

## Editorial

## IMPACT OF APCRI IN CHANGING THE RABIES SCENARIO OF INDIA IN THE LAST 17 YEARS

There was no professional association to help those doctors who worked at the ARCs. On 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1998 the APCRI was created with the objective of having a Scientific and Professional platform to focus on Rabies and its Control. Annual Conferences on Rabies and its Control were organized every year, and the knowledge gathered has been disseminated throughout the country by its members.

The first of the many Aims & Objectives of APCRI is “to bring out regularly a bulletin of the association, which will cover the various scientific aspects of Rabies and will keep its members updated regarding newer developments on this fatal disease. It should be the aim of the Editor to maintain a simple yet practical approach in the discussion on various topics”.

The journal is mailed to all members and important persons and institutes working in the field. The APCRI Journal is a peer reviewed journal and it got its ISSN in July 2006, and got Indexed in Index Copernicus International in 2013.

The APCRI Journal published twice a year, the annual conferences called APCRICONs, the World Rabies Day activities, multiple regional meetings & workshops and innumerable CMEs have all played a great role in improving the knowledge base about Rabies among all types of medical service providers.

In the last 17 years a lot of significant changes have taken place in the Rabies Scenario of India as a result of APCRI's efforts. The most significant of these changes are:-

1) The Competence of the Doctors managing Animal Bites has increased many folds, due to

APCRI's efforts resulting in ready availability of many brands of high quality Rabies Vaccines and Immunoglobulins.

- 2) An increase in the number of patients seeking Rabies PEP, timely, due to APCRI's efforts in increasing the awareness level about Rabies in the people.
- 3) The number of centers offering proper Rabies PEP, has increased many folds, due to APCRI's efforts in sensitizing the Govt. system about its need.
- 4) There has been a marked reduction in the number of Rabies cases as a fall out of APCRI's efforts in many directions over the years.

APCRI was mainly instrumental in stopping the use of Semple Vaccine [NTV] in 2005 and introduction of IDRV in Govt. Hospitals and ARCs in 2006. This has resulted in much better access to modern PEP for the people of India.

**In 2003-2004 the WHO-APCRI national multi-centric survey to assess the burden of rabies in India was carried out.** The mortality from Rabies in India was reported to be 20565. This is the last and only methodical work on this issue till now.

The Activities carried out by APCRI has resulted in greater number of patients seeking Rabies PEP timely. Greater number of doctors becoming competent in managing Animal Bite cases correctly. Modern, WHO approved Rabies PEP becoming available to a larger portion of the population of India than before. The Actual number of Rabies deaths from the data of Infectious Diseases Hospitals in India has shown a **Remarkable Decline.**