



## VPCI NEWSLETTER

VPCI Newsletter (1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019) | Vol. 7, No. 1



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### FROM THE EDITORS DESK

It is with great pleasure that we are presenting the VPCI Newsletter to you for the period January - June 2019.

Many academic programmes were organized at V.P. Chest Institute during this period; Institute Day and 5<sup>th</sup> Prof. H.S. Randhawa Oration, Workshop to Develop Capacity of Pharmacists for Optimal use of Antibiotics, 1<sup>st</sup> Update on Allergen Immunotherapy, Foundation Day and 21<sup>st</sup> Raman Viswanathan VPCI Oration, Mini Symposium on Tackling Antimicrobial Drug Resistance in Tuberculosis, 44<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Respiratory Allergy.

The Swachhta Pakhwada-2019, Pre-Republic Day Celebration cum Prize Distribution Ceremony of VPCI Sports & Cultural, Republic Day Celebration, World No Tobacco Day, World Environment Day, Inauguration of VPCI canteen, 5<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day were celebrated during this period.



*Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI, receiving the prestigious "World No Tobacco Day Award for 2019" from World Health Organization (WHO) on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.*

Prof. Raj Kumar, Director congratulates the VPCI faculty, staff and students on their achievements and wishes them all the very best in all their future endeavors.

## &gt;&gt; EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS &lt;&lt;

**Institute Day and 5<sup>th</sup> Prof. H. S. Randhawa Oration- 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

The Institute celebrated its 66<sup>th</sup> Institute Day on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, VPCI, Delhi. Dr N. Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, was the Chief Guest and Prof. D. Behera, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, PGIMER, Chandigarh, presided over the function. Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI, gave brief report on the Institute activities of the past year. On this day, former faculty, staff and students of the Institute were felicitated.

During the Institute Day celebration (on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019), the Institute also organised the 5<sup>th</sup> Prof. H.S. Randhawa Oration in honour of our former Director, Prof. H.S. Randhawa, an internationally acclaimed medical mycologist. Prof. Yogendra Singh, Department of Zoology, University of Delhi, Delhi, delivered this Oration (titled; *Tuberculosis: Are we losing the battle?*). The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Mandira Varma Basil, Department of Microbiology, VPCI.

**Pre-Republic Day Celebration cum Prize Distribution Ceremony of VPCI Sports & Cultural Activities – 2018- 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

The Institute celebrated Pre-Republic Day Celebration cum Prize Distribution Ceremony of VPCI Sports & Cultural Activities - 2018 on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium of the Institute. Smt. Rajshri Rai, Managing Editor, (Editor-in-Chief), APN News, was the Chief Guest of the Programme. Shri Pradeep Rai, Senior Advocate,



Supreme Court of India, Shri Mehtab Singh, Arjun Awardee, Boxing Champion, and Shri Rajesh Kumar, Actor, were the Guests of Honour of the function. The VPCI staff members and their family members, students performed various dance and singing events with an eye on Republic Day celebration. The Institute distributed Trophies and Certificates (First, Second and Third) to the winners. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Kavita Gulati, Dept. of Pharmacology, VPCI, and also the Convener of VPCI Sports & Cultural Activities - 2018.

### 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebration- 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019

The 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day function was celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the VPCI campus. The ceremony was attended by VPCI staff with their family members and the relatives of the Indoor patients. Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI hoisted the flag. The programme ended with distributing sweets to all the participants as well as the indoor patients and their relatives.



### Workshop to Develop Capacity of Pharmacists for Optimal Use of Antibiotics- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019



The Institute conducted an interactive one-day 'Workshop to Develop Capacity of Pharmacists for Optimal Use of Antibiotics' on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium of the Institute. The Workshop was jointly organized by V.P. Chest Institute and WHO-India. The aim of the Workshop was for capacity building of pharmacists on optimal use of antibiotics. Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI, inaugurated the Workshop with his welcome address followed by Dr Sujeet Kumar Singh, Director-National Centre for Disease-Control (NCDC), Mr A.K. Pradhan (Deputy Drugs



Controller, India, CDSCO) and Dr Anuj Sharma (Technical Officer – Antimicrobial Resistance; Health Laboratories, WHO Country Office for India). The Workshop had overwhelming participants of community pharmacists from across Delhi-NCR and also neighbouring state of Haryana. The Workshop ended with vote of thanks by Prof. Anita Kotwani, Professor and HOD, Department of Pharmacology, VPCI.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Update on Allergen Immunotherapy- 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**



