

The Institute continued its focus to enhance capacity building in the strengthening of human resources and infrastructure. Training to develop existing skills and expertise has been the mainstay of the Institute's race towards achieving excellence for staff in scientific, technical and administrative sections. The focus has also been towards acquiring additional equipment, both in the laboratories and offices.

14.1 Human Resource Development

The scientists at the Institute are trained in biomedical, clinical or the social science specialties with expertise in the areas of cellular and molecular biology, functional genomics, clinical research development and assessment of newer methods of fertility regulation, diagnosis and prevention of RTIs/STIs, epidemiology, diagnostics, structure function relationship, operational research and undertake multidisciplinary studies. Faculty to strengthen

conferences, within and outside the country. The faculty members, on return after training, are encouraged to conduct similar training courses for the benefit of other staff of the Institute. This has helped considerably in strengthening the technical skills of most of the scientists.

14.1.2 Workshops and training courses

The institute recognizes that the advanced technologies and know-how available at this institute is not available to scientists working in many other research institutions including medical colleges in our country. High priority is therefore accorded to enhance the technical skills of scientists working in other Institutions. Some of the training programs regularly conducted at the institute relate to molecular biology techniques, insertion and management of complications with IUCDs, ultrasonography, assisted reproductive technologies, gynecological cytology and

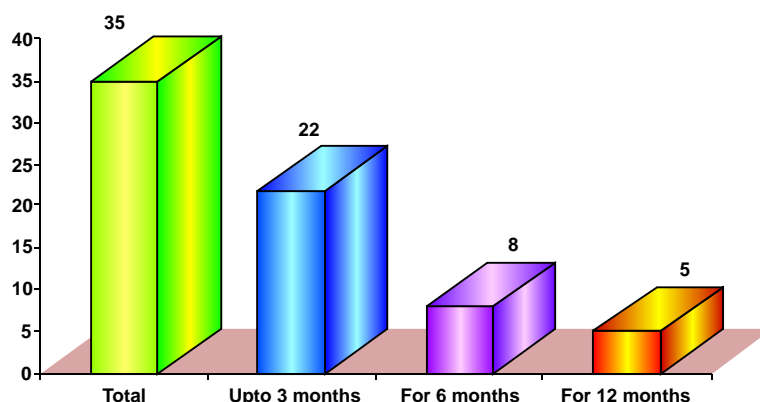


Fig. 149: Scientists trained in world renowned research institute outside the country since 2003.

ongoing programmes and to initiate newer programmes in areas such as bioinformatics, toxicology, stem cell biology and population genetics has been inducted. Two hundred and ten, technical and administrative staff ably supports the scientists.

14.1.2 Strengthening of Technical Skills of Staff

About thirty five scientists have been trained outside the country during the last five Years, out of which there had been nine overseas fellowships since 2007 (Fig.149). In addition, the staff is provided with financial support to participate in national and international

colposcopy, management of infertility and reproductive disorders, and detection of reproductive tract infections.

14.1.3 Conferences/ Workshops/ Training Programmes Conducted by the Institute

1. DBT sponsored short term (3 weeks) training course for Post Graduate Teachers in Biotechnology
March 20–April 7, 2007
Coordinators : Dr V V Khole
2. WHO Sponsored in country fellowship programme for Molecular Biology Techniques March 20–April 27, 2007.

Coordinators : Dr J Mania/ Dr V V Khole

3. Develop India-specific Action Plan to Implement Strategies for Linking Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV / AIDS Programmes
November 20-22, 2007
Coordinators : Dr D Balaiah
4. WHO workshop Pre testing of translated ANM training modules on providing Adolescent Friendly Services
May 21-25, 2007
Coordinators : Dr B N Joshi
5. Workshop on Genetic Toxicology
January 7-14, 2008
Coordinators : Dr G R Vanage
6. DBT sponsored training programme on Applications of emerging technologies for the diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections
August 20-September 7, 2007
Coordinators : Dr J Mania
7. Application of Oocyte Maturation, Embryo Culture, Parthenogenesis and SCNT for Generation of Autologous Embryonic Stem Cells
November 26-December 7, 2007
Coordinators : Dr D Bhartiya
8. WHO sponsored In-Country Fellowship Training Course on Assisted Reproductive Technologies
October 15-November 9, 2007
Coordinators : Dr D Bhartiya
9. Workshop on Project Writing and Evaluation
December 10-13, 2007
Coordinators : Dr S D Mahale

