



VPCI NEWSLETTER

Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute Newsletter

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Chairman's Message



I am happy to learn that the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, one of the pioneering and most prestigious Centre of pulmonary research and care, has decided to publish a Newsletter. In addition to periodically informing other colleagues about the progress of work done, the Newsletter serves another important function i.e., to promote public awareness of what services the institute is able to provide to the society. Unfortunately, the latter function is neglected by our scientific institutions. The 1999, Declaration of Science (Released by the World Congress of Science, Budapest) stated "The practice of scientific research and the issue of knowledge from that research should always be for the welfare of human kind...".

I take this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Rajendra Prasad, who within a short period of assuming the responsibility as the Director of the Institute, has thought of publishing this Newsletter. I wish all success to this venture and would look forward to its future editions.

Prof. P.N. Tandon
Chairman, Governing Body, VPCI

Director's Message



It gives me great pleasure to present to you this first issue of the VPCI Newsletter (Vol 1, No 1, Inaugural Issue, November 2012-May 2013).

This Newsletter captures the events which have occurred from November 2012 to May 2013 at VPCI. These six months were full of events including Workshops, CME's, Quiz Programme and celebrations of Institute 64th Foundation Day, Republic Day, World Asthma Day and World No Tobacco Day.

The DOTS Centre, Patient Waiting Hall, and NCRAAI Pollen Count Station were inaugurated in the institute during this period. The Research Cell was initiated to facilitate research activities in the institute for the first time. The Institute was identified and approved for the establishment of centralized Multi-disciplinary Research Unit (MRU).

This Newsletter will provide a platform for the faculty and staff members of VPCI to present their achievements and progress on a half-yearly basis.

I wish the VPCI Newsletter a grand success.

Prof. Rajendra Prasad
Director, VPCI

Prof. Rajendra Prasad Joined as Director, VPCI



Prof. Rajendra Prasad took over charge as Director, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi, Delhi on 21st November 2012. Prior to this, he was Professor and Head, Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, K.G.'s Medical University, Lucknow (1997-2011) and Director, U.P. Rural Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Saifai (2011-12). He is founder Vice-President of South Asia Association of Allergy, Asthma and Applied Immunology and Indian Society for Study of Lung Cancer. He is the Chairperson, Standing Technical Committee, Tuberculosis Association of India and North Zone Task Force, India for involvement of Medical Colleges into Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP). He has been an International Governor of American College of Chest Physicians (USA) for North India. He has the unique distinction of being elected as President of all the four major Chest Associations of India; National College of Chest Physicians (India), Indian College of Allergy, Asthma & Applied Immunology, Indian Association of Bronchology and Indian Chest Society.

Prof. Rajendra Prasad's First Governing Body Meeting



The 132nd Governing Body meeting of the VPCI was held on 8th January 2013 at Conference Room adjacent to Director's office. It was chaired by Prof. P.N. Tandon, Chairman, Governing Body, VPCI.

EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

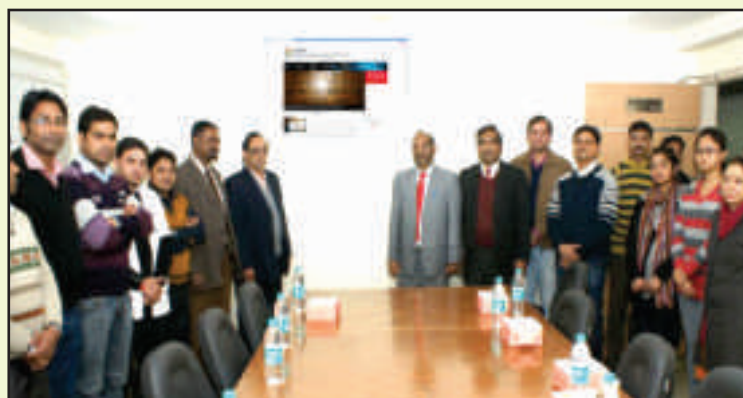
Workshop on Molecular Diagnostic Methods in Respiratory Infections

The Microbiology, Medical Mycology and Virology Depts. of the



Institute organized the Pre-conference Workshop on Molecular Diagnostic Methods in Respiratory Infections (part of the MICROCON-2012) on 21st November 2012 at VPCI. Hands on training on PCR restriction analysis, real time PCR, multilocus sequence typing and other molecular diagnostic methods were imparted to the participants.

