees for poster/e-video session:

1. Jaya Lakshmi S S, CMC, Vellore
2. Chayan Sharma, PGIMER, Chandigarh
3. Abhishek Yadav, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
4. Bhavna, AIIMS, New Delhi
5. Apurva Rutela, RML Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow
6. Abhila Parashar, JNMC, Ajmer
7. Akshatha Ravindra, JIPMER, Puducherry
8. Tuhina Banerjee, BHU, Varanasi
9. Nazia Nagi, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
10. Prashanth Purushotham, AIIMS Bhubneshwar

#### List of awardees of oral session

1. Palak Pumma, Maulana Azad Medical College New Delhi
2. Syed Touseef Banu, Osmania Hospital, Hyderabad
3. R Packia Nancy, Institute of higher education and research, Chennai.
4. Sarwankar Ashvika, Government Medical College, Surat, Gujarat
5. Fathima Shereen C, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi
6. Singh Shweta, BHU, Varanasi
7. Bindu Madhavi R, Government Medical College, New Civil Hospital, Surat, Gujarat
8. Rudraprasad Dhanwini, LV. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad
9. Saloni Garg, ABVIMS & Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi
10. Deepti Jaiswar, King George's Medical University, Lucknow
11. Lalit Kishore Ahirwar, L V Prasad Eye Institute, KAR Campus, Hyderabad

AIIMS : COVID-19 Key Challenges

- Protection of healthcare workers
- Motivation of healthcare workers
- Immediate increase of Intensive care beds
- Training on COVID-19 related protocols
- Mentoring & Capacity building of other institutions across the country
- Generation of awareness on COVID appropriate behaviour among staff and public

29:19 / 55:09



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF IAMM AWARDS & PRIZES 2021

(Last date of receipt of all nominations July 31, 2021)

**1. Dr SC Agarwal Oration 2021:** 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 2021. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The awardee is to deliver an oration at the National IAMM Conference held in 2022. Nominations must come as a soft copy to be sent to Secretary IAMM by the last date.

**2. Dr. H. I. Jhala Memorial award 2021:** 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 2021. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The award will be conferred at the National IAMM Conference held in 2022. Nominations must come as a soft copy to be sent to Secretary IAMM by the last date.

**3. IAMM Endowment lecture award 2021:** 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 2021. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The awardee is to deliver an oration at the National IAMM Conference held in 2022. 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 2021:** 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, 2021 (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>, 2021. 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 2021. Nominations must come as a soft copy to be sent to Secretary IAMM by the last date.

**5. Prof AN Chakrabarthy memorial Prize for the best published paper in Mycobacteriology 2021 :**

Any member, who has published a paper in the field of Mycobateriology during the preceding year i.e. 2020, 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>, 2021. 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 2021.

**6. Prizes for the best papers during the IAMM Conference 2021**

(total seven 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 2021 to be held at Guwahati in November, 2021.

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

**7. IAMM Mérieux Award 2021:**

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, 2021.

**MINUTES OF EMERGENT VIDEO CONFERENCING MEETING HELD ON 21-5-2020**

In view of COVID-19, the emergency video conferencing meeting was held on 21-05- 2020 with Executive Members and past Presidents. Dr Pallab Ray, President IAMM, chaired the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting was:

**AGENDA 1: Microcon 2020:**

Microcon 2020 has been scheduled at Guwahati, Assam, but in view of COVID-19, gathering of IAMM members will be difficult. Dr Arunaloke Chakrabarti expressed his view that all international and national conferences are getting cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic. He suggested this year 2020 should be deleted from all such type of gatherings. So, Microcon 2020 should also be postponed to year 2021.

Dr V Ravi, Dr C S Patil and Dr Sherwal expressed similar views.

The organizers of Microcon 2020 elaborated on their preparedness of Microcon 2020. They were of the same opinion of difficulty in conducting National Conference in the Year 2020. They agreed to organize the National Conference of IAMM in year 2021.

The Members agreed with their request of conducting Microcon 2021 at Guwahati.

Dr Arunaloke suggested that the same President and EC members should continue for year 2021. There would not be new President elect for 2021 and present EC will work, deleting year 2020. This was seconded by Dr V. Ravi.