The 1<sup>st</sup> Update on Allergy immunotherapy was organised from 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium of the Institute. The Update was jointly organized by V.P. Chest Institute and University Klinikum Munster (UKM), Munster, Germany and supported by Society for Tobacco Control, India. The Update covered important topics including Allergic diseases, Allergens, Pollen allergens, Allergic asthma, Diagnosis of allergic diseases, Allergen immunotherapy, etc. Dr Sonam Spalgais, Assistant Professor, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, VPCI, was the Organising Secretary of this Update.

### **Swachhata Pakhwada- 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

The Institute observed Swachhata Pakhwada, from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. During the period, the Institute maintained through cleanliness and hygiene in and around the Institute and initiated several activities to bring success to the Swachhata Pakhwada programme.

The Pakhwada was inaugurated by holding a WORKSHOP on SANITATION & HYGIENE" on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 at VP Chest Institute, Delhi. Prof. Mohan, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi was the Chief Guest and Prof. Rama Sharma, Principal, Hansraj College, University of Delhi was the Guest of the Honour of the occasion. Prof. Raj Kumar, Director of Institute himself administered the pledge to contribute in cleanliness drive and encouraged all the VPCI Staff, Students and the other dignitaries to take this pledge and fulfill the vision and dream for cleaner India. Prof. Arun Sharma, Dept of Community Medicine, UCMS delivered a lecture on sanitation and hygiene and Mr. P.R. Santhanam Joint Registrar, VPCI delivered a lecture on lifestyle and stress management. Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha, Dept. of Pathology, VPCI was the co-ordinator of this workshop and delivered the vote of thanks.



Workshop on "Effects of Air Pollution on Human Health" - on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of SWACHHATA PAKHWADA - 2019 campaign, VPCI organized a Public Lecture & Panel Discussion on "Air Pollution: It's Impact on Health & Possible Solution" at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium. Dr Chirashree Ghosh, Deptt of Environment Studies, University of Delhi was the Chief Guest of occasion. speakers of the Public Lecture Programme. Prof Rajkumar, Prof. B.K. Menon, and Dr. Sonam Spalgais, were the panelists in the Panel Discussion. There were extensive participant interactions with the panelists who answered a variety of queries from participants about their air pollution related problems. Mr Girdhari Pal, Dept of Pharmacology was the coordinator of this event.





Seminar on, "Hand wash hygiene for nursing staff", the VPCI organized a Seminar on "Hand Hygiene for Nursing Staff" at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI, in his inaugural address spoke about the importance of 'Hand Hygiene'. Prof. Malini Shariff, Head, Microbiology, VPCI, delivered a lecture on 'Hand Hygiene' for the nurses and other health care workers of VPCI. During pre & post-test assessment on hand hygiene was also conducted.



The institute organized poster making competition for children of VPCI on promotion of Swachhta Abhiyan on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

On 07<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the institute celebrated the World Health Day and visit to all residential quarters at Dhaka, Maurice Nagar & Probyn Road to check on cleanliness and hygiene. On World Health day, the Institute



organized a talk in relation to this year theme; "Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere" with the slogan of the year being "Health for All". The talk was delivered by Dr. Mani Tiwari, Senior Resident, VPCI.

On the eve of Swachhata Pakhwada programme, the Institute arranged Nukkad Nataks, Poster competitions, Quiz competitions (on swachhata theme) and dance performances for all the residential staff quarters (Maurice Nagar, Dhaka Complex and Probyn Road) of VPCI and disseminate the knowledge of Swachhata elements to all its family members. Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI administered the "Swachhata Pledge" to all the Staff members.





Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, visited the Institute on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to observe the preparedness of Swachhta Pakhwada – 2019 (1<sup>st</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019) activities at VPCI. Prof. Raj Kumar presented a power point presentation on the activities of Swachhta Pakhwada – 2019 (1<sup>st</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019). Dr Bhandari visited the Viswanathan Chest Hospital (VCH) (Patient’s Registration Hall, Emergency, OPD, ICU, Sleep Lab, Cardio-rehabilitation Centre, Kitchen, Washrooms at VCH) and appreciated the cleanliness and hygiene of these places.