NCRAAI Website Launched



The National Centre of Respiratory Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (NCRAAI) website (www.ncraai.org) was launched on 27th December 2012 by Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI. Prof. Raj Kumar, Head, NCRAAI, released the book on NCRAAI Activities during the programme.

64th Republic Day Celebration

The 64th Republic Day function was celebrated on 26th January 2013 at the VPCI campus. The ceremony was attended by VPCI staff with their family members. The indoor patients of VPCI also attended this function.



38th Workshop on Respiratory Allergy: Diagnosis and Management



The Institute has been organizing workshop annually on Respiratory Allergy: Diagnosis and Management. The 38th Workshop on Respiratory Allergy: Diagnosis and Management was held at VPCI on 18th-22nd March 2013. Prof. Raj Kumar, Head, NCRAAI, was the Organising Secretary of the Workshop. During this event a practical Training Manual with details of skin testing and pulmonary function testing procedures was released.

EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Spirometry Technician's Training Workshop

The Spirometry Technician's Training Workshop was held on 14th-15th March 2013 at VPCI. It was jointly organized by VPCI and the Indian Chest Society (ICS). Prof. S.K. Chhabra, Dept. of Cardiorespiratory Physiology was the Organizing Secretary of the Workshop. Hands on training consisting of practical and theoretical sessions were imparted to 19 candidates over two days.

CME Programme on Evaluation of Drug Safety

On the eve of the 64th Foundation Day of the Institute, a CME programme on Evaluation of Drug Safety was organized by Prof. A. Ray, Dept. of Pharmacology, at VPCI on 5th April 2013. Prof. O.P. Kalra, Principal, UCMS & GTB Hospital, Delhi, was the Chief Guest of the programme. The seminar deliberated upon some of the contentious issues related to pre-marketing and post-marketing drug safety including those associated with traditional medicines. A book titled, "Translational Research in New Drug Development" was also released during the programme.

EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



15th Prof. Raman Viswanathan-VPCI Oration



World Asthma Day



On the occasion of World Asthma Day, a patient education cum interactive programme was organized by VPCI on 7th May 2013. Prof. P.N. Tandon, Chairman, Governing Body VPCI and Chief Guest of this programme, spoke about the increasing prevalence of childhood asthma. He also stressed on the need for patients to be compliant with medications. Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI, said that asthma is a chronic and lifelong disease. He said that symptoms occur early in the disease forcing the patient to seek early medical advice. There were extensive interactions of the eminent specialists with patients. They answered a variety of queries from patients. Participants were thankful for the interactive session and expressed happiness about the simple explanations provided about their disease.



The Institute organized the 15th Prof. Raman Viswanathan-VPCI Oration (titled; "Respiratory Challenges in High Altitude"), on the occasion of 64th Foundation Day on 6th April 2013. The Oration was delivered by Dr. W. Selvamurthy, Former Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller R&D (LS&IC), DRDO, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, New Delhi.

QUIZ Programme

The Institute conducted a QUIZ programme for Post Graduate students of Pulmonary Medicine (MD/DNB/DM/DTCD) & General Medicine on 16th April 2013 at Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Rajendra Prasad. More than 25 postgraduate students from different medical institutions of Delhi & Rohtak participated in this programme. Dr. Mandeep Singh, DM student (VPCI) and Dr. Devi Jyoti Dash, MD student (VPCI) were awarded First Prize and Second Prize respectively.

Inauguration of DOTS Centre



Prof. P.N. Tandon, Chairman of Governing Body of VPCI inaugurated the Directly Observed Treatment, Short-Course (DOTS) Centre at

EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Viswanathan Chest Hospital, VPCI on 7th May 2013. DOTS is the most effective strategy available for controlling Tuberculosis. The Centre will provide free treatment to the patients of Tuberculosis as per the standard guidelines.