As it was approved in General Body meeting in Mumbai that Microcon 2021 and Microcon 2022 would be held at Bhubaneswar and Lucknow respectively, the responsibility and acceptance for conducting the Microcon one year later should be taken approval from those organizers, it was resolved that Dr Satish R Patil, Secretary IAMM, will communicate with them and ask about their willingness to conduct Microcon 2022 and 2023 respectively.

**AGENDA 2: Issues about IJMM:**

The Editor, IJMM has written many mails about existing crisis and financial difficulties in publishing of IJMM

1. Revision of APCs
2. Salary of secretarial assistant for IJMM
3. Mode of payment of royalty options as below
4. Payment of 8-10 lakhs debt to the publisher WK in 2020 as and when the bill is raised by them.

These issues were discussed at length. Dr V Ravi, Dr C S Patil and Dr Arunaloke guided and shared their views. Dr B L Sherwal also expressed his views to have sustainability

and independency to run the journal. It was expressed that journal should have autonomy and IAMM should take lead to help IJMM out of the current crisis.

After elaborate discussion it was resolved to transfer Rs 10 lakh funds to IJMM from IAMM accounts. The Editor, Dr Chand Wattal will keep audited records of the same account. He also assured that he will be in a position to self-sustain the journal after Jan 2021 journal issue, once he clears all existing liabilities/ issues with present publisher and change the publisher.

**AGENDA 3: Any other matter with permission of the chair.**

**A) Election of EC members:** There were two vacancies announced in EC. And for the same the Secretary received two applications. So, they were elected unopposed.

1. **Dr Shivendra Kumar Shahi**, Professor & Head, Department of Microbiology, IGIMS, Patna-800014 (Bihar)
2. **Dr Neeraj Goel**, Sr. Consultant, Department of Clinical Microbiology & Immunology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi.

**ACTION TAKEN FOR SAME:**

1. **MICROCON 2020** – MICRCON 2020 has been cancelled and MICRCON 2021 will be organised at Guwahati, the organisers have consented for the same.

For MICROCON 2022 and MICROCON 2023, the previous organisers from Bhubaneswar and Lucknow were communicated by secretary and they agreed for the same.

MICROCON 2021 – Guwahati MICROCON 2022 – Bhubaneswar MICROCON 2023 -- Lucknow

2. Letter was sent to Dr Bharati Malhotra to transfer Rs. 10,00,000 (Rs. ten lakhs only) to IJMM account and the formalities done.

**The above minutes will be ratified in General Body meeting during the next MICROCON**

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

**IAMM AWARDEES 2019/2020**

Due to COVID-19 emergency Microcon 2020 has been cancelled. IAMM Awardees to be awarded in 2021 Microcon.

**Dr. UC Chaturvedi Lifetime Achievement Award**  
- Dr S Badrinath

**IAMM Endowment Award-**  
- Dr K N Prasad

**Dr. H.I. Jhala Memorial Award**  
- Dr V L Jahagirdar

**IAMMEQAS New Delhi Centre**  
**ANALYSIS OF DISTRIBUTION (March 2020 – July 2020) (SMEAR)**

QC No. 23 (March, 2020)	Description (Smear)	CONTENTS	Lab (%) Giving No. Correct Result
(1.1)	<b>Pus Sample – Gram Stain</b>	Moderate number of PMN cells seen, Many GNB seen. Wound infection by Gram negative bacilli.	Correct-68.61% Partially Correct-31.39%
(1.2)	<b>Urine Sample – Gram Stain</b>	Moderate number of PMN cells seen. Many GNB (2) (>1 GNB/ OIF) seen (1). Significant bacteriuria, suggestive of Urinary tract infection	Correct-27.74% Partially Correct-72.74% Not Correct-0.19%
(1.3)	<b>Pleural Fluid Sample - Gram Stain</b>	Moderate number of PMN cells seen. Many GPCs (2) in pairs (1) resembling Streptococcus pneumoniae seen. Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae.	Correct-64.66% Partially Correct-34.59% Not Correct-0.75%
QC No. 24 (July, 2020)	Description (Smear)	CONTENTS	Lab (%) Giving No. Correct Result
(1.1)	<b>ET Sample – Gram Stain</b>	Moderate number of PMN cells seen. Many GNCBs seen. Suggestive of <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> .	Correct-65.45% Partially Correct-31.67% Not Correct-2.88%
(1.2)	<b>Peritoneal Fluid Sample - Gram Stain</b>	Few numbers of PMN cells & scanty lymphocytes seen. Many Budding yeast cells with pseudohyphae seen. Suggestive of Candida peritonitis.	Correct-89.50% Partially Correct-9.95% Not Correct-0.55%
(1.3)	<b>Stool Sample – Kinyoun Stain</b>	Many acid fast (1) Oocysts seen. Suggestive of diarrhoea due to <i>Cryptosporidium</i> .	Correct-62.06% Partially Correct-36.83% Not Correct-1.11%

