



## PREFACE

The research activities on clinical, basic and applied aspects of Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), which has taken a new dimension in achieving the mission by the previous Director, was further continued and strengthened during the period under report. The main artery of the institute, the clinical medicine department, is rendering yeoman service to the society. After completion of miltefosine phase IV and Paromomycin phase III trial, phase II trial of Sitamaquine, a new oral investigational product for treatment of VL patients, was successfully conducted with highly encouraging results. A few other clinical trials viz. miltefosine for PKDL (WHO/TDR), Paromomycin Phase IV trial (iOWH), Combination therapy of miltefosine and amphotericin B are to be commenced shortly.

Many new challenges in basic research were addressed viz. PCR based diagnosis of VL and PKDL from blood samples has been developed; some plants' extracts useful in propagation of *Leishmania donovani* promastigotes and possible source of replacement for fetal calf serum (FCS) in the routine culture were identified; malnutrition as a risk factor in the severity of VL along with hypocholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia has been observed. The role of CD2 antigen in T-cell signal transduction pathway and proteophosphoglycan in immunity in VL has been undertaken.

Various projects on the control aspects viz. Evaluation of DDT indoor residual spraying for kala-azar elimination programme; Monitoring and supervision of DDT spray operation in endemic districts of Bihar; Efficacy, acceptability and cost effectiveness of long lasting insecticidal nets in VL prevention; and Kalanet study (sponsored by European Commission) has been undertaken. Application of remote sensing technology and GIS has yielded very encouraging results.

Implementation strategies for VL treatment in India (WHO/TDR) and In-depth review of current Kala-azar elimination programme (NVBDCP, Govt. of India) have been undertaken.

Funds are available for the establishment of a 100-bedded Tropical Disease Research Centre, an extension of already existing 50-bedded indoor ward, besides the construction of an International hostel in the RMRI premises.

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Director