



Since 1977

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## From the Desk of the President

Dear Members,

Wish you a Very Happy and Peaceful Year. I thank every member of the association for bestowing in me their confidence and electing me as President of this young and vibrant association. At the outset I congratulate Dr. Renu Dutta, Dr. Sherwaland the young energetic team of Lady Hardinge Medical College, for a memorable 36<sup>th</sup> Conference of the IAMM. The academic tempo of the conference started off with nine pre-congress workshops very ably conducted by several institutes across Delhi. I am sure young Microbiologists from across the country would have benefitted immensely. Team from IJMM initiated the first Scientific Writing workshop as a part of the annual congress every year to help aspiring young members of IAMM to publish good quality scientific papers. It is hoped that this trend will continue. The Invited talks, CMEs and Symposia were of very good standard. Relevant issues in diagnostic microbiology, public health issues and laboratory quality improvement were discussed. The annual gathering of likeminded persons pursuing Microbiology bridges our gap in knowledge, perception and skills. It is also a meeting place where new ideas emerge and contacts are made to further the cause of Microbiology in the country.

Clinical Microbiology has come of age in India. There is an inclusive agenda by policy makers to address health issues, medical education and disease preventive programs. Microbiologists are being drawn into the helm of affairs be it infectious disease control programs, scaling up diagnostic facilities, disease surveillance or laboratory quality improvement. Unlike in the past, career opportunities of Microbiologists are widening, both in public as well as private sector. A Microbiologist need no longer be confined to a Medical College(which continues to be a major attraction nevertheless). There is scope in public health, research organizations, long and short term Govt. and non Govt. programs, to suit the aptitude of a microbiologist. Challenges and opportunities have emerged for young clinical microbiologists to move forward.

Several challenges face the health scenario in India. Morbidity and mortality due to infectious diseases continue to plague us despite the efforts from several quarters to address the issues. Almost predictable outbreaks every year of diarrheal diseases, Dengue, H1N1 infections, besides sporadic undiagnosed fevers and deaths (presumably due to unknown infectious causes) pose a challenge to the administrators. We need to assess if our skills and facilities are capable of meeting these challenges. There has been concerted effort by the Govt. to ensure building the capacity of laboratories to tackle some of these situations following the Plague scare, which led to setting up of for BSL-3 laboratories, and upgrading Virology laboratories in designated institute across the country following SARS and H1N1 outbreaks. Clinical Microbiologists have to respond to these demands, by improving and updating knowledge. We



(contd. on page 2)

need to sharpen our technical skills and acumen to tackle disease detection and control in the shortest possible time. Are young microbiologists preparing themselves to face these challenges?

A greater emphasis is being laid on patient safety in our hospitals. As clinical microbiologists we need to contribute to patient care and optimum management by playing a proactive role. Our involvement in infection control, rational use of antibiotics and infectious disease surveillance cannot be overemphasized. We need to step out of our laboratory bastions and play a greater role infectious disease prevention, detection, treatment and control.

In his news letter of September 2012 Dr. Arunaloke, our past president, had raised an important issue with regards to laboratory accreditation. We need to look closely at this and strategize, from the association if any technical help could be extended to interested laboratories by some of our members who are trained and are NABL certified assessors. I welcome any suggestions from our members in this regard.

As we begin this year let us look forward to a personally and professionally rewarding period for all our IAMM members.

Warm wishes

Sincerely  
**Reba Kanungo**  
Puducherry

## Forth coming events

- IAMM Karnataka Chapter Annual conference at Mangalore Karnataka.**  
**Preconference CME ;** Antimicrobial Resistance: Tough Times Ahead. (23.02.2013) Theme of the congress; Health Care Associated Infections: Clean, Care, Control. (24.02.13) Contact Dr. Shrikara Mallya (09880530707) President IAMM KC & Dr. Shrikala Baliga (09880049671) Email: [iammkc2013@gmail.com](mailto:iammkc2013@gmail.com)
- IAMM KC meet;** Anaerobic infections; June 2012 at JN Medical College Belgaum  
Contact; Dr Jyoti M Nagamoti.09448860177, [jyotinagamoti@yahoo.com](mailto:jyotinagamoti@yahoo.com)
- CIDCON-2013** at Hotel Grand Hyatt, Santacruz (East), Mumbai – 55 Mumbai -30<sup>th</sup> Aug – 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2013. Org Secretary; Rajeev Soman [rajeev.soman@yahoo.com](mailto:rajeev.soman@yahoo.com) +91-9892024799.  
Jr. Org Secretary Dr. Camilla Rodrigues [dr\\_crodrigues@hindujahospital.com](mailto:dr_crodrigues@hindujahospital.com) Tel. : 022-24447795
- Maharashtra Chapter meet Maha Microcon 2013:** Maharashtra Chapter meet Org Secretary Brig. Ajay K. Sahni, Prof. and Head, Department of Microbiology, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, from 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

