



Since 1977

# Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists NEWSLETTER

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## Wishing you a very Happy & Healthy New Year

### Executive Council of the IAMM - 2007

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**Ex-Officio member**

(Immediate Past President of IAMM)

Dr. V L Jahagirdar, Miraj



### From the Desk of the President

**Dear members,**

Let me begin my message with Wishing all the Members of IAMM a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year. As you are all aware, I recently received the baton from Dr. Jahagirdar as President of our Association and am indeed grateful to all of you for bestowing this honour on me. I hope to be able to continue the excellent work of my predecessors. In this message, I felt that there is a need to discuss a few facts related to what we contribute towards medical microbiology as members.

The majority of our members are involved in clinical microbiology, teaching medical microbiology in colleges and universities, and a few in public health microbiology. Within microbiology, most of us work in bacteriology, with only a few hardy individuals in tissue culture and virology, parasitology, mycology and molecular microbiology. If we need to reach the international standards in research, it is a necessity that more and more of us should take up the challenging tasks of developing modern technology in our laboratories. Collaborative funded research is the key to this. May be, hands on training sessions conducted by those who have the know-how and facilities under IAMM banner are also useful

We are fortunate to have a substantial number of student members with increasing number of them attending our annual meetings and this forum becomes invaluable in allowing them to present their latest research findings for reasonable interaction with others from different parts of our country. We need to provide them sufficient time for it in our annual meeting.

We are compulsorily exposed to media reading and listening to the news broadcasts on the latest infectious disease scourge that hits us. Failure to control these epidemics has resulted in an increasingly concerned public. Where do we come in this? IAMM has an increasing responsibility to provide clear, informed and constructive advice on the issues of infections. These may be with regard to an individual patient, or in relation to hospital outbreaks and policies as well as the community management of infectious disease or in defining strategies for containment, research and education at least at the community level.

### Contents

President's Message	- 1
Secretary's Message	- 2
Notification of EC Election	- 3
Report of Nagpur Conference	- 3
Minutes of XXX <sup>th</sup> GBM	- 4
News from State Chapters	- 5
IAMM Awards & prizes 2006	- 6
Forthcoming events	- 7
IAMM EQAS	- 7

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues,

Greetings from Mumbai. At the outset, I thank all the members of IAMM for electing & honoring me as the secretary of our association. I assure you all that I will give my best to serve the IAMM.

I wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year.

The President Dr. H N Madhavan in his

message has raised two issues: (1) The need to adopt to modern technology in diagnostic clinical microbiology to serve the people and community better, especially for the management of infectious and communicable diseases, (2) Collaborative funded research as the key to upgrade our laboratories and systems. We should be more attentive to provide technically correct & update information about infectious diseases to the community and serve more effectively.

The website of association [www.iamm.in](http://www.iamm.in) was launched in 2005. Dr V Ravi and I have put efforts in making it happen, however a lot is still to be done. The success of website lies in making our communication better, faster and effective through it. The website of IAMM has several sections giving information about History, Constitution, IAMM awards and Prizes, Office bearers, conferences, IAMM membership form, and IAMM newsletters etc.

I would like to make a sincere appeal to all of you to kindly start using this website and provide your valuable inputs into making this website interactive and lively. Your suggestions are also welcome. The success of the website will depend entirely on how members use it for correspondence. I shall be uploading all the IAMM newsletters on the site. I also request you to please communicate through Email .Please inform me of the receipt of Newsletter and Journal. I have lot of faith in enthusiasm of all young (by age & at heart) members of IAMM. With season's greetings & best wishes.

Dr. Abhay Chowdhary  
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Director ARCON & Professor of Microbiology,  
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The voice of the professional may not be sought, but as professionals we have to be more proactive to develop a coordinated approach to ensure availability of defined expertise at least at the local community level such as partaking in the activities of non-governmental organizations at the local levels.

It is indeed heartening to know that IAMM JK Chapter is a reality with 40 registered members and Dr. Manzoor Thakur as its Founder President. My hearty congratulations to the members of this new chapter and wish them all the best in their activities.

As for the future, the Association needs to communicate and involve its members in the use of its website. Dr. Abhay Chowdhry has worked hard to get this going and surely we can communicate with each other through this. As earnestly appealed to you all by Dr. V. Ravi, I sincerely hope the e-mail addresses are posted on this website to finally develop "e-news letter". By doing so, we reciprocate with thanks the fantastic work done by Abhay and Ravi during the last three years and we owe at least this to them.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,  
H.N. Madhavan.

