

Academy news

Greetings to all the National and International members of the Academy of Clinical Microbiologists (ACM), from Kerala, God's own country! I have taken charge as the President of ACM in August 2017. Since then, 25 new members have been enrolled in the association. As you all know ACM was started as a small association with 18 members in 1996. Now, we have 360 members all over India and abroad. Dr. Mabel Legori, who is the founder president of ACM, started the Association with the intention of implementing the practice of clinical microbiology by disseminating practical knowledge and awareness amongst the microbiologists and clinicians and to give more importance to microbiology in clinical practice.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a great problem today, has resulted from the misuse and overuse of antibiotics not only in India but also all over the world. Now, we are struggling to find out solutions to prevent AMR. The Government of Kerala has already taken initiative to control AMR in the state under the most enthusiastic and dynamic leadership of Additional Chief Secretary, Mr. Rajeev Sadanandan. A series of meetings and discussions are going on in this state on this aspect with the participation of authorities from the Government sector and Non-Governmental Organizations. Members of ACM participating in this exercise have the added advantage of being primed for the activity by the countless Continuing Medical Educations (CMEs) and conferences on this subject conducted by different colleges in the state and outside.

The last CME was conducted at Government Medical College, Thrissur on 9th February 2018. The programme was enlightening due to the sharing of experiences by eminent speakers from reputed institutions in Kerala. Dr. Sohanlal, Consultant Microbiologist, MIMS, Kozhikode, gave an elaborate lecture on 'Extremely drug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria in critically ill patients and antibiotic options'. He shared his own practical experiences on detection of ESBL producers. It was very informative and useful to all the participants. Dr. Prithi Nair, Professor and HOD, Microbiology, GMC Thrissur, who was the organizing Chairperson for the CME gave an interesting talk on 'Drug-resistant Gram-negative cocci'. Dr. Manoj V, Consultant Neonatologist, Jubilee Mission Medical College, Thrissur, gave a talk from his own experiences in tackling neonatal infection in Intensive Care Unit. It

was very thought provoking. Dr. Jyothish Gopinathan, Consultant Nephrologist, Meitra Hospital, Kozhikode and IQRAA Hospital Kozhikode, an eminent personality and brilliant nephrologist who has practical experiences in Nephrology in India and abroad gave an in-depth talk on 'Eliminating cross infections in haemodialysis-Opportunities and Challenges'. Dr. Anup Warriar, Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Hospital Infection Control, Aster Medicity, Kochi, conducted clinical case discussions which were interesting. Participants had a good interactive session to clarify their doubts on processing and culture of Reverse Osmosis water, during the panel discussion.


Recently, clinical microbiologists in Kerala had to face an issue created by the State Medical Council (TCMC, Kerala). They issued a circular to Directorate of Medical Education stating that only Doctors with MD Pathology are eligible to sign the reports. ACM members responded promptly to the issue by giving a representation and explained to the TCMC authorities about all the drawbacks regarding signing the reports and convinced them that Biochemistry, Microbiology and Pathology are different subjects and a person holding the Professional degree of MD Pathology cannot sign the Microbiology culture report and serology reports. They understood our situation and promised to take necessary steps to change the decision after conducting a meeting within a week.

I am happy to inform you that the next CME under the aegis of ACM is going to be conducted at Government Medical College, Ernakulam, Kerala, on 4th August 2018. We have great pleasure in inviting you all to attend the CME on 'Recent advances in Microbiology' which is going to be held in the College Auditorium Government Medical College, Kalamassery, Ernakulam. I can promise you a wealth of information from all the carefully chosen and dynamic speakers. I request all the HODs of Government Medical Colleges and Private Medical Colleges inside and outside Kerala who are the members of ACM to motivate your PG students to present papers in the free paper session during the CME programme. There is a session for poster presentation also. Please do come and attend the CME programme without fail and make it a grand success.

I express my best wishes to all the members of ACM in your personal and professional life. Please continue your support and cooperation for the growth of ACM.

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