## Secretary's Message

Dear Members,

Greetings from Belgaum and wish you a Happy and Prosperous New year.



At the outset, I thank all the members of IAMM for electing and honoring me as the Secretary of our prestigious association. I do consider it a great honor and privilege to work for the IAMM as its secretary. I seek the blessings of all senior members and best wishes from all members. I look forward to your support and co-operation in taking our association to greater heights. I thank my successors Dr. Iyer Ranganathan, Dr. Abhay Chowdhary and Dr. V Ravi for taming me. I solicit their continued support and guidance for running the office at Belgaum during my tenure.

Our new President Madam has stimulated us to prepare for the challenges like new epidemics and role in hospitals in her message. The younger generation has to take keen interest in exploring these areas.

My humble request to all the IAMM members,

- to update their address and e-mail for better communication.
- Kindly inform your colleague's new address, if he/she has transferred/ left from your institute.
- Kindly circulate this IAMM News letter among other members
- All the past IAMM award winners to inform me regarding their names and year along with their institutional details. This will help us to update our web site.
- Information from all the state chapters regarding their meetings.

I need this information for improving the IAMM web site to make it more lively and updated.

Hopefully, in the New Year we may receive good news from Medical Council of India.

With Season's greetings and best wishes,

**Dr. Mahantesh B Nagamoti.**  
Secretary IAMM

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## Call for Nominations of IAMM Awards and Prizes 2013 (Last date of receipt of all nominations Aug 31, 2012)

1. **Dr SC Agarwal Oration 2013;** 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 the consent of the nominee along with consent of the nominee along with six copies of his/her biodata should reach the IAMM secretaries office on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The selected candidate must be prepared to deliver the oration at the National IAMM Conference held in 2014. Nominations must come by post/courier as a hard copy by the last date. Nominations received by fax or email will not be accepted.
2. **Dr. H.I. Jhala Memorial award 2013;** 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 along with six copies of his/her biodata should reach the IAMM secretaries office on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The selected candidate must be prepared to deliver the oration at the National IAMM Conference held in 2014. Nominations must come by post/courier as a hard copy by the last date. Nominations received by fax or email will not be accepted.
3. **IAMM Endowment lecture award 2013;** 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 along with six copies of his/her biodata, including a write upon the contribution of the nominee to Medical Microbiology should reach the IAMM secretaries office on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The selected candidate must be prepared to deliver the oration at the National IAMM Conference held in 2014. Nominations must come by post/courier as a hard copy by the last date. Nominations received by fax or email will not be accepted.
4. **IAMM Junior Best Paper Award 2013;** Nominations are invited for the Best paper award competition to be held at National Conference of the IAMM at Hyderabad in Nov 2013. This award is supported by the annual interest obtained from the fixed deposit, donated by the organizers of the IAMM congress held at Bombay in 1979. The contestant should be a member of IAMM, less than 35 years of age as on Aug 31, 2013 (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 aforementioned declarations and six copies of the full paper complete with tables, figures, etc. (prepared according to the format of the IJMM) should reach the secretary's office on or before Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. 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 Hyderabad in Nov 2013. Nominations must come by post/courier as a hard copy by the last date. Nominations received by fax or email will not be accepted.
5. **Prof AN Chakrabarty memorial Prize for the best published paper in Mycobacteriology 2013.** Any member, who has published a paper in the field of Mycobacteriology, during the preceding year i.e. 2012, 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 aforementioned declarations and six copies of the full paper should reach the secretary's office on or before Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The award carries a citation and a gold medal. The awardee will receive the award at the valedictory function of the IAMM Conference Hyderabad in Nov 2013.
6. **Prizes for the best papers during the IAMM Conference 2013** (total six categories listed below) The following five 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.