Director of Research & Professor of Microbiology  
Vice President, Vision Research Foundation

Sankara Nethralaya  
18, College Road, Chennai 600006  
E-mail: [drhnm@snmail.org](mailto:drhnm@snmail.org)

### Useful Microbiology information on web:

<http://www.horizonpress.com/php/ymlp/help.html>  
<http://www.horizonpress.com/blogger>

## Venue of the XXXI<sup>st</sup> Congress of IAMM

The XXXI st Congress of the IAMM will be held at Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore 575 001 on 15th to 18th November 2007. Dr. Shalini Shenoy, Professor and HOD of Microbiology, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore will be the Organizing Secretary of this Congress.

**Kindly mark the dates in your calendar.**

## **NOTIFICATION FOR ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF IAMM**

The Executive Council of the IAMM has **five** vacancies in 2007. As per the constitution of IAMM, notice is hereby issued by the Secretary, IAMM, inviting nominations to six positions in the Executive Council of IAMM. As per the constitution of IAMM

*“Members of IAMM who have already served the Executive council of IAMM in the past are not eligible for re-election until after the lapse of two years. Nomination for the membership of Executive Council may be made by **any two** Founder / Life / Ordinary members and shall be sent to the Secretary IAMM at least three months before the Annual General meeting. Such nominations must be accompanied by a written intimation from the nominee that he / she is willing to serve. Candidates for election to the membership of the Executive Council must have been members of the Association for at least five years continuously.”*

Number of Executive Council Member vacancies: **five**

Last Date for Receiving Nominations at IAMM secretariat: 31st March 2007

All nominees should send a written intimation, duly proposed and seconded by any two *Founder / Life / Ordinary members*, along with a copy of their brief curriculum vitae & a photograph, by post, to the following address on or before **31<sup>st</sup> March 2007**.

**Nomination sent by Fax / Email is not valid and will not be accepted.**

**Dr. Abhay Chowdhary**

Secretary IAMM,

Director ARCON & Professor of Microbiology,

Grant Medical College & Sir J J Hospital, Mumbai, 400008

## **Report of the XXX<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists” at Nagpur**

The XXX<sup>th</sup> National Congress of “Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists” was held at Nagpur (Maharashtra) by Dept. of Microbiology, Govt. Medical College, Nagpur from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2006. The Congress was inaugurated by Dr. Ved prakash Mishra, Vice Chancellor, DMIMS, Sawangi, who was the Chief Guest.

The CME was held on “Diagnostic Techniques in Parasitic Diseases”. The morning session of the CME was presided over by the Dr. S.C Parija, Dr. B. C. Harinath and Dr. Sarman Singh and the afternoon session by Dr. Nancy Malla, & Dr. R.M. Powar. All the speakers were very much renowned and honored in their fields throughout the country. In all there were about 150 delegates who participated in the CME & the conference was attended by over 600 delegates from all over India, some of them coming from such far off places as Assam and North Eastern States of the country.

In his Presidential address Dr. Vilas Jahagirdar emphasized the urgency and need of creating an all India Medical Service on the lines of IAS, IPS and IFS and also

doing proper justice to the medical profession in matters of respect and emoluments by the society and the state.

The Dean, Govt. Medical College, Nagpur, Dr. Vibhawari Dani delivered a highly inspiring address to the Congress. She was in fact the motive force behind the success of the congress.

During the conference three highly enlightening orations, viz Presidential Oration, S. C. Agarwal Oration, IAMM Endowment Oration was held and attended to the full capacity. In all a large number of symposia on Diarrhoeal Diseases, Update on AIDS, Mycobacterial T.B. & N.T.M & Role & Advantages of Biotechnology in Vaccine Development, Immunological & Diagnostic Techniques in fungal infections were held, which were extremely well attended and highly appreciated. There were in all 80 oral presentations of papers and 220 poster presentations, which shed the latest scientific light on the academic and practical significance of the scientific subjects, presented through them.

## The MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD ON 28th OCTOBER 2006 AT THE XXX ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE IAMM, GMC, NAGPUR

The President of IAMM, Dr. VL. Jahagirdar, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and mentioned that he was happy to see members at this GB meeting. Subsequently she informed the members about the sad demise of two of IAMM's senior members Prof. Thadepalli and Prof. PC Sen. The GB paid homage to them and observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls. The president then welcomed all the members especially the new members and agenda items for the meeting were taken up.

1 The minutes of the preceding GB meeting held at the IAMM congress, Chennai, were read and approved (Proposed by Dr A Nagendra and seconded by Dr Gugnani)

2 The Secretary presented his Annual report and the statements of account. The GB approved the report and the statement of accounts. (Proposed by Dr.Renu Bharadwaj and seconded by Col. KK Lahiri).