CME- Workshop on Thoracic Oncology



An advanced CME-Workshop on Thoracic Oncology was held on 24th May 2013 at VPCI. Dr. Balakrishnan Menon, Dept. of Respiratory Allergy & Applied Immunology, was the Organising Secretary of the Workshop. It was organized by VPCI in collaboration with Indian Co-operative Network (ICON) and Promote India Lung Initiative. Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI, inaugurated the CME and said that Lung Cancer has different scenarios in India. Up to 30% of lung cancer patients are non-smokers. The challenges facing us are the different histological types and treatment modalities of this disease. Prof. Rajendra Prasad also spoke on smoking and lung cancer. He said *Bidi* smoking is more dangerous than cigarette smoking even though *Bidis* contain 200mg of tobacco as compared to 800mg in cigarettes.

NCRAAI Pollen Count Station Inauguration



The NCRAAI started a Pollen Count Station which was inaugurated by Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI on 28th May 2013. Prof. Raj Kumar, Head, NCRAAI, was instrumental in obtaining and starting this station at VPCI. It is the first pollen count station to be started in Medical Institutes in India. This pollen count station is placed at the roof top area of the multistoried building of VPCI. It captures and counts pollen from atmospheric air. The pollen count is a measure of how much pollen is in the air in a certain area at a specific time and this data will prove to be helpful to people suffering from seasonal allergies and for research purposes.

World No Tobacco Day



On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day 2013, Prof. Raj Kumar, Head, NCRAAI, and Dept. of Respiratory Allergy and Applied Immunology of the Institute organized a "Smoking and Lung Health Public Awareness Programme" in association with Society for Tobacco Control (STC) on 30th May 2013. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Former Chief Justice of India. Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI addressed the event and spoke about the harmful effects of smoking and the effective role of VPCI for controlling such a menace. Prof. Raj Kumar, Secretary, (STC) spoke about the work done by the Society. A book on "Smoking Cessation" and a quarterly bulletin of (STC) were also released by the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan during the programme. The event was addressed by well-known personalities from the fields of Art, Education, Medicine, Media, Sports, Legal experts, etc. Dr. V.K. Monga, former Chairman, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Health, spoke on the role of political leaders in anti-smoking. Ms. Neha Aggarwal, Indian Table Tennis player spoke on the role of sportsperson in smoking cessation. Mr. Ajay Singh, Advocate, Delhi High Court spoke on the legal aspects of anti-smoking.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Multi-disciplinary Research Unit

The Institute has been identified and approved for the establishment of centralized Multi-disciplinary Research Unit (MRU) by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi. In this scheme of the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India under the aegis of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), it is proposed to provide financial support up to Rs. 6 crores to the MRU. This grant will further the development of infrastructure facilities for promoting health research in the institute.

Research Cell

The Research Cell was constituted to facilitate research activities and to organize and conduct CME's and other research oriented workshops in the institute. The first committee constituted of Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director VPCI, Prof S.K. Bansal, Dept. of Biochemistry and Dr. Mandira Varma, Dept. of Microbiology, VPCI.



Projects

Presently, 22 extramurally funded Research Projects are ongoing in the Institute. In addition, one new Research Project was awarded during the period; Principal Investigator: Dr. Madhu Khanna, Dept. of Respiratory Virology, VPCI. Title of project: Profile of antibody responses and duration of protection following influenza vaccination in adults more than 65 years of age. Funding Agency: Asia-Pacific Alliance for the Control of Influenza (APACI). Sanctioned Budget: 30,604 USD.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI, took charge as the **Publisher and Editor-in-Chief**, *Indian Journal of Chest Diseases and Allied Sciences*, the official publication of the V.P. Chest Institute and the National College of Chest Physicians (India).
- Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI, was appointed as **Vice-chairman**, National Task Force RNTCP for involvement of Medical Colleges in India.
- Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI, was the **President**, 67th Conference on Tuberculosis and Chest Disease which was held at Patna, Bihar, from 8th-10th February 2013.
- Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI, Prof. Ashok Shah, Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, Prof. Raj Kumar, Dept. of Respiratory Allergy and Applied Immunology delivered **Lectures** in the “3rd International Conference on Lung Health – PULMOCON” Organized by Bangladesh Lung Foundation, South Asia Association of Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology (SAAAACI) and South Asian Thoracic Society (SATS) 2013 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh, held on 19th-23rd February 2013.



