

INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES

1. Sero-diagnostic facility for arboviral diseases

Sero-diagnostic facility was extended to Assam State Health Authorities in confirming the outbreak of Japanese encephalitis in Upper Assam. Acute Serum/CSF samples were collected from 32 suspected JE patients admitted in hospitals of different districts and Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh during July-August, 2003. Anti-JE IgM antibodies were detected in 87.5% (28/32) patients (Table-6).

Table-6: Age and sex distribution of JE cases diagnosed during 2003

Sex	Age group (in years)			Total
	≤12	13-40	>40	
Male	10	11	3	24
Female	3	0	1	4
Total	13	11	4	28

2. Malaria clinic

A total of 45 fever cases (41 Males, 4 Females; age 18-60 years) reported to the malaria clinic during 2003-2004. Blood smears of 8 persons were tested malaria positive (Slide positivity rate 17.8%) with 3 persons positive for *P. falciparum* (Slide falciparum rate 6.7%, Pf proportion 37.5%) and 5 for *P. vivax*. All malaria positive persons were treated as per the policy of National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme.



A view of malaria clinic

3. Computer facility

During this year a few numbers of Pentium-IV desktop PC, Deskjet printer and Lasejet printers were added to the existing computer facility. Efforts are being made to

upgrade the existing IPA VSAT to DVB VSAT for enhancement of Internet facility in the centre. The installation of networking facility in the centre is progressing.

4. Publication and Information section



A view of the library

The library of the centre continued to provide the information and reprographic services to the scientists. A total of 50 national and international biomedical journals were subscribed by the library and many new books were added to the library. The total book holdings of the centre stands at 1851. The abstracting services of the scientific publications of the centre was continued along with updating work of research publications. The Medline and Internet services were also provided to the researchers by the library. Other services like indexing work of books and journals, displaying the recent scientific publications of the centre and news paper clippings of the items related to health were continued. A book entitled “Diet and Diabetes”, published by ICMR was translated in to Assamese language.

5. Animal House



Rattus norvegicus colony in Animal House

The animal house of this centre is registered with Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA), Chennai under registration No. 73 / 1999 / CPCSEA. The stock position of various animals being bred in the animal house as on 31.03.2004 is given in Table-7. A Veterinarian of this centre carries out periodical health checkups of all animals regularly according to CPCSEA guidelines.

Table-7 : Stock position of various laboratory animals maintained in animal house

Sl.No.	Name of animal	Strain	Number
1.	Mouse (<i>Mus musculus</i>)	Swiss albino	380
2.	Mouse (<i>Mus musculus</i>)	BALB/c	346
3.	Rat (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>)	Wistar	355
4.	Mastomys (<i>Praomys coucha</i>)	Coucha	05
5.	Hamster (<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>)	Syrian	28
6.	Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	Belgian	66
7.	Sheep	Indigenous	03
	Total		1183

6. Insectory

One species of *Anopheles* was added to the insectory in this year. Thus, 4 species of mosquitoes namely, *Anopheles stephensi* (Delhi strain), *Aedes aegypti*, *Culex quinquefasciatus* and *Toxorhynchites splendens* were colonized round the year in the mosquito colony of the centre



A view of the mosquito colony

Trainings/Workshops/Seminars organized by the centre

1. Workshop on Morbidity Surveillance in Sikkim

A 5-days workshop on Morbidity Surveillance in Sikkim was Organized by RMRC, Dibrugarh from 18-22 August 2003 to orient and train the project staff for undertaking morbidity surveillance. During the Workshop, besides informal interaction between the participants and faculty members and a field based training, several special lectures were also organized for the benefit of the participants. Handling of computer and running of related application softwares was also taught to the participants.

2. Workshop on Causes of Death by Verbal Autopsy

A 3-day workshop on Causes of death by verbal autopsy in Assam was organized by RMRC, Dibrugarh for the investigators and project staffs from 9-11 May 2003. Dr. J. Mahanta Director RMRC, Dibrugarh, Dr. N.C.Hazarika Deputy Director RMRC, Dibrugarh, Dr. Megha Chandra Singh, Dept. of SPM, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi and Dr. Geetha R. Menon, ICMR, New Delhi were the expert Faculty members in this workshop who delivered lectures on various aspects of Causes of Death, including epidemiology, clinical symptoms, sampling procedure. Various proformae to be used in verbal autopsy were discussed in details and a field training was also organized for the participants.

3. Institute's Foundation Day

The 21st Foundation day of RMRC, Dibrugarh was celebrated with a 4-days programme from 10-13th July, 2003. An orientation programme on Bio-medical research was organized on 10-11th July, 2003 for young children including selected representatives from National Children Science Congress, Sibsagar district branch to enhance their inquisitiveness to medical sciences. On 12th July, 2003 a scientific Seminar was organized encompassing lectures of high standard on various subjects from eminent personalities of their field. The Foundation Day Oration was delivered by Prof. K. Pathak, VC, Dibrugarh University on a very thought provoking subject "Science, Culture and Development". On 13th July, 2003 a free geriatric health check up was arranged at the centre which was attended by hundreds of old age patients from the nearby villages.



Medical Microbiology (III Yr)
Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Sikkim

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| 5. Mr. Mriganka Sarma
M.Sc. Student
R.K. Institute of Management &
Computer Science, Bangalore | 14.7.2003 – 1.8.2003 | -do- |
| 6. Mr. A. K. Singh
B.Sc. Student
Boston College for Professional
Studies, Gwalior | 9.6.2003 – 8.7.2003 | -do- |
| 7. Mr. Nabanita Saharia
B.Sc. Student
Boston College for Professional
Studies, Gwalior | -do- | -do- |
| 8. Mr. Sidharth Mahali
B. Sc. Student
Administrative Management College
Bangalore | -do- | -do- |

Awards/Honours received by the scientists

1. Dr. J. Mahanta, Director delivered the Diamond Jubilee Foundation Day Oration lecture (25.9.2003) at Regional Research Laboratory (CSIR), Jorhat.
2. Dr. P. K. Mohapatra, AD was awarded WHO Fellowship for 6 weeks in the field of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (30.6.2003 – 8.8.2003) at University of Khonkaen, Thailand.
3. Dr. A.C. Phukan, AD was awarded WHO fellowship to attend 13th STDs/AIDS Diploma Course (3.11.2003 – 28.11.2003) at Bangkok Hospital, Thailand.
4. Dr. H. K. Das, RO was awarded the degree of Masters in Community Health (M.Ch.) from Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.