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 Secretaries office. 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 Hyderabad in Nov 2013.

## Minutes of the General body meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012 at Lady Harding Medical College New Delhi

Secretary IAMM Dr. Ranganathan Iyer, requested the President Dr. Arunloke Chakraborty to chair and to conduct the meeting

The President called the meeting to order.

- 1) Minutes of the General Body Meeting held at Varanasi 2011 was read out & passed by the GB. (Proposed by Dr. Abhay. C and seconded by Dr. Aparna Lahiri)
- 2) **Secretary's report for 2012:** Dr. Iyer presented the report and expenditure report in power point, and was accepted by the GB. Dr. R. D. Kulkarni informed the GB about Secretary's expenditure. Dr. Iyer Secretary IAMM informed the members that he has not utilized the money from IAMM and GB approved the expenses from Secretary's report without auditor's report. (Proposed by Dr. Nancy Malla and seconded by Dr. SG. Karadesai).
- 3) **Editor's annual report and statement of expenses;** Dr. Reba Kanungo presented report to GB in the form of Power point and the GB appreciated her teams efforts. She also informed the reduction of impact factor by 0.018 and explained the reasons also. The President suggested to include good review articles with Indian perspectives of diseases which are prevalent in India. The Members requested to increase the numbers of issues and papers of the issues. She gave explanation that the expenses will increase on postage and number of good quality papers was not enough to increase the issues. The Members noticed that the best paper category for judgment, included papers published from foreign authors. Dr. Raghunath requested to consider the articles from India and work should be done not outside India. Editor informed that foreign papers are not eligible to contest. Dr. Ketoki Kapila requested to include photo features, CME topics and can have special bulletins. Dr. Reba informed that she will consider the suggestions and pass it on to the next editor. Dr. Chowdhary mentioned that reasons for high rejection rate (84%) should be conveyed to authors. The editor explained that the reason of rejection of articles is always accompanied by comments from reviewers stating the reason for rejection. GB accepted the editor's report and accounts with appreciation. (Dr. Ketoki Kapila proposed and seconded by Dr. Abhay Chowdhary)
- 4) **Treasurer's report:** Power point presentation of accounts was made by Dr. Deepak Mendiratta. President Dr. Arunloke explained the problems of the Treasurer's office especially Income tax office issues. He also sought the approval to have an Asst. Treasurer (nominated for 10 years) along with this office at Wardha or Dharwad permanently. On behalf of IAMM he would request the administrator of the respective institutes for allotment of land on a lease and have a permanent office at Sewagram or at Dharwad. Dr.

Deepak informed that he has yet to receive 10% of the collection from previous conference venue. He also requested not to use the IAMM Pan Number for other purposes like IJMM and organizing the conferences it would entail double deductions. Dr. Aparna Lahiri informed that, she has not received seed money of Rs 25,000/- for conducting the IAMM conference at Kolkatta, even though request was made. Dr. Renu Bharadwaj informed that Rs 25,000/- is not enough and had to be increased. The President approved the suggestion and requested to increase the seed money. Dr. Nancy Malla suggested to increase the amount to Rs 2,00,000/- and Dr. Abhay Chowdhary suggested Rs 1,00,000/-. Dr. Sherwal informed the members that the cost of had escalated considerably, therefore there is a need to increase the seed money. Dr. C.S. Patil suggested to increase to Rs 5,00,000/- and Dr. Nandan Singh to Rs 2,00,000/-. Dr. R. D Kulkarni expressed the difficulties in recovering the money from the organizers, which was supported by Dr. Abhay Chowdhary. The sanction of advance / seed money for conducting the conference was debated for Rs. 2 – 5 lakhs. The GB approved for Rs. 5,00,000/- as seed money. Members informed the house that Local chapter using IAMM name for conducting the conferences and meets, and requested to get donations from organizers. Dr. Jayanti Shastri explained about her experience regarding the difficulty in conducting IAMM Maharashtra chapter meet. Dr. Renu Bharadwaj suggested GB to collect Rs 5,000/- from local chapters. GB accepted the treasurer's report and accounts with appreciation. (Dr. RD Kulkarni proposed and seconded by Dr. Abhay Chowdhary)

