



President's Message

Greetings to all Members and well wishers.

I invite all the experts and delegates to the APCRICON 2011, which will be held at Chennai on 9th and 10th of July and share their experiences and views in the field of Rabies prevention and control.

The theme “Why should any one die of Rabies in the Twenty first Century ? ” brings attention to the fact that we have to co-operate and do something concrete for elimination of Canine Rabies and control of Human Rabies in our country.

NTV has been discontinued in 2004 in our country and CCVs are being used throughout the country. IDRV was introduced in 2006. A survey needs to be done to evaluate whether usage of CCV and IDRV has resulted in a decrease in the number of Human Rabies cases.

The role of media is also important in educating the public about Rabies prevention. Recent incidents in Andhra Pradesh bear testimony to this. The initial reports on deaths due to Rabies linked these deaths to the non-availability of Rabies Vaccine for a few days in a government hospital (in one town), but totally ignored the fact that these patients who died of Rabies did not seek proper post exposure treatment after a dog bite and they were bitten when vaccine was actually available in this hospital. A reputed news paper reported that Rabies vaccine was not available in an important center in Hyderabad, ignoring the fact that there was never any shortage of vaccine at this center. The general public has become anxious and scared due to the media reports and the number of people seeking PEP in government hospitals has increased very much. Some patients are coming repeatedly for taking vaccine. **Only a few sections of the media have given importance to educating the public on proper local wound toilet and the starting of PEP at the earliest after a dog bite** and about the measures taken by the authorities to ensure sufficient supplies of Rabies vaccine in all the government clinics and hospitals.

This only shows that the media can play a very important role in achieving the goal of a Rabies free India and should constructively participate in this mission.

I heartily welcome all the delegates attending APCRICON 2011.

With best wishes,

Date: 1st July, 2011
Place: Hyderabad

Dr.G.Sampath
President, APCRI