

## IAMM SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEARE 2005-2006

Dr. V. Ravi, Secretary IAMM

I have the privilege and honor of presenting the report on the activities of the Indian Association of medical Microbiologists (IAMM) for the year 2005-2006. During the year we lost one of the senior most members of our fraternity- Prof Tadepalli, USA. He was a regular attendee of each and every conference of our association, a well wisher of the association, a great teacher and mentor to several senior members of IAMM. We shall miss him a great deal and pay homage to him later in our annual general body meeting.

The XXIX Annual Congress of the IAMM was held at Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai, in October 2006. Prof. Mallika and her team organized this meeting which was preceded by a Pre-Congress Workshops on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2005 held at three different venues on four different topics –Application of Nucleic Acid based techniques in diagnostic microbiology (Shankara Nethralaya), Application of cell culture in toxicity and anti-viral assay of drugs (King Institute of Preventive Medicine), Workshop on diagnostic Mycology techniques (SRMC) and Recognition, evaluation and management of Bioaerosols in health care facilities (SRMC). Two Pre-Congress CME's entitled "*HIV: Newer concepts*" and "*Microbiology and Biotechnology-The link*" were held on 20<sup>th</sup> October at SRMC. The XXIX congress of IAMM was inaugurated on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005 by Prof. SP Thygarajan, Vice Chancellor of Madras University and Past President of IAMM. The Congress was attended by over 750 delegates from various parts of India. There were a total of four Symposia, one panel discussion and several guest lectures held during the congress. In addition over 387 free papers, comprising of oral presentations (116) and posters (271) were presented by delegates attending this conference. Overall the conference was a grand success and the efficient organization of the conference by Prof. Mallika's team was highly appreciated by several members.

During the past one-year several of our State Chapters have been very active and holding regular quarterly and annual meetings especially the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondcherry, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and New Delhi.

As usual a number of our IAMM family members have been receiving laurels and accolades both at the national and International level. To name a few, Dr. Sarman Singh AIIMS, New Delhi, was awarded the prestigious Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India Award for "*Biotech product and process development and commercialization*". by the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh on May 11, 2006. This award was presented to Dr. Sarman Singh for his work on cloning and expressing novel recombinant antigen from *Leishmania donovani* and developing a rapid diagnostic kit for Kala azar. Dr. Sugandhi Rao, Professor of Microbiology, KMC, Manipal was bestowed the Sir CV Raman young scientist award under the category of Medical Sciences by the Govt. of Karnataka in April this year. Many senior professors who are members of our IAMM family have assumed high positions of office in various Institutions across the country such as Dean, Principal and Medical Superintendents.

The IAMM elections of 2006 for five positions in the Executive council were very keenly contested and over 600 members cast their votes- which is an unprecedented in the history of IAMM elections. Five members have been elected to the Executive council- Dr. TM Mohapatra,, Varanai, Dr. RM Powar, Nagpur, Dr. RD Kulkarni,

Dharwad, Dr. MB Nagamoti, Belgaum and Dr. AR Hanumantappa, Davengere. I extend a very hearty welcome to these members to the Executive council of IAMM. The journal of our association. Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology has been published regularly during the past one year and all the four issues have been well received by all members. Only three issues of IAMM Newsletter were published during the year because the conference is being held very early as well as the rising cost of printing and postage. This is my last year as Secretary of IAMM and I shall be laying down office at the end of this conference. I thank all my colleagues in the Executive councils of the past three years for all their support and help in running the office of the Secretary of IAMM. I also thank all the members of IAMM for their encouragement and support.