- 5) **IAMM EQAS report:** The report and expenditure statements were circulated to all the members. It was noted by the GB that the QA no.75 fixed smear participants identified Candida only in 36% labs. Dr. H N Madhavan expressed his inability to continue as Co-coordinator of EQAS and suggested his colleague's name Dr. Lilly Therese and that he would continue as advisor. Dr. Ravi informed the house that current EQAS also participate in include PT by an external agency. Second lab from North was also suggested. Dr. Renu Bharadwaj informed that the addition of new EQAS lab from North is already approved since 2 years back. Dr. Chand Wattal expressed about ICMR Sponsorship for EQAS. The President suggested that IAMM officially request ICMR to sponsor the IAMM EQAS. Dr. Raghunath requested to write a letter to ICMR officially. Dr. HN Madhavan expressed the problems of ownership, administration and expenses from ICMR. The responsibility should not be diluted if we get funding support. Presently IAMM EQAS is maintaining the accounts separately and gets audited every year. He

- also informed the members that EQAS extended to Sri Lankan Lab and permit the GB to involve WHO Collaboration. Dr. Chakraborty ensured the house that IAMM will not lose its name, ownership, and responsibility if we get sponsorship and funding from other organizations / agencies. And he informed the members that he will discuss the matter with Dr. Katoch during valedictory function (on 25-12-2012). The request of increasing EQAS lab (North division Dr. Wattal's lab at Delhi) in collaboration with Dr. HN Madhavan will be undertaken. Dr. Wattal's team will be trained at Sankara Netralaya at mutually convenient period as early as possible. The GB approved the inclusion of foreign lab in EQAS, Sponsors, WHO collaboration and increased annual fee. (Proposed by Dr. Jyoti Nagamoti and seconded by Dr. Jayanti Shastri)
- 6) **Points submitted by members:**
- a) **Corporate members:** The Secretary informed the house regarding his correspondence with corporate members and not having received any answer from them. Dr. Chakraborty appreciated Dr. Sherwal regarding getting sponsorship from companies and requested GB to consider him as financial advisor for the next venue.
- b) **Rules of EC Elections:** The President explained the problems and questions raised by members during the EC Elections(2012). Dr Rajiv Saxena informed the house that there are no regulations and updates regarding campaigning and he apologized his canvassing in the recent elections. The President informed the house requesting to amend the new rule regarding election, stating that the contestant will not be permitted to campaign through sending information, letters or sms/emails to members. The contestant's candidature will be intimated to the members by the Secretary. If canvassing by any member is brought to the notice of the President in an election with evidence, he will be disqualified from elections. Dr. C.S. Patil proposed and Dr. V C Ohri seconded.
- c) **Late Dr. K. B. Sharma award for young Indian Scientist training / fellowship :** The Secretary Dr. Iyer, read the letter from Late Dr. K.B. Sharma family, regarding the donation of Rs.5,00,000/- for Institution of the Prof. K.B. Sharma Memorial award for an oration. However as there were several orations it was suggested to institute the award as a fellowship / training for young Scientists of 40 or <40 years of age group. The GB expressed that, IAMM will request to increase the donation upto Rs.10.lakh., Dr.NancyMalla requested to give the fellowship only within India, not to overseas. The President suggested anywhere in the world for the fellowship, not to restrict within India Dr.Sherwal B L thanked the GB for discussing the issue. The GB approved the discussion for requesting the family to increase the donation to Rs. 10 lakhs instead of Rs.5 lakhs. (Dr. C. S. Patil proposed and Dr. B. L. Sherwal seconded) and to institute a fellowship and not on oration.
- d) **Microbiology faculty and curriculum in Medical Colleges:** The President informed the house, regarding the faculty level at Medical Colleges and MCI has considered the Associations request and approved it. It was discussed by Dr. Talwar, Chairman MCI during the inauguration of the conference.
- 6) **Decision of awards committee 2012 :** President announced the awards
- a) Dr. S.C. Agarwal Prize : Dr. Pallab Ray  
b) Dr. H.I. Shala Award : Dr. Abhay Choudhary  
c) IAMM Endowment Award : Dr. Camilla Rodrigues  
d) Dr. U.C. Chaturvedi Award ; Dr.D.S. Agarwal  
The GB approved the awards.
- 7) **Election of the office bearers for the year 2012-13 :**  
GB approved the election for the new office bearers:  
President - Dr. Reha Kanungo Puduchery.  
Secretary - Dr. Mahantesh. B. Nagamoti Belgaum  
Jt. Secretary - Dr. Aparna Lahiri, Kolkotta  
Editor - Dr. Arati Kapil, New Delhi  
Asso Editor - Dr. Balaji CMC Vellore
- 8) **IAMM Symposium for the year 2013,XXXVII IAMM conference;** GB discussed the application referred from EC and approved the topic "Setting up of Clinical Microbiology lab/dept" to be moderated by Dr. Gen Raghunath.
- 9) **Selection of Venue for the next conference 2013-14 and 2014-15;** As JIPMER Pondicherry, which was scheduled to be the next venue of IAMM conference, was unable to conduct, GB analyzed the request from different applications and approved that 2013 conference at NIMS Hyderabad (Dr. V. Laxmi Org. Secretary) and will Jaipur for 2014 (by Dr. Bharati SMS Jaipur)
- 10) **Other matter with the permission of the chair;** GB approved that all the Past Presidents and Senior Members should be invited for the conference by the Secretary and Organizers.  
Dr. V. Laxmi Org. Secretary for XXXVII conference extended the invitation to the members to attend the conference at Hyderabad.  
The GB Members placed on record the excellent services rendered by the President of IAMM Dr. Arunloke Chakraborty and outgoing EC Members Dr. T. Mariraj, Dr. K.N. Prasad, Dr. B.N. Harish, Dr. Anita Chakraborty and Dr. Tapan Dhole  
Dr. M.B. Nagamoti, Jt. Secretary proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the meeting.