On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Swachhata Pakhwada programme, the Institute (VPCI) organized the closing function of this event at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, VPCI, Delhi on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Dr Payal Mago, Principal Saheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women, University of Delhi, was the Chief Guest and Dr Manoj Kumar Khanna, Principal, Ramjas College University of Delhi, was the Guest of Honour of this Programme.



The Dept. of Biochemistry stood first, Dept. of Physiology and Ward B, VCH, stood second and Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine (Respiratory Allergy and Applied Immunology Division) stood third and got their trophies for this cleanliness drive. During the event, the Institute felicitated to all the Safai Karmacharies, the winners (Quiz, Poster Competitions, participated by staff family members and students of VPCI) and team members exclusively engaged for this event, as a token of appreciation. The Programme ended with vote of thanks by Mr P.R. Santhanam, Joint Registrar, VPCI.

### Foundation Day and 21<sup>st</sup> Raman Vishwanathan VPCI Oration- 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019



The Institute celebrated its Foundation Day on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 by organizing the 21<sup>st</sup> Raman Vishwanathan VPCI Oration at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, VPCI, Delhi. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Additional Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India was the Chief Guest and Dr Jagdish Kaur, Regional Adviser, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia was the Guest of Honour of this event. Dr Rohit Sarin, Director, National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (NITRD), New Delhi, delivered this Oration titled; "Newer Drugs and Shorter Regimen for MDR TB: The Road Ahead". Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI, delivered the Welcome address and presented the Institute report. Dr Jagdish Kaur, spoke about the importance of tobacco quit line services and appreciated the performances and services of National Tobacco Quit Line Services (NTQLS), VPCI in South Asia. Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, spoke about the various measures and strategies of Govt. of India in eradicating Tuberculosis from India by 2025. The NTQLS - VPCI Newsletter (Biannual), a National Tobacco Quit Line Services (NTQLS), VPCI initiative, was released by Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, the Chief Guest of the event. The Chief Guest also inaugurated the Short Term Training Programme (STTP) for Technical Staff on Pulmonary Function Test of VPCI.

### Mini Symposium on Tackling Antimicrobial Drug Resistance in Tuberculosis - Novel Approaches- 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019

The Institute organized a mini symposium on 'Tackling Antimicrobial Drug Resistance in Tuberculosis: Novel Approaches' which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, VPCI, Delhi. The speakers at the symposium were eminent mycobacteriologists; Dr Sanjib Bhakta, ISMB-Mycobacteria Research Laboratory, Birkbeck University of London, UK and Prof. Daman Saluja, Director, Ambedkar Center for Biomedical Research (ACBR), University of Delhi.







Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI and Chairman, Organizing Committee, delivered the welcome address. He specifically stressed on the need to tackle drug resistance in M. tuberculosis to meet the WHO target of eliminating TB by 2035. The Institute organized a mini symposium on 'Tackling Antimicrobial Drug Resistance in Tuberculosis: Novel Approaches' which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, VPCI, Delhi. Prof. Mandira Varma Basil, Dept. of Microbiology, VPCI, was the organizing Secretary of the synopsis.

### 44<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Respiratory Allergy: Diagnosis & Management- 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019



The Institute organised 44<sup>th</sup> Workshop on "Respiratory Allergy: Diagnosis and Management" from 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, VPCI, Delhi. The Workshop was organised by the National Center of Respiratory Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (NCRAAI), VPCI and supported by Society for Tobacco Control, Delhi. During this event a practical Training Manual with details of skin testing and pulmonary function testing procedures was released. Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI and Head, NCRAAI and Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, VPCI, was the Chairman, Organising Committee of the Workshop. Approximately, 40 numbers of Doctors from all over the country participated in this Workshop.

### World No Tobacco Day- 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019





The Institute organised a Programme on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 11.30 A.M., on the eve of "World No Tobacco Day", at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium, VPCI. Shri Praveen Sinha, National Professional Officer, WHO was the Chief Guest of this Programme. He appreciated almost two decades of devoted works on Tobacco Control Programme by the Institute. Dr Manoj Kumar Khanna, Principal, Ramjas College; Dr Vibha Singh Chauhan, Principal, Kirori Mal College; Dr Simrit Kaur, Principal, Sri Ram College of Commerce; Dr Vipin Aggarwal, Principal, Sri Aurobindo College; all from University of Delhi, were the Guests of Honour for the Programme. The National Tobacco Quit Line Services (NTQLS) team performed Nukkad Natak on anti-tobacco use theme and dance performances during the programme. The Quitters (through NTQLS) shared their quitting process stories and urged the audience to keep away from tobacco use. The Quitters were also felicitated. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Prof B.K. Menon, Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, VPCI.