3 The Editor Dr. Savitri Sharma presented the annual report and audited statements of accounts. She informed that all the issues of IJMM were brought out during the proceeding year on time. She informed the GB that the journal continues to be indexed in PUBMED. She also informed the GB about the current status of manuscript handling and the IJMM website and stated that we continue the online submission and review processes. Members were highly appreciative of the good work being carried out by Dr.Savitri and her team and accepted her report and statement of accounts (Proposed by Dr Badrinath and Seconded by Dr. PG Shivanand).

4 The Treasurer Dr. Renu Bharadwaj presented her annual report and audited statements of account for year 2005 (Apr'05 - Mar'06). She informed that various new members which included life members, annual members and PG members have joined the IAMM during the past one year. The present strength of Life members is 1650 and we have over 100 annual members Dr Nancy Malla the former Treasurer, informed that The IAMM Has been allotted the PAN card by the Income Tax Officer at Chandigarh. She also said that IAMM has been exempted from paying income tax under sec 12 of IT Act. GB had resolved that 20% of savings made by the Organizing any National IAMM congress should be given to the association without putting any conditions. The GB also reiterated that all Organizing Secretaries of National conferences of IAMM should submit an audited statement of accounts to GB within one year of completion of the conference. The EC highly appreciated their work and approved the Treasurer's report and audited statements of accounts (Proposed by Dr. A. Nagendra and seconded by Dr. Abhay Chowdhary).

5. Report on the EQAS program of IAMM being conducted by Dr. Mary Jesudason, CMC, Vellore. The Secretary read out the report of Dr. Mary Jesudason which stated that 350 institutions are at present participating in this program which is running very satisfactorily. Since her retirement from CMC Vellore, she has taken over as Prof & HOD Microbiology at Amala Inst of Med Sciences, Thrissur, Kerala. She requested that she be permitted to continue to coordinate the IAMM EQAS program from Thrissur. She also requested that the second center may be identified by IAMM to share her increasing work load and to enhance the participation fees to Rs 600/- to cover the increasing costs. The GB appreciated the good work being carried out by Dr. Mary Jesudason and accepted her request. Dr HN Madhavan informed the GB that Shankar Netralaya, Chennai is willing to partner with Dr Mary Jesudasan in sharing the work load of EQAS .He also informed GB that Shankar Netralaya, Chennai shall provide all necessary infrastructure facilities on permanent basis to IAMM without imposing any conditions. The GB appreciated the good gesture of Dr Madhavan and accepted his offer to assist IAMM EQAS program.

6. Discussion of progress on old points

(a) Dr. R. Sambasiva Rao committee to recommend revision of staff in the Depts. of Microbiology in Medical Colleges. The GB debated on the issue and resolved to resubmit concrete recommendations to MCI on Minimum requirements of Staff in Microbiology departments in Medical Colleges. The draft recommendations prepared by subcommittee constituted by EC were presented and accepted with minor modifications. The GB also resolved that the list of minimum equipments required for Dept of Microbiology in Medical College shall be modified and submitted to MCI at a later date.

(b) Recommendation of Dr.P.G. Shivananda Committee for laying down the Criteria for the "Best Teacher" award proposed to be instituted by JNMC Belgaum. Dr.CS Patil. Dr.Abhay Chowdhary informed the EC that the savings of Mumbai MICRCON and Belgaum MICRCON can be combined to form a corpus of RS.1.00 lakh and used for the conduct of a Second IAMM symposium at every conference. The EC members debated on this offer and request Dr. Abhay to permit the IAMM to use the proceeds of the corpus for creating another Best Poster award since large number of posters are being presented, The EC members also expressed their opinion that second IAMM symposium will not be possible at IAMM conference due to constraints of time and money. The GB members concurred with the EC's recommendation. Dr.Abhay Chowhary and Dr.CS Patil said they would get back to the GB after discussing with their local committees

c) Framing of curriculum for PG courses Dr.Nancy Malla

The GB accepted the Dr Nancy Malla Subcommittee recommendations that guidelines for PG courses prepared by them will be posted on IAMM website for a period of 3 months from Jan' 07 to March '07. After receiving the suggestions from members the sub committee will present it in next GB

7. Decisions of the various Awards Committees: -

- a) Dr. SC Agarwal Oration Award- Not awarded
- b) Dr. HI Jhala Memorial Award- Brig A Nagendra
- c) IAMM Endowment Oration Award -Dr.Pankajlakshmi V. Venugopal
- d) Dr. UC Chaturvedi Life time Achievement award in Microbiology-Prof. Lina Deodhar
- e) Dr.AN Chakrabarthi Prize for Best Published Paper in Mycobacteriology- Not awarded

8. Constitution of committees for the various Awards of the IAMM-GB approved the EC's decision.

9. Election of Office Bearers for the year 2006-The following Executive members were unanimously elected to the respective offices.

