

Academy news

It has been 17 years since the Academy of Clinical Microbiologists was formed in 1996. As of now, we are an association of 256 life members spread over India and a few abroad. In its effort to propagate the practice of clinical microbiology, ACM has been conducting CME programmes and workshops every year. The Journal has also played a great role in encouraging articles that directly link the laboratory with patient care.

One major achievement has been making the Journal of the Academy of Clinical Microbiologists (ACM) online. For this one issue of the journal could not be published. However the editorial team is now determined not to lose out on any more issues. All authors can now upload their articles online along with their copyright forms and details of all authors in the front page. The Medknow publications deserve a special note of appreciation for being very prompt and also very patient in training the editorial team in handling the various phases of article reviewing and publishing. All the rules governing publishing an article according to international guidelines has been set forth by them and we shall be able to follow it with their support. There have been many errors and delays as this is the first issue and it is hoped that the members will excuse us. All the errors will be set forth in the erratum section of the December issue. The office bearers also wish to thank all the members who have given financial support to this venture. The rates have been correspondingly increased in the firm belief that quality needs a lot of financial and intellectual commitment.

The second ACM-CME of 2013 was conducted at Raja Rajeshwari Medical college and hospital On the 31th of August 2013. The workshop on Outbreak investigations: Steps and methods were well appreciated. It was well organised by Dr. Satish Amarnath, Head, Quality, Compliance and Outreach services, Manipal Cure and Care, Bangalore. Dr. Sangeetha Sampath who organised the CME has shown us a new method of conducting programmes that are both useful

and practical to the core. Dr. Amarnath chose five teams from the registered delegates and sent them case histories of different outbreaks. The teams came prepared with slides on the probable source. However, Dr. Amarnath very deftly handled the teams and led them on with hints and supporting data to reach the correct conclusion. He proved that outbreaks just need a lot of common sense and basic knowledge of the pathogens. An example was the case where atypical mycobacteria caused Surgical site Infection (SSI) after laparoscopic surgery. The cases came back after a gap of 3 months and to realise it was an outbreak, needed another 2 months till the pathogen grew in the lab.

Another mission achieved was extending official support as an organisation to the “Chennai Declaration”— a 5-year plan to formulate a national antibiotic policy to tackle the challenge of antimicrobial resistance in India. It is hoped that ACM will also be able to contribute its might to this great venture.

An ACM general body meeting was held on 5th of October at Govt. Medical College, Thrissur, Kerala. Various agenda were discussed, including the 6th triennial conference due to be held at Thrissur. It has been tentatively decided to have a 3-day programme with pre-conference workshop, followed by a CME and Conference on 15th, 16th and 17th of August 2014. A new set of office bearers have to be elected at that time.

The first CME of 2014 is due to be held at Govt. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram in February 2014. The tentative programme is to concentrate on virology and look at the new updates in this field in the wake of the growing menace of the Arboviruses.

We look forward to active participation from all our members in the forthcoming CME programmes, triennial conference and activities of ACM in carrying this organisation ahead.

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