### **World Environment Day- 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019**



Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI, and staff members of the Institute celebrated the World Environment Day by planting saplings at the Indoor Sports Complex building, lawn of Director's Bungalow, VPCI Auditorium and VCH premises of VPCI on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

### **Inauguration of VPCI Canteen- 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019**



The VPCI Canteen was inaugurated by Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, VPCI on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The VPCI Canteen is dedicated to the staff members, students, visitors (including patient relatives) of the Institute and is being run by the Institute with subsidized rates since then.

### **5<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day- 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019**

The Institute's Yoga Therapy & Research Centre, in collaboration with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), Delhi celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga event at the Paintal Memorial Golden Jubilee Auditorium on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, (VPCI). Prof. B.K. Menon, Nodal Officer, Yoga Therapy



Research Centre, VPCI and Mr P.R. Santhanam, Joint Registrar, VPCI welcomed the approximately, 150 participants (including VPCI staff, students, patients of VPCI and general public) in the yoga practical session conducted under the supervision of Dr Dinesh Sharma, In-charge of Yoga Therapy & Research Centre, VPCI and Yoga teachers' team from MDNIY.



## » RESEARCH ACTIVITIES «

### Research Projects and Fellowships

Presently, 11 Research Projects (funded by ICMR, DST, AYUSH, CCRUM, MoHFW, LSRB-DRDO and DBT), 01 MRU-DHR-MoHFW-VPCI and 08 Research Fellowships (funded by ICMR and CSIR) are continuing in the institute. Further, 03 New Research Fellowship was additionally sanctioned during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. The details are as follows:

Title of Research Fellowships	Department
"Pharmacological studies to evaluate the anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects of Hibiscus rosa-sinesis and Piper nigrum and their cellular and modular mechanisms of action in experimental models of Bronchial Asthma"	Department of Pharmacology Mr. Pankaj Verma, SRF Prof. Kavita Gulati, Supervisor Sanctioned Grant: 2.28 (Lakhs) Funding Agency: ICMR
"Therapeutic Potential of Heat-Pre-Conditioning on chronic inflammation and infection in rats"	Department of Physiology Ms. Priti Yadav, SRF Dr. Vishal Bansal, Supervisor Sanctioned Grant: 2.28 (Lakhs) Funding Agency; ICMR
"Novel antituberculosis drug targets: Biotin Biosynthesis pathway"	Department of Microbiology Mr. Anshita Nagar, JRF Prof. Mandira Varma Basil, Supervisor Sanctioned Grant: 3.92 (Lakhs) Funding Agency: CSIR

### Multidisciplinary Research Unit (MRU), Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute

The VPCI-DHR-ICMR-MRU link was included in VPCI website –[www.vpci.org.in](http://www.vpci.org.in). As per directives of DHR, the details of VPCI-DHR-ICMR-MRU were uploaded in DHR website <http://www.dhrschemes.in> on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.



Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha, Dept. of Pathology and Prof Kavita Gulati, Dept. of Pharmacology, VPCI, attended the meeting in Department of Health Research for review of performance of Multi-Disciplinary Research Units and Model Rural Health Research Units at Conference Hall, DHR, IRCS building, New Delhi, on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha presented report on Creation of Infrastructure and Capacity Building in VPCI-DHR-ICMR- Multi Disciplinary Research Unit (MRU).



Prof. SK Bansal, Dept. of Biochemistry, VPCI (Nodal Officer, MRU-VPCI) and Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha, Dept. of Pathology, VPCI attended the review meeting organized by Dept. of Health Research under the chairmanship of Secretary, Dept. of Health Research at Conference Hall, DHR, IRCS building, New Delhi, on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

The Local Research Advisory Committee (Extended RAC) of the MRU was re-constituted on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 with Dr. Anant Mohan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Pulmonary Medicine, AIIMS as a Chair Person and Prof. Anil Gurtoo, HOD, Dept. of Medicine, LHMC as the Co-chairperson. Dr. Gitika Yadav, is nominee from the ICMR headquarter. Dr. Kavita Gulati, Professor in Pharmacology was nominated as Nodal Officer and Member secretary. One original research paper from Project One (PI: Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha), titled: Efficacy of MePEG-PCL diblock copolymeric nanoparticles and PCL nanoparticles for drug delivery in lung fibrosis was presented in the American Thoracic Society meeting (ATS), Dallas, USA -17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019.

