

From the Desk of President, ISMOCD



Dr. Sujeet Kumar Singh

The XIII Annual Conference of Indian Society for Malaria and Other Communicable Diseases was organized from 29th Nov. to 1st Dec. 2019 at IMA House, Kochi. The main theme of the conference has been quite appropriate, "Combating Vector Borne Diseases : Need for Paradigm Shift". The three days deliberations focused on novel strategies related to epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment and control of vector borne and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs); Communicable and Non-communicable diseases. ISMOCD has been actively working towards carrying forward the agenda of prevention, control and elimination of communicable diseases through updates, recent advances, research priorities, challenges and opportunities with regard to new re-emerging diseases namely Zika, Scrub Typhus, Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and Yellow Fever.

The conference was inaugurated by Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Hon. State Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India on 29.11.2019 at IMA House, Kochi (Kerala). This conference was adjudged so far the best conference by the delegates among all the previous conferences of ISMOCD in view of its arrangements, digital technology, scientific contents of plenary talks, oral and poster presentations, timeliness, venue, food and stay arrangements. The same was also well appreciated by the chief guest as well during the inaugural address. The three days sessions comprised of 3 plenary session, 3 technical sessions, 9 sessions for oral presentations and 1 session for poster presentation. Three awards each were given for oral and poster presentations. More than 350 delegates from the country and abroad participated in this conference.

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to the office bearers of the local organizing committee (Dr. M.K. Showkhath Ali - Patron, Dr. K.A. Shyamini - President, Dr. R. Rajendran - Organizing Secretary and Dr. K.Reghu -Treasurer) and members of other committees for taking all pains and hard work for making this conference a grand success. Thanks are due to the state and district health authorities of Kerala for continuous coordination and support to this conference. Special thanks to all the officers and staff of APHO / Seaport Kochi in proper organizing the conference.

I extend my heartiest thanks to the office bearers of central organizing committee (Dr. S.K. Jain - Vice President, Dr. S.N. Sharma - Organizing Committee, Dr. Sukhvir Singh -Treasurer) and members of other committees for their supports for making this conference successful. The role of members of executive body of ISMOCD had been very instrumental in organizing this conference and deserve special thanks. The names of Dr. M.K. Showkhath Ali, Dr. K.A. Shyamini, Dr. K.P. Hamza Koya, Dr. Raphel Teddy, Dr. B.B. Ibrahim, Dr. P.S. Ashraf and Dr. Arun Chouhan need special mention for their hard work and untired efforts expending full support to this conference and making it a grand success.

The names of sponsors which need special thanks include WHO Country Office, India, CDC India , M/s Vestergaard Frandson, M/s Ajay Biotech, PATH, Tagros Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., M/s Shobika Impex , M/s Greenlife Solutions and Hindustan Insecticide Ltd. Thanks are due to M/s Advanced Research Publications (ADR) for their valuable support in terms of designing the backdrops, program schedule, conference website and publication of conference souvenir.

I am pleased to learn that a special issue of the proceedings of the conference is being published as the special issue of Journal of Communicable Diseases with the support of ADR Publications and the same is highly acknowledged. The full length papers on the selected abstracts presented during the conference are being published and the authors need appreciations for their contributions.

I hope that the State/ District Programme Managers, Public Health Specialists, Clinicians, Entomologists, Biologists, Researchers, Academicians working in the public health programmes / Medical Colleges / Universities shall be benefitted with an update on the ongoing activities for programme implementation, research priority areas in the field of communicable diseases.

The General Body Meeting of ISMOCD held during the conference was apprised of the activities being performed by ISMOCD during 2019-20 at Chandigarh and Delhi with financial statement of expenditure. The same was endorsed by the GBM with the decision to hold the election of next executive body of ISMOCD during next conference.