- Prof. S.N. Gaur, Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, delivered the **“Agnihotri-Jamil Memorial Oration”** (titled; “Allergen Immunotherapy - Indian Scenario and the Guidelines”), at King George's Medical University, held on 29th December 2012, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Prof. Ashok Shah, Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, was the **Member** of World Allergy Organisation Education Council for 2012 -2013.



- Prof. Ashok Shah, Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, was nominated as **Co-Chair**, Local Organizing Committee and delivered **lectures** at the “World Allergy Organization's International Scientific Conference (WISC 2012)”, organised by the World Allergy Organization, Hyderabad, held on 6th-9th December 2012.
- Prof. A. Ray was inducted as **Member** of International Core Committee of ORPHEUS (Organization for PhD Education in Biomedicine in European System) for Globalization of Uniform Standards of PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences.
- Prof. A. Ray, Dept. of Pharmacology, delivered a **lecture** at the 2nd International Congress on Steroid Research, Chicago, IL, USA, 10th-12th March 2013.
- Prof. Raj Kumar, Dept. of Respiratory Allergy and Applied Immunology, was elected as **Fellow** of Indian Chest Society (ICS).



- Prof. Raj Kumar, Head, NCRAAI, and Dept. of Respiratory Allergy and Applied Immunology, VPCI delivered the **NCCP(I)-Lupin Chest Oration** on “Smoking Cessation-Indian perspective” at National Conference on Pulmonary Diseases (NAPCON-2012) [Joint conference of National College of Chest Physicians (India) and Indian Chest Society] held on 17th-20th November 2012 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Dr. Anuradha Chowdhary, Dept. of Medical Mycology, was selected as **Member Expert** for developing Phaeohyphomycosis,

AWARDS & HONOURS

the Black fungi, Joint Guidelines on Diagnosis and Management of Emerging Fungal Diseases by European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM), 2012-13.

- Dr. Anita Kotwani, Dept. of Pharmacology, was elected as **Secretary** of International Society for Pharmacoeconomics & Outcome Research (ISPOR)-India Chapter.
 - Dr. Anita Kotwani, Dept. of Pharmacology, was the **Advisor**, National Medicine Policy, a project of SEAR Pharm Forum for South-East Asian Region countries, project funded by WHO, December 2012.
 - Dr. Anita Kotwani, Dept. of Pharmacology, participated as a **Judge** for presentations, "infectious Diseases Outcome Research Studies" during Annual Conference of International Society for Pharmacoeconomics & Outcome Research (ISPOR), held on 18th-22 May 2013 at New Orleans, USA.
- Dr. Anita Kotwani was also invited by the ISPOR-Asia Consortium to discuss the scientific activities for next ISPOR-AP conference scheduled for 2014 at Beijing, China.
- Ms Latika, Ms Roopali Rajput, PhD Students were awarded **Travel Grants** by International Society of Antiviral Research (ISAR) and Immunology Foundation Bursary (Accommodation) to attend 26th International Conference of Antiviral Research, at San Francisco, California, USA, held on 11th-15th May 2013.

