

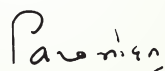
## Foreword

The major thrust and focus of the Indian Council of Medical Research is to work towards improving the health of the Indian people. The Council has 27 Research Institutes/Centres engaged in full time research and development activities primarily engaged in research on communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, reproductive health and nutrition and environmental and occupational health using both conventional and, of late, cutting edge technologies like genomics etc. for understanding and solving the health problems. The Council also has a strong extramural research support system to researchers and clinicians engaged in all areas of biomedical research within the mandate of the Council.

In its long and distinguished history, the Council (established 1911) has significantly contributed towards promoting better health for the Indian public (through the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India) in the development, evaluation and conduct of field trials of various public health technologies. However, until recently the thrust and focus of the Council has been more towards understanding infections like tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases, leprosy, malaria, filariasis, leishmaniasis, viral diseases like Japanese encephalitis, dengue *etc.* and to primarily combat these. The Council has also played a key role in assisting the Government of India during disease epidemics, like bird flu or those with unknown etiology, wherever they occur, through laboratory support by providing diagnostics. R&D for the generation of new drugs, diagnostics, vaccines, devices and other tools of public health significance did not receive adequate attention until recently. With India becoming fully compliant with the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) regime in January 2005, there are international obligations in terms of harmonization Intellectual Property protection regimes, especially product patent protection. The new product-patent regime has thrown up huge challenges for the country especially in the health sector as the health products pipeline hitherto available through the generic route will soon dry up. This new scenario has given the necessary impetus and urgency for a paradigm shift for the ICMR to switch tracks towards generating new intellectual property that could lead to new products and processes. In addition, there is a great need to focus on

translational research to quickly convert the many inventions from the Indian laboratories to products for the public. In brief, my vision for the Council in the near future would be bring in the much needed increased synergy between focused laboratory research targeted to product development and build strong and vibrant partnerships with the industry to quickly bring products for public health use. All the systems and procedures for the identification, protection, preservation and exploitation of the IP generated have been in place for sometime at the IPR Unit of the ICMR Headquarters which provides a single-window support for ICMR sponsored research from concept to commercialization.

The patent filing and IP generation have seen a healthy rise in the recent past as evident from the increased patent filings in India and abroad. This book "Commercialization of ICMR Technologies" in its second revised edition catalogues the technologies generated by the ICMR both by our intramural scientists working in various Council's institutes and researchers from medical colleges, universities and other institutes through extramural support. Some technologies have already been transferred to the industry and many are awaiting commercialization. The Council is making all efforts to ensure that the fruits of public funded research reach the common people of this country. I earnestly urge the Indian industry to partner with ICMR to work towards our common endeavour of providing affordable health care to the Indian people.



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