### Topic for the Student symposium

The student symposium is an integral part of the IAMM conference and session will be held on the first day of the conference immediately after the orations completed. This is call for topics of the student symposium. Please send your choice of topic for this symposium to the office of the secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. The topics will be selected by the secretary after screening.

## TREASURER REPORT PRESENTED BEFORE GB ON 24<sup>th</sup> NOV 2012

### BY Dr D K MENDIRATTA : 2011-12

#### AUDIT & BALANCE SHEET REPORT:

1. **Total property & Assets of IAMM** as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 stand at Rs 50,84,553.17 as against Rs 40,75,718 reported as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. (Rs 10,08,885.17).
2. **Total amount invested** is Rs 42 lac in FD & Rs 3 lac in SBI MF. Rs 4,41,134.04 is in Saving bank
3. Total life members added during 201-12 were 65 (2305), Annual Members 11 & Student members 47. Total life members as of Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 is **2377**, an addition of 137 since I took over.
4. The Org Sec Microcon 2010, Dr. Aparna Lahri contributed Rs 2,70,000/- from the conference savings to the IAMM fund. On behalf of EC & IAMM members a big thanks to Dr. Aparna Lahri & her team for strengthening the corpus of IAMM thru this kind gesture.
5. The IAMM also received Rs 69,740/- by way of 10% of the sponsor contribution to the Org Sec MICROCON 2011. These sponsors utilised IAMM PAN Number and routed their funds thru IAMM Sevagram account.
6. Total expenditure during the year was Rs 74,488/- (Bank charges, Postage, Stationary, Printing, Medals & citation) as compared to Rs 1,09,376/- in 2010-11 (in addition to above web site expenses and president honorarium).
7. No expenses have been claimed either by the President, Secretary or the Treasurer for any office work during the year under reference. We need to thank them all for managing without putting any financial burden on the IAMM for this.
8. The audited income & expenditure statement as also the balance sheet for the FY 2011-12 is placed on the table for the honourable GB members for kind consideration & further needful action.
9. The first year as treasurer has been very busy & hectic partly because handling accounts is not every ones cup of tea and primarily because of innumerable phone calls and e mails enquiring about the eligibility & method of sending the membership details, tracking of membership requests from the moment it has been dispatched by the members, tracing clearance of DD's from the bank by treasurer office and also handling accounts of IAMM being maintained at Dharward as also by Org Sec. MICROCON 2011 for audit purpose. This however has been accomplished with the support of my dedicated Post Graduates to whom I am very grateful. My post graduates have also prepared a software which will help us to not only maintain and update membership records easily but also help tracing the members details with ease. Their efforts need to be applauded.
10. The treasurer office is for the service of the IAMM members and those keen to join it, however I request all to use more of email and to use mobile more judiciously. I request all to visit [www.ijmm.org](http://www.ijmm.org) and click IAMM in the maroon area of the site for correct guidelines with respect to joining IAMM as member. If the membership request is not sent as per guidelines and if the treasurer office requests for support documents, I request all to kindly cooperate. I also request faculty / members proposing / seconding candidates to kindly guide them in ascertaining their eligibility, filling details in the form and preparing DD's. This will ensure prompt action, save man hours and IAMM funds on postage.
11. We have 345 medical colleges in India but even after 36 yrs of establishment of our association the total life members as of date is just 2377. There is a great need to increase this figure and I strongly feel that this could be achieved only if we have passion for our speciality and our association. I feel that it is the responsibility of every Microbiologist to join this association as members the moment they seek the basic required qualification. I appeal to all head of departments to encourage the faculty working with them to join the association in large numbers.
12. It is requested that the PAN/TAN of IAMM should be used only with due permission of IAMM office, treasurer in particular. All transactions made using IAMM PAN should be informed to the treasurer with details.  
Finally I thank all those who have directly or indirectly helped me in maintenance and auditing of the accounts of IAMM for the FY 2011-12