Joint Secretary: Dr. Lalit Dar

Secretary: Dr. Abhay Chowdhary

President Dr.H N Madhavan

10. Selection of Topics for the IAMM Symposium for the XXXI congress of IAMM-2007.:- The GB considered the following five topics suggested by EC, for IAMM Symposium to be held at the XXXI Annual congress

10.1 Anaerobic infections Dr.Rama Choudhary

10.2 Nanotechnology in the diagnosis of infectious diseases

10.3 Deep Mycoses - Dr. Arunaloke Chakrabarti

10.4 Influenza : Dr. Shobha Broor

10.5 Cytokines in infectious diseases- Dr. Ravi

10.6 Endemic mycoses - Dr.Arunaloke Chakrabarti

After considerable discussion the GB approved the topic "Endemic mycoses- Moderator- Dr.Arunaloke Chakrabarti, Chandigarh for IAMM symposium for XXXI congress of IAMM.

11 Venue of XXXI National Congress of IAMM-2007 - The MIMER Medical College, Latur, BHU, Varanasi and KMC, Mangalore were the bidders. The EC recommended Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore as the venue for holding the XXXI<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress of IAMM, with Dr. Shalini Shenoy, Prof and HOD Microbiology, KMC, Mangalore as the nodal person responsible for organizing this conference. The GB accepted the EC's recommendation.

12 Any Other matter with the permission of the Chair.

12.1 IAMM Awards : The GB members debated on the number of IAMM awards (Dr.UCC award, Dr.SC Agarwal Oration, IAMM Endowment and Dr.HI Jhala award) " a member can be given. After considerable discussion the GB resolved that an IAMM member could be eligible for only two of the following 3 awards namely, Dr.SC Agarwal Oration, IAMM Endowment and Dr.HI Jhala award subject to the condition that three years have elapsed between the awards".

12.2 The President especially praised the excellent contribution of DR V Ravi the outgoing secretary. The GB placed on record the excellent services rendered by the President of IAMM and the outgoing EC members- The meeting was adjourned by the President thanking all members for their participation.

Dr.VL Jahagirdar  
President, IAMM  
Date: 28th October 2006

Dr.V.Ravi  
Secretary, IAMM  
Place: GMC, Nagpur

## News from Karnataka Chapter

IAMM Karnataka chapter is active under the guidance of Dr. R. Ravikumar - president, Dr. Ravi Gangane Vice President, Dr. Mariraj J. Secretary, Dr. Krishna S. Treasurer due to enthusiasm of all members. In the 3rd quarterly meeting of IAMM-KC, CME was conducted at MR Medical College, Gulbarga on 9th December 2006. Dr. C.S. Patil and Dr. Abhay Chowdhary delivered guest Lectures in the CME on Fundamentals of asepsis " and Hospital Infections" respectively. This CME was largely attended and appreciated. Congratulations Dr. Ravi Gangane and his team

## News from Jammu & Kashmir Chapter

After the thumping success of the first national level multi-disciplinary infection control and clinical Microbiology conference MIDCON-CM, 2004 at Srinagar Kashmir in year 2004, IAMM in its subsequent newsletters gave a go ahead to its organizer Dr. Manzoor Thakur to initiate and co-ordinate the formation of IAMM-JK Chapter. IAMM JK Chapter is a reality now with as many as 40 registered members and Dr. Manzoor Thakur as its Founder President. IAMM can now look forward to IAMM JK Chapter under the dynamic leadership for organizing IAMM annual national congress at Kashmir in near future. The Chapter held its first executive committee meeting on 8 Sept'06 and general body meeting on 15 Sept'06 at Srinagar, Kashmir (J&K)..

Founder executive council of IAMM JK Chapter got elected unopposed for its first 3 years and comprises of President- Dr. Manzoor Thakur. Vice-President- Dr. Bella Mahajan. (Jammu)

Vice-President- Dr. Syed Khursheed (Srinagar) Gen. Secretary Dr. Anjum Farhana.

Joint Secretary- Dr. Bashir Ahmad. Treasurer- Mr. Farooq Ahmad Bhat.

