



GLIMPSES OF INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON "CHALLENGES IN MALARIA AND PROSPECTS FOR RESEARCH"

Malaria Research Centre organized an International symposium on "Challenges in Malaria and Prospects for Research" from 29–31 October 2002 at SCOPE Convention Centre, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi to commemorate the completion of 25 years of the Centre. Eminent National and International scientists attended the symposium.

Distinguished prominent persons in the country applauded the organization of symposium. Messages and wishes were received from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India; Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister; Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the Vice President; Shri Shatrughan Sinha, the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Ms. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General, World Health Organization; Dr. S.P. Agarwal, Director General, Directorate General of Health Services (Govt. of India); Prof. N.K. Ganguly, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research; Dr. G. Satyavati, Former Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research; Dr. V.P. Sharma, Former Director, Malaria Research Centre and Prof. R.C. Mahajan, Emeritus Professor, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.

Dr. Sarala K Subbarao, Director, Malaria Research Centre welcomed all the delegates and the symposium was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by Prof. P.N. Tandon, President, National Brain Research Centre, New Delhi and Meghnad Saha, Professor of the National Academy of Sciences, Prof. R.C. Mahajan, Dr. Padam Singh, Addl. Director General, ICMR, Dr. V.P. Sharma, Dr. S. Pattanayak, Dr. Sarala K. Subbarao and Dr. M.A. Ansari. Inaugural function was presided by Prof. R.C. Mahajan and Prof. P.N. Tandon was the Chief Guest. MRC Foundation Day lecture was delivered by Prof. V.S. Chauhan, Director, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnol-





ogy, New Delhi. Prof. P.N. Tandon released the book entitled, “A Profile of Malaria Research Centre” specially published for this august occasion which contains the research activities and achievements of Malaria Research Centre during the last 25 years. Mementoes were distributed to those staff members who have completed 25 years of service in MRC on this occasion. Dr. V.P. Sharma inaugurated the exhibition on important research activities and achievements, and publications brought out by Malaria Research Centre.



Technical sessions were started from 1400 hours on 29 October. The first technical session on “Malaria Disease Burden” was chaired by Dr. P.R. Arbani, WHO (SEARO). Dr. Arvind Pandey acted as Co-chairperson. Dr. R.C. Dhiman was the Rapporteur and Dr. Neena Valecha coordinated the session. In this session lead papers were presented by Dr. Jotna Sokhey, NAMP, Delhi, Dr. P. Mahapatra, National Institute of Health Systems, Hyderabad, Dr. B.S. Das, Ispat General Hospital, Rourkela and Dr. A.P. Mitra, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi. Dr. Neeru Singh, Dr. S.K. Sharma, Dr. T. Adak, Dr. S. Biswas, MRC, Delhi, Ms. Gertrude N. Kiwanuka, Mbarara, University of Science & Technology, Mbarara, Uganda and Dr. Raja Ratnam Abel, CMC&H, Vellore presented their research papers in Resources and Research Inputs session which was chaired by Prof. R.C. Mahajan and co-chaired by Dr. J. Mahanta, Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh, Assam. Dr. P.R. Bhattacharya, MRC, Delhi and Dr. B. Shahi, MRC, Shankargarh were the Rapporteurs for this session.



Session II commenced at 0900 hours on 30 October with the theme “Understanding of Vectors: The Targets for Effective Malaria Control” was chaired by Prof. K.S. Rai, Jalandhar and co-chaired by Dr. A.P. Dash, Life Sciences Institute, Orissa. Dr. Vas Dev, MRC, Sonapur and Dr. K. Raghavendra, MRC, Delhi acted as Rapporteurs and Dr. Neeru Singh, MRC, Jabalpur coordinated the session. Dr. Mohammad Shahabuddin, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, USA, Prof. Marcelo Jacobs

Lorena, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, USA, Prof. Dilip Deobagkar, Pune University, Pune, Dr. Sarala K. Subbarao, MRC Delhi presented their lead papers. Dr. B.N. Nagpal, Dr. Aruna Srivastava, Dr. R.C. Dhiman, Dr. Nutan Nanda and Mr. O.P. Singh, MRC, Delhi presented their research papers in Resources and Research Inputs session which was chaired by Shri N.L. Kalra, former Deputy Director, NAMP, Delhi and co-chaired by Professor N.J. Shetty, Bangalore University, Bangalore. Dr. Hema Joshi, MRC, Delhi and Dr. Alex Eapen, MRC, Chennai were the Rapporteurs.

Session III started at 1400 hours on 30 October with the theme “Vector Control Options” was chaired by Dr. P.K. Das, Vector Control Research Centre, Pondicherry and co-chaired by Dr. S.C. Das, Defence Research Laboratory, Tejpur. Dr. Ashwani Kumar, MRC, Goa and Dr. C.P. Batra, MRC, Delhi acted as Rapporteurs and Dr. M.A. Ansari, Deputy Director (SG.) coordinated the session. Dr. Chusak Prasittisuk (WHO, SEARO), Dr. V.P. Sharma, former Director, MRC, Delhi and WHO Consultant, Dr. Chris Curtis, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, presented their lead papers. Dr. K. Raghavendra, Dr. S.K. Ghosh, Dr. P.K. Mittal, Dr. R.S. Yadav and Dr. R.M. Bhatt, MRC presented their research papers in Resources and Research Inputs session which was chaired by Dr. S.J. Rehman, former Head, Deptt. of Entomology, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi. Dr. M.S. Malhotra, MRC, Delhi and Dr. M.K. Das, MRC, Car Nicobar were the Rapporteurs.

Session IV commenced at 0900 hours on 31 October with the theme “Parasite Biology/Vaccines/Drugs” was chaired by Dr. V.P. Sharma, Former Director, MRC, Delhi. Dr. Arun Sharma acted as Rapporteur and Dr. T. Adak coordinated the session. Dr. Chetan Chitnis, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, Dr. Nirbhay Kumar, Johns Hopkins University, USA, Dr. Altaf Lal, CDC Atlanta, USA, Dr. Shobhna Sharma, Mumbai, Dr. G. Padmanabhan, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Dr. Namita Surolia, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, Dr. Amit Sharma, ICGEB, New Delhi, Prof. Y.D. Sharma, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Dr. Robert G. Ridley, WHO, Geneva, presented their lead papers. Dr. C.R. Pillai, Dr. Arati Roy, Dr. Hema Joshi, Dr. V.K. Dua, Dr. Neena Valecha, MRC and Dr. V. Venugopal Malaria Medicines Venture, Geneva, Dr. Pawan Malhotra, ICGEB, presented their research papers in Resources and Research Inputs session which was chaired by Prof. Dilip Deobagkar, Pune. Dr. Sukla Biswas, MRC, Delhi and Dr. R.P. Shukla, MRC, Haldwani were the Rapporteurs.

All the sessions were attended by a large number of delegates and the deliberations were of high quality. The presentations and interaction between the scientists during these sessions provided valuable information and new leads to the persons engaged in research on various aspects of malaria.

Valedictory session was organized at 1600 hours on 31 October. Dr. S.P. Tripathi, former Director General, ICMR in his valedictory address lauded the organization of symposium and shared his experiences with MRC. Dr. Chetan Chitnis, Prof. Marcelo Jacobs Lorena and Prof. C.F. Curtis enlightened the august gathering by sharing their experiences in malaria research and control. Dr.



M.A. Ansari presented the vote of thanks.

