

Annual Report

2003-2004



Indian Council of Medical Research
New Delhi

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Director-General's Message



The Indian Council of Medical Research has made significant strides in its mandate of 'Research for Better Health'. The Council has lived up to country's expectations on all major fronts of its activity: research and development of vaccines and drugs for infectious diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, filariasis, HIV/AIDS, research in the areas of modern biology like molecular biology, genomics, bioinformatics, fertility regulation, cancer and other non-communicable diseases, consultancy and human resource development, national and international collaborations and biomedical informatics and communication.

During the period under report, the Memorandum for the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) of ICMR has been approved by the Government of India and Rs.870 Crores have been allocated for the 10th Plan. The research activities will now be pursued with greater vigour as more funding would be available. To optimize resource utilization, the Council is using the Combined Approach Matrix being used by Global Health Forum for Health Research for setting research priorities in various disciplines.

The Council continued to play an important role in detecting new and emerging infections in India like the Chandipura virus encephalitis in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat and outbreak of mysterious fever in Siliguri. The investigations carried out in collaboration with CDC, Atlanta on biological specimens collected from Siliguri in 2001 revealed that the outbreak was due to Nipah virus.

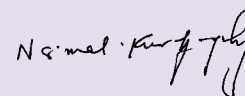
An Inter-Agency collaboration has been started on herbal drugs between the Department of ISM/AYUSH, CSIR and the ICMR, popularly known as the "Golden Triangle". A National Centre for Primate Breeding and Research is being established at Sasunavgher, Maharashtra. The Centre would function as a base for research, biological testing and breeding of primates.

In order to improve access to scientific journals by various institutes of the ICMR, a J-Gate Custom Content for Consortia-ICMR @ JCCC has been set up. It will provide online access to more than 2000 biomedical journals and 12000 journals covered under J-Gate and will enhance sharing of journals available in ICMR Institutes.

The publication output of ICMR continues to be outstanding. The scientists of the Council's Institutes published a total of 434 research papers during 2003 as compared to 330 in 2002. The average impact factor per paper of ICMR improved to 2.180 from 2.030 in 2002. During the financial year 2003-04, over 1000 research projects were funded. Around 900 scientific, technical and supporting staff were trained during the period. Eight patents including one US patent were filed during the year.

The quality of publications of ICMR such as the Indian Journal of Medical Research and Annual Report has improved. A biennial award scheme has been initiated for popular medical books published in Hindi.

I am happy to present the Annual Report of the ICMR for the financial year 2003-04 giving highlights of activities during this period.



Nirmal Kumar Ganguly
Director-General

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