

Academy News

Greetings to all Academy of Clinical Microbiologists (ACM) members.

One of the memorable events in the past six months was when ACM joined hands with the Kerala State Government in bringing up an antibiotic policy for the state. Kerala is the first state to adopt an antibiotic policy, and ACM had actively participated in each step of this venture.

On 27th February 2016, a CME was held at the Government Medical College, Trivandrum, on 'Viral infections – current scenario'. The aim of this CME was to impart knowledge regarding the recent scenario in viral infections with several experts in the field of virology as speakers. Delegates from all over India actively participated, making it a grand event. The first speaker Dr. Sarada Devi K. L., Professor and Head of Microbiology, Government Medical College, Calicut, enlightened us with the various aspects of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in her talk, 'HCV – chronicles of a winning war'. This was followed by another interesting session 'Viral encephalitis – experience of a clinician' by Dr. Ganapathi Rao, Professor of Medicine, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, where he shared many of his clinical experiences on this topic. The third talk was by Dr. G. Arun Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Viral Research, Manipal Centre, for Virus Research on 'Emerging viral infections and Public health challenges in Kerala' where he described his experiences with supposedly rare fevers in the hilly regions on the borders of Kerala and Karnataka. This was followed by

the next topic 'HIV – newer approach in treatment and prevention' by Rajesh Kannaghai, Professor and Head, Department of Virology, CMC, Vellore. The last speaker was Dr. Sheela Mathew, Additional Professor, Infectious Diseases, Government Medical College, Calicut, who spoke on the emerging threat of Kyasanur forest disease (KFD) in Kerala in her topic 'KFD – current scenario'. In the post-lunch session, there was poster presentation followed by a short training on real-time polymerase chain reaction.

At the ACM council meeting on the same day, discussions were on a uniform curriculum development for PG course, good external quality assessment scheme programme and criteria for indexing of JACM.

The next CME of ACM will be conducted on 8th July 2016, at Jubilee Mission Medical College, Thrissur, Kerala. The topic is 'Surviving Antibiotic resistance'. Brochure is included in this issue of JACM. Please register early and keep updated on antibiotics and infection control topics, as part of your clinical microbiology practice.

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Access this article online

Quick Response Code:



Website:

www.jacmjournal.org

DOI:

10.4103/0972-1282.184766

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How to cite this article: Valsan C. Academy news. J Acad Clin Microbiol 2016;18:1.