14.1.4 Encouraging Inter-institutional Collaboration

The Institute is recognized as a WHO Collaborative Center for Research and Training in Reproductive Health, and also as a WHO Center of Excellence for Training in Diagnosis and Management of Infertility, Gynecological Ultrasonography and Cytological and Colposcopic Techniques for Detection of RTIs/STIs and Insertion of IUCDs and Management of Complications. Collaborative programmes with UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, NIH and PARTNERS in Population and Development

have been initiated. In addition to these efforts are being made for international collaboration with UN as well as other organizations for funding of research projects as well as conducting studies and workshops jointly. Some of our research projects on Contraception and Reproductive Health Research are ably supported under the Indo-US Collaborative Programme for facilitating the transfer of technology to the country.

14.1.5 Students

The University of Mumbai has recognized the Institute for M. Sc (by research) and Ph D degrees in the faculties of Biochemistry, Applied Biology and Life Sciences. Students undergo a selection process following which they are admitted to the above courses. A doctoral committee monitors the students' research progress every six months. The Institute also inducts summer trainees in various departments, wherein students are given hands-on training on the working of the department (Fig. 150).

Summer trainees

Ten summer trainees were inducted by the institute this year, in various departments like Infectious Diseases Biology, Molecular Endocrinology, Biostatistics, Neuroendocrinology, Immunology and Structural biology. The trainees were introduced to the technological innovations used by the departments in their respective fields and were also trained in the various scientific processes in the ongoing projects of the departments. In addition to this, Department of Operational Research had three Research Observers studying the working of the department.

14.2 Infrastructure Development

To fulfill the lacuna for hostel accommodation for students, a Memorandum of Understanding between NIRRH, ICMR and the Bombay Veterinary College (BVC) has been signed, wherein the BVC will provide eleven rooms, able to accommodate twenty-two students in their under construction hostel facility at Parel, Mumbai. The hostel facility which is located very near to the institute has been earmarked for lady students joining the doctoral programme of the institute. The construction is under progress and the hostel rooms are expected to be ready late in the year 2009/ early 2010.

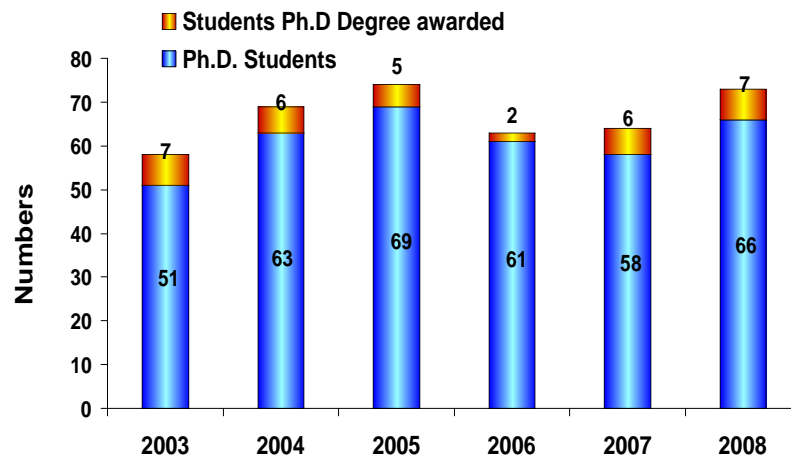


Fig. 150: Number of students pursuing Ph.D. degree course at the institute.



Fig. 151: Under construction students' hostel at the Bombay Veterinary College, Parel, Mumbai.