**IAMMEQAS New Delhi Centre**  
**ANALYSIS OF DISTRIBUTION (March 2020 – July 2020) (SEROLOGY & BBV)**

QC No. 23 (March, 2020)	Description (Serology&BBV)	CONTENTS	Lab (%) Giving No. Correct Result
(3.1.1)	CRP	POSITIVE	Correct- 97.28% Not Correct- 2.72%
(3.1.2)	Dengue - IgM	NEGATIVE	Correct- 98.35% Not Correct- 1.65%
(3.2.1)	HBsAg HCV HIV	NEGATIVE POSITIVE NEGATIVE	Correct- 96.81% Partially Correct- 3.19%
(3.2.2)	HBsAg HCV HIV	NEGATIVE NEGATIVE NEGATIVE	Correct- 97.37% Partially Correct-2.63 %
QC No. 24 (July, 2020)	Description (Serology&BBV)	CONTENTS	Lab (%) Giving No. Correct Result
(3.1.1)	RPR	NOT EVALUATED	NOT EVALUATED
(3.1.2)	RA factor	NEGATIVE	Correct- 98.30% Not Correct- 1.70%
(3.2.1)	HBsAg HCV HIV	POSITIVE NEGATIVE NEGATIVE	Correct- 98.78% Not Correct- 1.22%
(3.2.2)	HBsAg HCV HIV	NEGATIVE NEGATIVE NEGATIVE	Correct- 96.53% Not Correct- 3.47%

**IAMM EQAS New Delhi Centre**  
**ANALYSIS OF DISTRIBUTION (March 2020 – July 2020) (CULTURE & SENSITIVITY)**

QC No. 23 (March, 2020)	Description (Culture)	CONTENTS	Lab (%) Giving No. Correct Result
(2.1)	Bacterial Culture & AST	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>	Correct- 15.79% Partially Correct- 83.43% Not Correct- 0.78%
(2.2)	Bacterial Culture & AST	<i>Staphylococcus haemolyticus</i>	Correct- 29.63% Partially Correct- 69.98% Not Correct- 0.39%
(2.3)	Bacterial Culture & AST	<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	Correct- 74.07% Partially Correct- 24.57% Not Correct- 1.36%
QC No. 24 (July, 2020)	Description (Culture)	CONTENTS	Lab (%) Giving No. Correct Result
(2.1)	Bacterial Culture & AST	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Correct- 68.77% Partially Correct- 30.65% Not Correct- 0.58%
(2.2)	Bacterial Culture & AST	<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	Correct- 37.01% Partially Correct- 60.04% Not Correct- 2.95%
(2.3)	Bacterial Culture & AST	<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	Correct- 49.80% Partially Correct- 43.25% Not Correct- 6.95%

### FIND COURSES

As you are aware that with spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the network of testing labs needed to rapidly deploy additional lab personnel who are central to high quality results and reporting. Lab personnel require both, on-boarding as well as periodic refresher training, in critical components such as biosafety, sample collection, transportation, testing and reporting. The **Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) India** along with **London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)** and **African Society of Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)** has developed online courses on COVID-19 molecular diagnostics to support the COVID-19 molecular testing laboratory network. This initiative is enabled by the **Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India** with support from the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**. The courses cover critical aspects of Covid-19 molecular testing and the trainees successfully completing the course shall be awarded a certificate. The course details are as follows:

