

## FOREWORD

I am delighted to contribute to the Annual Report of the Institute. It has indeed been satisfying to see the Institute emerge as a center of excellence for research in reproductive health. In fact, today this Institute is one of the few centers in India, which can boast of a team of basic, clinical and operational research scientists; state-of-the-art laboratories equipped with modern facilities and an excellent experimental animal facility. The Institute thus provides a conducive environment to carry out high-end and futuristic research endeavors in different aspects of reproductive health.



The Council has tremendous expectations from N.I.R.R.H and I earnestly believe that this Institute has the potential to be at the helm of the Council's endeavors in promoting reproductive health in India. The research programmes of the Institute have led to significant advances in our understanding about the biology of various reproductive functions, the mechanisms underlying various reproductive anomalies, expansion of contraceptive choices, prevention of reproductive tract infections (RTIs) through development of microbicides, and development of national guidelines for management of RTIs. The institute is also at the forefront of realising the therapeutic potential of embryonic stem cells.

There is now a greater need to apply the knowledge accrued to further reduce the burden of reproductive ill health. In a way the research endeavours at the Institute could contribute substantially to achieve the Millennium Development Goals aimed to reduce child mortality; improve maternal health and combat HIV/AIDS including RTIs/STIs.

I congratulate Dr Chander Puri and his staff at the Institute for their team spirit and their ability to effectively address the reproductive health issues. I wish them success in their scientific endeavors, and assure them of continued support from the Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nirmal K. Ganguly', written in a cursive style.

Nirmal K. Ganguly  
Director General  
Indian Council of Medical Research