

Editorial

From the Editor's Desk

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I took charge as the Editor of APCRI Journal on August 4, 2024, at the 24th APCRICON held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Soon after returning to Kolkata, on August 9, 2024, the unfortunate incident of the Abhaya case happened in my medical college, which shook not only the state but also the entire country. As a result, the day-to-day functioning of the institution was affected and normalcy was restored after a few months. We were able to conduct the 1st EC meeting of the new committee in Kolkata on Saturday, October 5, 2024. Hence, the release of this issue of the journal was delayed and it is sincerely regretted.

This issue of the journal has a guest editorial from Dr Reeta S Mani, Professor and HOD of Neurovirology and Head of WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Rabies, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore. Despite her busy schedule, she provided the editorial at short notice and the editor and the journal committee are thankful to her for this valuable contribution. There are six articles in this issue, i.e. four research articles, one review paper and one case report, and I am thankful to the authors for accepting the delay in the publication of their papers.

At the national level, there is progress in the implementation of the National Action Plan for Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) and many states are getting started with the State Action Plan for Rabies Elimination (SAPRE). The activities under the Rabies Free City Initiative have commenced. However, the cohesion of human, animal and environmental sectors for one health and the pace in implementation of the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030 need acceleration. In this regard, the APCRI is ready to provide technical support to the nodal organization, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi. Furthermore, it is time that the National Rabies Control Program (NRCP) be renamed as the National Rabies Elimination Program (NREP) which is in sync with NAPRE and the global action plan for zero by 30.

To advise and guide the editor and journal committee, nine members of APCRI with credible and significant research work in the field of Rabies and organizational experience were co-opted. The continued technical support and guidance provided by Ms Neha Awasthi, Manager Publications, Ms Deeksha Singh Jadon, Publication Research Analyst and Ms Shalini Tripathi, MD & CEO, Advanced Research Publications, Ghaziabad, UP, for bringing out this issue is duly acknowledged. The valuable advice and guidance provided by Prof (Dr) Jugal Kishore, Delhi is sincerely placed on record.

I am the only woman member of the executive committee of APCRI and the first woman editor of the journal. I look forward to actively working for the objectives of the association with the support of the executive committee and members of the association. This is my humble submission to all, that their good work on rabies must not go unnoticed and as this journal is a platform where we can reflect on the scientific work we are contributing to the society, it is my request to all to come up with scientific articles and enrich ourselves with the experience. At our end, we commit to bringing out the issues of the journal regularly and on time in the days to come.

It is also noteworthy that Dr Durga Madhab Satapathy, President, APCRI and Dr Hemant Gohil, Secretary-General, APCRI were my constant support throughout this initial journey. Lastly, I thank Dr MK Sudarshan, Founder President & Mentor, APCRI for guiding me in this endeavour.

I am thankful to Dr Dheeraj Kumar Singh, Junior Resident, Department of Community Medicine, RGKMC, Kolkata, and Ms Adrija Chattopadhyay, a third year Part I MBBS student of RGKMC, Kolkata who helped me with the formatting works for the journal.

Prof. (Dr) Tanushree Mondal
Editor