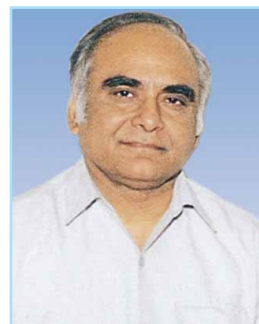


## DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

The Indian Council of Medical Research is the premier research organization of the country in the field of biomedical/health research. It performs its function through its various Institutes, Centres and Advanced Centres spread throughout the country. Some of the Council's Institutes were renamed during the year under report viz. National JALMA Institute of Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases (earlier named as Central JALMA Institute of Leprosy), Agra, National Institute of Medical Statistics (earlier known as Institute for Research in Medical Statistics) and National Institute of Malaria Research (earlier known as Malaria Research Centre), both located in Delhi.



During the year under report, the Council moved forward in its research efforts not only in national priority areas but also in basic research in the field of modern biology. Under the *Avahan* India AIDS Initiative funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Council's National AIDS Research Institute, Pune is collecting biological and behavioural trend data in Indian population. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between ICMR and Merck for initiation of clinical trial of HPV vaccine in India.

There has been significant growth and development in national and international scientific collaborations between ICMR and other scientific agencies in India and abroad. A MOU for South-South collaboration was signed between MRC (South Africa), FIOCRUZ (Brazil) and ICMR to work together in areas of common interest. A total of 73 exchange visits of scientists to and from India were arranged during the year under report.

During the year the Council carried out surveillance for human influenza. Chandipura virus encephalitis and outbreak of Chikungunya was also investigated. A multi-centre site preparation activity to initiate vaccine probe study to estimate preventable burden of *Hemophilus influenzae* B meningitis and pneumonia was launched during the year,

The scientists of the Council published over 450 research papers during 2005. During the year 2005-2006, a total of 779 research projects and 372 fellowships were funded by the Council. The impact factor of Indian Journal of Medical Research increased to 0.869 in 2005 as compared to 0.600 in the year 2004.

A total of 8 patent applications were filed during the reported period. A patent has been granted to a process of mosquito larvicidal formulation from *Bacillus thuringiensis* developed by Council's Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry.

The Council's Bioinformatics Centre has completed networking of all ICMR Institutes, Centres and Headquarters which has greatly improved communication among scientists with enhanced work performance and efficiency of the staff. The website of the ICMR is updated regularly incorporating features beneficial to the scientific community and civil society. This has resulted in increased interaction between ICMR and other agencies, scientists and job applicants.

I am glad to present the highlights of research activities of ICMR for the financial year 2005-2006.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nirmal Kumar Ganguly". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Nirmal Kumar Ganguly  
Director-General