IAMM secretariat assures to extend full support and best wishes to the J&K Chapter.

## WINNERS OF IAMM AWARDS AND PRIZES FOR THE YEAR 2006

1. Dr.S.C.Agarwal Oration Award: Not awarded
2. Dr.HI Jhala Award: **Brig A Nagendra**, Pune
3. IAMM Endowment Oration Award: **Dr.Pankajlakshmi V Venugopal**
4. Dr.U.C.Chaturvedi Life Time Achievement award: **Prof. Lina Deodhar**, Pune


## IAMM Award for the best papers presented at the XXX Annual Congress of IAMM held at Nagpur in October 2006

1. Dr. S.R Sengupta-Dr.AS.Saoji Memorial Prize for best paper in Immunology : **Dr Sae Poi**, Pune
2. Dr. S. S. Kelkar Memorial Prize for the best Poster : **Dr Manasi Majumdar**, Manipal, **Dr Sarla Menon**, Mumbai
3. NAWOPIA Dr. Pankajalakshmi V.Venugopal prize for the best paper in Mycology.Ms Sujata Dharmashale, Mumbai
4. IAMM silver Jubilee Prize for the best Paper in Parasitology: **Ms K Nagamani**, Secunderabad
5. Dr.AN Chakrabarty Prize for best Published Paper in Mycobacteriology: Not Awarded
6. IAMM Silver Jubilee prize for the best-published paper in IJMM for the year 2005-2006
  - (i) Best published paper in Bacteriology: **Dr Tarun Mathur**, Gurgaon
  - (ii) Best published paper in Virology: **Dr G Shyamala**, Chennai

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For Further Information please contact  
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e-mail: jmitra@jmitra.co.in, jmitra@www.jmitra.co.in

## Forthcoming Conferences/ Workshops / Symposia.

Workshop on Research Methodology for study of HIV/AIDS associated malignancies organised by Tata Memorial Center. Mumbai & National Cancer Institute, NIH, USA on 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007. Org. Secretary Dr. Aruna Alahari Dhir, Prof & HOD, Medicine Dept, TMH, Mumbai. Tel 24177203. Email [arunaalahari@hotmail.com](mailto:arunaalahari@hotmail.com).

First National Conference on Infectious Diseases organised by IDSI on 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007. Org. Secretary Dr. Lata S. Bichile, Prof & HOD, Med Dept, Seth GS Med. Col & KEM Hosp. Mumbai. 400 012. Email [lsbichile@rediffmail.com](mailto:lsbichile@rediffmail.com)

National Conference of Hospital Infection Society of India (HISICON 2007)  
Organised by Dept. of Microbiology, GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh. On 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2007. Org. Secretary Dr. Jagdish Chander, Prof & HOD, Microbiology, GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh. 160030. Email [hisicon2007@hotmail.com](mailto:hisicon2007@hotmail.com).

Sir Dorabji Tata Symposium on Arthropod borne viral Infections organized by Sir Dorabji Tata Centre for Research in Tropical diseases & IIS Bangalore on 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Email [sdtc265iisc@vsnl.net](mailto:sdtc265iisc@vsnl.net). Website: [www.tatacentropolis.org](http://www.tatacentropolis.org).

HIV congress Superspeciality. Roundtable meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at Goa. Org. Chairperson Dr. J.K. Maniar. Email [jkmaniar@vsnl.com](mailto:jkmaniar@vsnl.com)

XIII<sup>th</sup> Maharashtra Chapter Conference of IAMM at Aurangabad on 1-2 September '07. Pre-conference CME on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007. Organizing Secretary: Dr. A.S. Damle, Prof. & HOD, Microbiology, Govt. Med College, Aurangabad.

### URGENT Time Limit: IAMM EQAS Programme 2007

All participating laboratories and also those who wish to participate in the IAMM EQAS program are requested to send their application, on or Before **20<sup>th</sup> January 2007**, along with DD of Rs.600/- favouring 'IAMM EQAS' payable at 'Thrissur' should be sent to The Coordinator of IAMM EQAS program Dr Mary Jesudason at following

#### Contact address.

#### Dr. Mary Jesudason,

Professor & HOD, Microbiology Department,  
Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, Thrissur  
680 555, Kerala  
Tel #: 0487-2304000 Extn: 1179  
E mail: [srbjmvj@hotmail.com](mailto:srbjmvj@hotmail.com) ,  
[emailtc@yahoo.co.in](mailto:emailtc@yahoo.co.in)

#### Dr. H N Madhavan,

Professor and HOD, L & T Microbiology  
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