

Academy news

Warm greetings to all members of the Academy of Clinical Microbiologists (ACM) from Thiruvanthapuram, Kerala. I have taken over as the new Secretary of ACM and would like to seek the blessings and help of all the members of ACM in carrying out my tasks.

This is the 21st year of ACM since it was formed in 1996 under the strong leadership of Dr Mabel Legori, the Founder President of ACM. ACM has grown from its initial strength of 18 members to the present status with 335 life members. ACM has a pivotal role in implementing the practice of clinical microbiology by linking the patient with the microbiologist.

TRICON 2017 held in Government Medical College, Calicut, from 4th to 6th August was the most important event that occurred in the last six months. The three-day programme was a grand success because of the various enlightening scientific sessions by eminent speakers. On the first day, the scientific programme began with three workshops, namely, 'Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing and Interpretation' guided by Dr Kavita Raja, Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology, SCTIMST, Trivandrum, and Dr Sohanlal, Consultant Microbiologist, MIMS, Kozhikode, The other was on 'Molecular Diagnostics in Tuberculosis and Demonstration on Gene Xpert and Line Probe Assay' by Dr Gomathi N. S., Scientist, NIRT (ICMR), Chennai, and 'Unusual and Interesting Fungal Isolates' by Dr Remadevi S., Professor, Dr SMCSI Medical College, Trivandrum.

There was a formal inauguration of the Seventh Triennial Conference of ACM and Pre-Conference CME on the second day. Dr Arunaloke Chakrabarti, Professor and Head, Department of Medical Microbiology, PGIMER, Chandigarh, delivered an interesting talk on 'Clinical Challenges in Invasive Fungal Infections'. Next session was on 'Non-tuberculous Mycobacteria—Diagnosis, Updates and Indian Scenario' by Dr Ranjani Ramachandran, National Professor Officer, WHO Country Office, New Delhi, India. An enlightening session by Dr Sanjay Bhattacharya, Consultant Microbiologist, Tata Medical Centre, Kolkatta, on 'Setting up a Molecular Virology Laboratory' followed. Then, Dr Savitha Nagaraj, Additional Professor, Department Of Microbiology, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, delivered an eye-opening session on 'Infection prevention in high-risk areas: Everything matters'. Dr Anup. R. Warriar, Consultant ID and HICC, Aster Medicity,

Kochi, shared his experience in his talk on 'Antibiotic stewardship—From bench to bedside'. Next speaker was Dr Rajeev Soman, Consultant Phycisian, P. D. Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai, and he gave a talk on 'Pitfalls in the diagnosis and management of infectious diseases'. In the afternoon session, there was a case-based discussion on the management and diagnosis of HBV, HCV, and CMV by Dr Sanjay Bhattacharya, Consultant Microbiologist, Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata. This was an interactive session and benefited postgraduates and junior faculties. The last session was 'An Odyssey through Outbreaks: Our experience' at Government Medical College, Kozhikode, by a team of doctors which included Dr Sheela Mathew, Additional Professor, Department of Medicine, Dr Vijayakumar M., Additional Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Dr Jayakrishnan M. P., Additional Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Dr Priya Chandran, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine.

An ACM general body meeting was held in the evening which mainly focussed on the election of new office bearers and new council members. The new Executive council members are as follows:

President	Dr Lancy J.
Vice Presidents (senior)	Dr S. Muraleedharan
(junior)	Dr Kavita Raja
Secretary	Dr S. Manjusree
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	Dr Shabina M. B.
Assistant Editor	Dr Gaurav Goel

For details, readers may visit the website of ACM, www.clinicalmicrobio.org.

The Seventh Triennial Conference on 6th August started with the ACM Oration delivered by Dr Ranganathan Iyer, Quality Manager, Sr. Consultant and HOD, Microbiology, Global Hospital, Hyderabad. The topic was 'MDR Organisms and Infection Control in solid Organ Transplant programme'. This was followed by free paper presentation, best paper presentation, poster session and quiz competition for the postgraduates and junior faculties. The first CME of 2018 is to be held


at the Government Medical College, Thrissur, Kerala, India, in February 2018 and the theme of the CME will be announced soon.

We, the new office bearers expect wholehearted co-operation from all members to strengthen the ACM and take it to greater heights.

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