MEDIA REPORTS

- Prof. Rajendra Prasad, gave an interview to Mr. Bobby Ramakant, Health Correspondent, Citizen News Service (CNS) on Asthma Control during May 2013. The content of this interview was published in an article form, titled; "**Should asthma control us or we control asthma?**" in several media houses from India as well as abroad; Citizen News Service, India; Asian Tribune, India/Sri Lanka/Thailand; The Will Nigeria, Nigeria; The Scoop, New Zealand; Modern Ghana, Ghana; News Wala, Hyderabad, Bihar and Jharkhand News Service(BJNS), Bihar and Jharkhand, India; The Nigerian Voice, Nigeria; Weekly Blitz News, Bangladesh; Media For Freedom, Kathmandu, Nepal; News Now, UK; I4U News, All Voices News, India; Healcon News, India; The Med Guru News, India; Legalpronews, New Zealand.
- The full article is available at the following web address; <http://www.citizen-news.org/2013/05/should-asthma-control-us-or-we-control.html>.
- Prof. Ashok Shah, Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, participated in a Panel Discussion on the topic "**Bronchial Asthma**" which was telecasted on Doordarshan on 28th April 2013.
 - Dr. Anita Kotwani, Dept. of Pharmacology, Research work on antibiotic use in the community was quoted in India Today in the article, "**Your antibiotic is sick**", 18th March, 2013.
 - Dr. Anita Kotwani, Dept. of Pharmacology, gave an interview to BBC Radio on "**Antibiotic Use, Resistance and Antibiotic Policy**",

on 20th March 2013. Dr. Kotwani, who is one of the members of the Task Force, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, for formulating the antibiotic policy in India, gave the interview on the studies conducted in New Delhi on the surveillance of antibiotic use in the community and the qualitative study on the behaviour of prescribers, pharmacists, and community regarding antibiotic use and awareness about antimicrobial resistance.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

- Dr. Jacques F. Meis, Senior Consultant, Dept. of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Canisius Wilhelmina Hospital, Nijmegen and Dept. of Medical Microbiology, Radboud University, Nijmegen Medical Centre, The Netherlands visited the Institute on 21st November 2012. Dr. Meis delivered a Guest Lecture on "Molecular Epidemiology of azole resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus*".



- Prof. Cecilia Stalsby Lundborg, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden visited the institute on 29th January 2013. Prof. Rajendra Prasad, Director, VPCI, Dr. Anita Kotwani, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, VPCI and Prof. Cecilia Stalsby Lundborg, discussed the modalities of moving ahead in the Indo-Swedish project on antimicrobial resistance.
- Dr. V.K. Vijayan, Advisor Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (ICMR) & National Institute for Research in Environmental Health (ICMR), Bhopal, Former Director, VPCI, visited the Institute for attending the Governing Body Meeting of "Society for Nitric Oxide and Allied Radicals" on 11th February 2013.

SUPERANNUATION AND FAREWELL



- Prof. Mridula Bose superannuated from Dept. of Microbiology on 31st December 2012 after 25 and half years of service at VPCI. During this period she made significant contributions in the field of tuberculosis research and enhanced the understanding of pathogenesis of *M. tuberculosis*.



- A farewell party was organized for Mr. Bharat Singh, Driver who superannuated from his service on 28th February 2013 after a successful completion of almost 35 years in VPCI.



- Farewell party for MD, Pulmonary Medicine and DTCD students was held on 1st April 2013.

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INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



- The Patient Waiting Hall was inaugurated by Prof. P.N. Tandon, Chairman of Governing Body of VPCI at Viswanathan Chest Hospital, VPCI on 7th May 2013.
- The Institute engaged the Project Management Consultant for construction of additional 20 rooms at Patel Niwas, Students Hostel, VPCI.
- The renovation work of Multi-storied building (front view) and Type I staff quarters at Maurice Nagar of VPCI are presently ongoing.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT VPCI

- 26th July 2013: "Update on Lung Cancer".
- 8th September 2013: "Update on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)", will be organised by National Center of Respiratory Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (NCRAAI), VPCI, Delhi in collaboration with Society for Tobacco Control (STC), Delhi.
- 24th September 2013: "First Conference of the Society for Nitric Oxide and Allied Radicals" (SNOAR), will be organised by Dept. of Pharmacology, VPCI and Society for Nitric Oxide and Allied Radicals.
- 23rd-24th December 2013: Workshop on "Classical and Advanced Molecular Virology Techniques", will be organised by Dept. of Virology, VPCI.
- 10th-14th February 2014: 39th Workshop on "Respiratory Allergy: Diagnosis and Management" will be organised by National Center of Respiratory Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (NCRAAI), V.P. Chest Institute, Delhi and Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology, Delhi.

To

