

**CENTRAL JALMA INSTITUTE FOR LEPROSY  
AND OTHER MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASES  
(Indian Council of Medical Research)  
AGRA**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2003 - 2004**



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## Message

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Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy, Agra now renamed as “Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy and Other Mycobacterial Diseases” continues to progress on its chosen path. The Institute as a premiere Institute of Indian Council of Medical Research has been producing high quality basic and applied new knowledge in various aspects of mycobacterial research. While the Institute continues to serve as a nodal reference centre in all aspects of leprosy, the Institute has already established its leadership role in several areas of tuberculosis research. The new name of the Institute, recommended by Scientific Advisory Group, not only highlights the true range of its current activities but also its growing horizons. Growth of this Institute in areas spanning from cutting edge science of genomics to epidemiology reflects true ethos of Indian Council of Medical Research. During 2003-2004, the Institute has further strengthened its infrastructure by establishment of a Microarray laboratory and a Protein Sequencing facility. These efforts of establishing high-tech facilities are equally matched by expansion of its field programmes on leprosy as well as tuberculosis in Kanpur and Agra districts. Besides continuing to serve as a National Mycobacterial Repository and collaborating centre for several areas of mycobacterial research, the Institute has been contributing immensely in training the manpower of country in frontline areas of modern biology. I am sure that this success-story will continue in future. I wish the scientists and other staff of the Institute all success.



*N.K. Ganguly*

(N.K. Ganguly)  
Director-General

## Preface

This Annual Report presents the glimpses of the activities of the Institute during 2003-2004. Expanded initials of the Institute signify its main mandate of undertaking research on leprosy, selected areas of tuberculosis and other related problems. Progress achieved in various spheres is reflection of the changing face of Indian Council of Medical Research. Drive to strengthen facilities has been continued during this period and a Microarray Laboratory and a Protein Sequencing Facility were commissioned during the year.



From the very beginning these facilities are being used for extramural projects on leprosy and TB genomics as well as proteomics. Not only studies on these front line areas of leprosy and tuberculosis research have received impetus during the year, but also application based studies on diagnostics, therapeutics, molecular epidemiology, drug resistance, continued endemicity of leprosy in some areas and its possible association with filarial infections etc. have been accelerated. By working in closer partnership with National Programmes on leprosy and tuberculosis, the Institute has strengthened its main mission of generating new knowledge and new technology for application in patient care as well as at community health level. During the year, a gene amplification RFLP method developed with support from DBT was transferred with WHO assistance to selected end-users from different institutions. In addition to participating/ coordinating in several multi-centric studies the Institute continues to serve as a National Repository for Mycobacteria and a Reference Center for HIV screening. Like in previous years, the Institute has maintained its support to human resource development of the country by providing specialized training and by participating in postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral training programmes. In order to further increase its role in knowledge sharing activities, the Institute organized national / international seminars/ symposia / workshops during this period.

It is needless to say that stimulating leadership of the Director-General and the administrative as well financial support of ICMR Headquarters have been mainly responsible for helping us achieve this rapid progress in modernizing the infrastructure and enhancing the scientific output. The financial support of other agencies (DBT/ DST/ LEPR/ WHO/ NACO / NLEP etc.) and the advice of the experts of Scientific Advisory Committee, Ethical Committees, Biosafety Committee, Technical Committee and other committees has been immense and we are grateful for that. All this support will certainly help us to march ahead towards achieving excellence in every sphere of our activity.

(ii)

  
(V.M.Katoch)  
Director