## >> AWARDS & HONOURS <<

Prof. Raj Kumar received ESDA Global Green Award-2019 for his outstanding contributions on Indoor Air Pollution, Respiratory Health Disease and Tobacco Cessation, by Environment and Social development Association (ESDA) Delhi, India, during the International Conference on Global Environmental Challenges Human Health and sustainable development organized at JNU, New Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019.





**Prof. Raj Kumar** was Chief Guest for the inauguration of Green Cycle Stand on annual eco-club festival 'Bhoomi 2019' at Kirori Mal College, Delhi University, Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**Prof. Raj Kumar** was nominated as the Visitor, for Executive Council of Nagaland University on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**Prof. Raj Kumar** was faculty in the Area of Tobacco Control during National Conference of Tobacco and Health held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019, at Hotel The Lalit, Delhi, on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

**Prof. Raj Kumar** was nominated as member of Pulmonary specialty Committee of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPM-JAY), by National Health Authority, Government of India on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Prof. Madhu Khanna** received Travel Award and presented a paper titled "Diagnosis of human influenza A virus infection using single chain fragment variable antibody-based competitive inhibition ELISA" at International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Virus Diseases (ISIRV) Conference on 31<sup>st</sup> March- 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, Siena, Italy.

**Prof. Kavita Gulati**, was Chairperson and Guest speaker during International Conference on Translational Research in Cardiovascular Sciences organized by IACS-INDIA at Bengaluru, India from 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.



**Prof. Kavita Gulati**, Presented a Guest talk on "Theophylline induced cardiotoxicity and its mechanisms: A translational approach" in an International Conference on Translational Research in Cardiovascular Sciences organized by IACS-INDIA at Bengaluru, India from 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

**Prof. Kavita Gulati**, invited talk on "How to assess Adverse Drug reactions: Clinical Relevance & Judgement" at Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, Ghaziabad, on 01-07-2019 during "Induction Cum training Programme on Pharmacovigilance" for Coordinators of Newly recognized AMCs & Pharmacovigilance Associates under Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI).

**Prof. Kavita Gulati**, presented a Guest talk entitled "Basic introduction & concept of AYUSH Pharmacovigilance" during a training program organized by All India Institute of Ayurveda, Ministry of AYUSH for the Coordinators of Pharmacovigilance centres about Traditional Medicine at Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ghaziabad on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**Dr. Vishwajeet Rohil** was invited as External Expert by DIPAS to attend the meeting on "Project Monitoring and Review Committee meeting (PMRC) held in DIPAS, Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Sciences, DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha** was External Examiner for PhD thesis of Ms Afreen Naseem, "Functional evaluation of the interaction of certain oncogenes and the tumor suppressor genes in cervical cancer". Department of Biosciences, Jamia Milia Islamia, March 2019.

**Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha** was nominated as Officer on the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), Dept of Biosciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi since April 2019.

**Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha** was nominated as Working Group Member of the Under-Graduate Curriculum Revision Committee-2019 University of Delhi for the revision of the Course titled Human Pathology Course, Code 32581601 in Programme (CBCS) B.SC.(HONS.) BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES, as per the UGC's Learning Outcome-Based Curriculum Framework (UGC-LOCF), April 2019.





**Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha** was Resource Person on, "Pathology of Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis" during ILD Conclave 2019 organised by Dept of Respiratory Medicine, KGMU in association with UP Chapter of Indian Chest Society at Lucknow, UP on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha** was External Examiner for PhD thesis of Mr. Ahmad Perwez, Department of Biosciences, Faculty of Natural Science, Jamia Millia Islamia on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Dr. Ritu Kulshrestha** was Resource Person on, "HPE diagnosis of Progressive fibrosis- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and importance in diagnosing IPF" and Panelist for Teaching through ILD cases: Total 3 case presentation during the



Symposium on "Recent Updates in IPF –Diagnosis and Management" organised by National Allergy Asthma Bronchitis Institute at Kolkata on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Dr. Sonam Spalgias** was Resource Person on, "Fungal infection in ICU" at Critical Care: A Paradigm Shift organized by UCMS & GTB hospital, Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**Dr. Sonam Spalgias** was Resource Person on, "Hypersensitivity Pneumonia" at 4<sup>th</sup> international Conference on Occupational and Environment Health, organized by Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**Dr. Sonam Spalgias** was the Organizing Secretary of 1<sup>st</sup> Update on Allergen Immunotherapy, VPCI Delhi, India on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He gave a lecture on "Indoor Allergen: A threat or menace" on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in this event.