**Dr. Deepak Mendiratta.**

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## The 36<sup>th</sup> IAMM (Microcon2012) report by Org Secretary Dr. BL Sherwal

The XXXVI National Conference of IAMM (MICROCON 2012), hosted by Department of Microbiology, Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), New Delhi was held from **November 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at India Habitat Center, New Delhi**. Dr. Renu Dutta, Director Professor & Head, Department of Microbiology, LHMC was the Organizing Chairperson, and Dr. B. L. Sherwal, Director Professor, Department of Microbiology, LHMC was the Organizing Secretary.

The conference was preceded by nine pre-conference workshops and two CMEs on an array of themes ranging from very basic, yet very important to practically the most difficult issues for young budding microbiologists. Various prestigious Institutes in Delhi allied in hosting satellite workshops on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2012. The topics and venues of workshops were: i) Automation in Microbiology (Bacteriology, Mycology, Mycobacteriology) [MALDI-TOF] & Molecular Workflow Solutions [QIA-Symphony] at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, ii) WHONET for Clinical Microbiology Laboratories -Importance in AMR Surveillance and Hands on -Training at VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital, iii) Hands on Workshop of Molecular Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases at Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, iv) Diagnosis of Emerging Parasitic Infections at Dept of Laboratory Medicine, AIIMS, v) Newer Diagnostic Methods for Detection of MDR TB under RNTCP was held at LRS Institute of Tuberculosis & Respiratory Diseases, vi) Molecular Techniques in Diagnosis & Management of Hepatitis B & C Viral Infections at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, vii) Scientific Writing and Publication in Peer Reviewed Journals (Organized by IJMM) at Lady Hardinge Medical College, viii) Molecular Diagnostic Methods in Respiratory Infections at Vallabhbai Patel Chest Institute, ix) Prevention and Management of Infectious Diseases in Ambulatory Units at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital. The workshops at LHMC and LRS were attended by 31 & 20 delegates respectively the rest were attended by 15 delegates at each centre. These workshops provided hands on experience on newer techniques and instruments.

Two preconference CMEs were held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 at India Habitat Centre. These were: i) Clinical Microbiology in Public Health, ii) Vaccines: Development to Delivery. Both were novel topics. So, the response has been overwhelming from all across the country. The numbers of delegates attending the CMEs were 120 and 200 respectively. All these workshops and CME were highly appreciated by participants.

