

Executive Summary

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report 2006-2007. The research activities during the year followed three streams, Prevention, care and treatment and Basic science research. First phase I trial of HIV-1 vaccine candidate tgAAC09 concluded this year. The vaccine showed good safety, however the immunogenicity was not sufficient to consider the carrying candidate to Phase II trials. The Institute has developed capacity to conduct vaccine trials and will consider testing other candidates in future. Enrolment in the Phase II trial of expanded safety and acceptability of vaginal microbicide Tenofovir Gel was completed during the year. Enrolment for a study to compare Visual Inspection with Acetic acid with cytological investigations for screening for cervical precancerous lesions in HIV infected women was also completed during the year.

A clinical trial for comparing once daily regimens containing PI or NNRTI versus standard twice daily regimens was initiated and the enrolment is nearing completion. A study for evaluating modules to involve significant others in context with mental health needs of newly diagnosed HIV patients was initiated during the year.

A new building to house Library, Auditorium, data management centre, training facility and administrative offices was inaugurated by our Director General, Prof. N.K. Ganguly on 9th November 2006. A space has been provided in the new building for the initial activities of proposed ICMR School of Public Health, Pune Chapter.

The newly established HIV drug resistance laboratory was accredited by the VQA for carrying out drug resistance testing. The laboratory is expected to be accredited by World Health Organization in near future.

The Institute also got recognition as the WHO collaborating centre for HIV diagnosis and monitoring of anti-retroviral treatment.

The Institute has distinction of being one of the few centres for Clinical Trials directly funded outside USA by National Institutes of Health, USA. The Institute also initiated new studies under funding from Department of Biotechnology and National AIDS Control Organization.

The National AIDS Control Programme was supported by the Institute as a regional Institute for sentinel surveillance in western India, central of excellence for training of National ART rollout programme staff, quality control through External quality assessment programme for CD4 testing and serological diagnosis of HIV infection.

Thus the year under report saw initiation of new projects along with successful completion of vaccine trial, infra-structure strengthening, and contribution to the National AIDS Control Programme.



Ramesh Paranjape
Director