

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The HIV epidemic is progressing unabated in our country. The number of HIV infected persons in the country has crossed 5.2 million. With such high number of HIV infected people there is greater demand for providing care and support to those who are already infected. Our Institute is actively engaged in research activities in this area. A clinical trial of anti-retroviral drugs to compare single dose regimen versus two dose regimen was initiated. Study to compare efficacy of revised national tuberculosis control programme regimen in tuberculosis patients with HIV infection is nearing completion. A full fledged facility for ART drug resistance testing has been established.



The Institute also has a strong programme on prevention research; with vaginal microbicides, vaccines and behavioural intervention strategies being the different approaches pursued. A clinical trial to study the efficacy ART in reducing HIV transmission in HIV discordant couple settings was launched during this year. All these studies are being carried out under GCP compliance. Most of the staff members at NARI have been trained in GCP and the laboratory staff has been trained in GCLP. A strong community outreach programme through collaboration with NGOs and community-based peers has helped in enrollment and retention in various research studies. The Community Advisory Board has been providing very valuable inputs for our studies, especially for the studies that involve community outreach and participation.

The staff has shown dedication and commitment that has resulted in increase in the number and quality of publications during the year. The average impact factor is above 5. Many new staff members have been selected. The Staff Inspection Unit formed under the instruction of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is currently conducting work study to justify more staff positions.

Lastly, this year we have seen more and more interaction with the National programme with strong inputs for National Quality Assurance Scheme for HIV diagnosis and estimation of CD4 counts, HIV drug resistance surveillance, ART role-out programme, significant participation in the First National Conference on HIV/ AIDS Research and annual HIV sentinel surveillance of 2006.

Lastly we would like to thank our Director General Prof. N.K. Ganguly for his very strong support and guidance. We also would like to place on record very strong support from Scientific Advisory Committee Chairman and Members, Ethics committee and Scientists from Division of ECD at ICMR.

Ramesh S. Paranjape
Director