**Dr. Sonam Spalgias** was Resource Person on, "Antifibrotics Drugs in IPF Initiate Early or Wait and Watch", at Haryana Pulmocon organized by Fortis Memorial Research Institute Gurugram on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**Dr. Sonam Spalgias** was the Organizing Secretary of "44<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Respiratory Allergy: Diagnosis and Management, VPCI Delhi, India on 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019. He gave three lectures on, "Indoor allergen", "FENO Test" and on "Anaphylaxis" in this event.



Suresh Kumar Thokchom, PhD research scholar, under the supervision of Prof. Kavita Gulati, Department of Pharmacology received the BEST ORAL PAPER AWARD for the paper entitled "Modulation of Pulmonary Functions and Markers of Inflammation by Yogic Interventions in Patients of COPD: Possible Role of Oxidative Stress" (Authors: Thokchom S, Gulati K, Ray A, Menon BK, Raj Kumar) during the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Zone Conference of Indian Pharmacological Society, 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Ambala, Haryana.



## >> MEDIA REPORTS <<

The V.P. Chest Institute comes under the best top five Hospitals in India for its patient services as per the 'patient's feedback survey' conducted from April to December 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India ranking. This news story was published in Hindi daily newspapers; Dainik Bhaskar (Delhi edition) and Jansatta (Online edition) on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Prof. Raj Kumar's interview was published in an article "Daba ka dard", in the Navbharat Times (Delhi Edition) on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Prof. Raj Kumar, Director, Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute (VPCI), Delhi, received the prestigious "World No Tobacco Day Award for 2019" of World Health Organization (WHO) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to tobacco control, on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019. This news story was covered in the news agencies (PTI, PIB, etc.), telecasted in prime channels and also published in almost all the leading daily newspapers of Delhi as well as India.

## >> SUPERANNUATION AND FAREWELL <<



**Mr. Anil Kumar Malhotra**, Senior Assistant superannuated from his services after a completion of almost 35 years of service in VPCI.

**Mr. Parvinder Kumar**, Pharmacist superannuated from his services after a completion of almost 38 years of service in VPCI.

**Mr. Prem Ballabh Upreti**, Ward Boy superannuated from his services after a completion of almost 39 years of service in VPCI.

**Mr. K. Radhakrishnan**, PS to Director superannuated from his services after a completion of almost 14 years of service in VPCI.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT VPCI

24<sup>th</sup> September 2019: 15<sup>th</sup> Prof. Autar Singh Paintal memorial Oration

24<sup>th</sup> October 2019: 5<sup>th</sup> Dr. V.K. Vijayan Oration





## OBITUARY



**Dr. V.K. Vijayan**  
(1946 - 2019)  
Former Director, V.P. Chest Institute,  
University of Delhi, Delhi.

**Dr. Vannan Kandi Vijayan**, a native of Tikkoti, Kozhikode District, was born on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1946 in Badagara, Kerala, India. He had his early education in his native place and had his medical education in Calicut Medical College, Kozhikode where from he took his MBBS degree in 1971. He did his postgraduate Diploma in Chest Diseases in 1975 from VPCI, Delhi, MD in Medicine from Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi in 1977, Ph.D. in Medicine from University of Madras in 1990 and was awarded the D.Sc. degree from the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University in 1996 for his work on "Bhopal Gas Disaster". His study on the consequences of the Bhopal Gas tragedy was widely recognized.

**Dr. Vijayan joined** as the Director of Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1998 and superannuated on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. With his excellent leadership and sincere endeavours he greatly enhanced the reputation of the institute. He chalked out his plans meticulously and strived unrelentlessly like his illustrious predecessors to maintain the institute standards. He passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Kozhikode, Kerala.

We pray to God for granting eternal peace to the departed soul.

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