#### **Course 1: COVID-19: Diagnostics and Testing, ~12 hour duration, recommended for RT-PCR lab personnel**

Learning objectives:

1. The current state of the COVID-19 pandemic and the role of diagnostics in the response
2. The different types of diagnostic tests and their use in the COVID-19 outbreak
3. The current recommendations on use of COVID-19 diagnostics and testing strategies

#### **Course 2: Laboratory Training for COVID-19 Molecular Testing, ~6 hour duration, recommended for all lab personnel**

Learning objectives:

1. Setting up and performing molecular diagnostic tests
2. Special emphasis to CBNAAT and Truenat based COVID-19 testing.
3. Essentials on handling, biosafety and inventory management.

The interested participants can register on the following link

<https://findindiacovidtrainings.in/>  
 Sarabjit.Chadha@finddx.org



# COVID-19 ONLINE COURSES OPEN NOW

**EXCLUSIVELY**  
FOR LABORATORY  
PERSONNEL IN GOVT. OF  
INDIA APPROVED COVID-19  
TESTING INSTITUTIONS

**A**s the world struggles to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, healthcare infrastructure and testing capacity have emerged as major issues. India has expanded its testing capabilities by introducing a range of diagnostic tests for COVID-19, and ensuring their availability to laboratories, nationwide. With a rapidly expanding laboratory network, there is a need for trained and informed workforce to ensure correct diagnosis and subsequently treatment.

In this context, and in partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the African Society of Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) has developed two online courses\*:

- (1) COVID-19: Diagnostics and Testing
- (2) Laboratory Training for COVID-19 molecular testing.

**This initiative is enabled by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India with support from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.**

## WHAT'S ON OFFER:

- Course materials include videos, presentations, articles, case studies, and reference materials
- Participants can complete the course(s) at their own pace
- Enrolment in the courses and completion certificates will be provided free of charge to all participants, upon successful completion of the course(s)

### COVID-19: DIAGNOSTICS AND TESTING

~12  
hrs

(Recommended for RT-PCR lab personnel)

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Current state of the COVID-19 pandemic and role of diagnostics as the response
- Different types of diagnostic tests and their use in the COVID-19 outbreak
- Current recommendations on use of COVID-19 diagnostics and testing strategies

### LABORATORY TRAINING FOR COVID-19 MOLECULAR TESTING

~6  
hrs

(Recommended for all lab personnel)

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Setting up and performing molecular diagnostic testing
- Special emphasis on CBNAAT and Truenat based COVID-19 testing
- Essentials on handling, biosafety and inventory management

**CLICK HERE TO ENROL!**

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT US AT: [COVIDTRAINING@FINDDX.ORG](mailto:COVIDTRAINING@FINDDX.ORG)

Supported by **BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation**



## OBITUARY



26 Nov 1953-22 Sept -2020

Late Dr. T.N. Dhole, former Professor & Head, Dept. of Microbiology at the SGPGI, Lucknow, who played a major role in establishing an independent department of Microbiology, succumbed to Covid-19 on 22-09-2020 after a brief illness. He was born on 26th November 1953 in Lucknow. He had done his M.B.B.S., from Shivaji University, Kolhapur (Maharashtra) in 1979 and M.D. (Microbiology), from Dr. V. M. Medical College, Solapur (Maharashtra), in 1982. He was associated with Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow from May 1988 till his superannuation in November 2019.

He was distinguished by his 30 years of experience in viral diagnostics, teaching and research. He was instrumental in establishing the virology section, department of Microbiology at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences., Lucknow. He had to his credit 145 publications and presented numerous papers in national & international conferences. He trained many MD and PhD students.

He had worked with WHO since 1998 till his superannuation. He played a major role in eradication of poliomyelitis in Uttar Pradesh & Bihar. His thrust areas of research included studies of different aspects of polio, measles, viral encephalitis in UP, especially Japanese encephalitis, mostly focusing on mechanisms of JE entry across the blood brain barrier and predominance of viral



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Here's wishing all the members a new year  
filled with happiness and prosperity,  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!**

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

BOOK-POST

To,

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

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From,  
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