The main conference was inaugurated in the evening of November 22, 2012 at India Habitat Centre. The inauguration function was presided over by Dr. Arunaloake Chakrabarti, President IAMM. Mr. Keshav Desiraju (Special Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India) graced the occasion as the chief guest and Dr. K. K. Talwar (chairman, Board of Governors, MCI) was the Guest of Honour. Dr. K. Srinath Reddy, President, National Board of Examinations delivered the key note address of the conference in the inaugural session. Dr. Arunaloake Chakrabarti highlighted the fact that the integration of clinical and diagnostic services is essential to control infectious diseases in hospitals and community. The theme of the conference was **“Clinical Microbiology: Current Challenges & Future Directions.”**

The conference brought together over 1500 delegates, speakers and other participants from a wide range of disciplines involving clinical microbiologists, healthcare professionals, academicians, researchers, and many retired professional. The conference offered a good blend of lecture sessions (with a total of around 25 lectures), paper presentations (126 oral & 570 poster presentations), panel discussions (on Quality Assurance in HIV laboratories), symposia (IAMM-ESCMID) symposium on “Antimicrobial Resistance and EUCAST”, IAMM Symposium on “Emerging Technologies in Diagnosis of Infectious disease” and Student symposium on the “Role of the Microbiologist in Antibiotic Stewardship”) and debate (“Does Present postgraduate curriculum produce clinical microbiologists”). The conference provided a platform for sharing views, research findings and expertise on a wide variety of topics in microbiology. The scientific sessions saw 12 International and many national Microbiologists and scientists of repute present their findings and viewpoint. Needless to say, all the sessions were absorbing and very interesting.

The important topics of the conference were: i) Quality Assurance in HIV laboratories, ii) Emerging priorities and national response, iii) Antimicrobial Resistance and EUCAST, iv) Tuberculosis control in India, v) Enteric fever: Development in Diagnosis Infectious Disease Literature, vi) New Weapons in the War on Sepsis, vii) Best practice to enhance sepsis recovery, viii) Role of biomarkers in early diagnosis and treatment of Sepsis, ix) Better Technology to ensure timely intervention, x) Infection Control/AMR surveillance, xi) Does Present postgraduate curriculum produce clinical microbiologists, xii) Challenges and recent advances in fungal infections, xiii) Vector borne diseases, ix) Hepatitis, xx) Emerging molecular technologies and automation used in Infectious diseases testing, xxi) Current advances in clinical virology, xxii) Public health Emergencies, xxiii) Influenza vaccines: Past present and future, xxiv) Infectious disease outbreaks following natural disasters, xv) Emerging trends in viruses in India

The conference came to an end with the Valedictory on November 25, 2012, where various awards were given. Dr. V M Katoch, Secretary, DHR and Director General, ICMR, graced this occasion. Dr. Ranganathan Iyer, Secretary, IAMM, thanked the organizers for holding a nice, vibrant and huge conference. Organizing Secretary Dr. B. L. Sherwal, in his closing remarks, thanked everyone for their participation and expressed an enthusiastic appreciation for the high scientific level of contribution by participants in lively and productive discussions. Dr. Mahantesh B Nagamoti Joint Secretary IAMM gave Vote of thanks. The Members of IAMM and delegates expressed their view regarding the conference as the luxurious venue of the conference created a relaxed and informal atmosphere with a right setting for highly interactive sessions where the speakers shared their knowledge on current issues and future directions of **Clinical Microbiology.**

Without doubt, MICROCON 2012 was informative, stimulating and, from the excellent experience of scientists from around the world, very effective in assessing the current challenges in clinical microbiology and facilitating the development of vision for the future of clinical microbiology in the country.

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

The Executive Council of the IAMM has **six** vacancies in the year 2013. 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 Constitutions of IAMM.

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.

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 for at least five years continuously. 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 30, 2013. Nominations sent only by email or fax communication are not valid and will not be accepted.

Number of Vacancies to the Executive Council; **Six**

**Last date for submission of nominations; 31.March 2013.**

**Dr. Mahantesh B Nagamoti**

**Secretary IAMM Prof & Head Microbiology JN Medical College. KLE University  
Belgaum-590010. (KARNATAKA)**

### *Congratulations*

**Dr. Sandeep Dogra, MD** Consultant Microbiologist Govt. Medical College & Hospital Jammu (J&K) received J&K Young Scientist Award-2010 in the discipline of Health and Medical Education at 8<sup>th</sup> JK Science Congress held at University of Kashmir on September 17, 2012.

**Executive Council of IAMM  
Wishes All the Members a Happy and Prosperous New Year**

Published by

**Dr. Mahantesh B Nagamoti.**  
Secretary IAMM

BOOK-POST

**To,**

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*If undelivered, please return to,*

**Dr. Mahantesh B Nagamoti.**  
Secretary IAMM  
Prof & Head Microbiology. JN Medical College.  
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