

Our Guest Editor



Dr. Chand Wattal is presently working as Hony. Senior Consultant & Chairman Dept. of Clinical Microbiology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, India. He did his MD (Medical Microbiology) from PGI, Chandigarh, in Jan 1983; MBBS FROM GMC, Kashmir 1977; he has a total professional experience of more than 25 years. Dr. Wattal has been a postgraduate teacher and a guide/co-guide of MD since 1985 and for DNB Microbiology since 2003. He is an astute academician. He is an expert to the technical advisory committee, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi. The Department of Clinical Microbiology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) which Dr. Wattal is heading; brings out SGRH Microbiology Newsletter twice every year giving the details of the antibiogrammes and other articles of academic interest to the clinicians and clinical microbiologists ever, since 1995 which is also webcast. Dr. Wattal has 51 research publications to his credit out of which, 24 are in International journals; has delivered 97 guest lectures and chaired 56 scientific sessions; has made contribution in Book Series/Lung Biology in Health and Disease on a topic "Pulmonary Hydatid Diseases in India, Diagnosis and Management" Publisher: Marcel Decker. Inc., 270 Madison Avenue 1991, New York, USA. His book on "Emergencies in Infectious Diseases: from Head to Toe" was released in April 2009 by Vice Chancellor, Jamia University, Delhi. He was Guest Editor: Journal of International Medical Sciences Academy (JIMSA) Special issue July-Sept. 2004 on 'Advances in Clinical Microbiology and Infections Diseases practice in India'. He is on the panel of Editorial Board of Ind J. of Paed., J of Lab. Physicians, J. of Applied Therapeutic Research (Euromed Pub.) In recognition of his academic achievements, he has been assigned the task of Chief Investigator WHO (Geneva) Project on Rational Antibiotic Usage which has finished its Phase I. He has participated as guest lecturer and made scientific presentations in 89 National and International Conferences. Dr. Wattal has been the recipient of several awards and brought laurels to his institution through such awards. Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Management has been awarded Hospital Management Asia Award 2002 for best hospital infection control programmes; practised, this was out of 72 hospital nominations received from 21 countries. Credit for this prestigious award goes to Dr. Wattal who was responsible for designing the polices; these programmes were intelligently implemented by him as a secretary of the Hospital Infection Control Committee. He has been awarded by the Lt. Governor of Delhi the "Dharma Vira Award for excellence" in his profession for the year 2004; this award is given every year to the best consultant of the hospital and one of his publication was awarded as the best publication of the year 2009 award.

ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

The need for uniform ethical guidelines for research on human subjects is universally recognised. It has acquired a new sense of urgency as the critical issues in the area of biogenetic research involving human subjects have become acute. Apart from the mandatory clinical trials on new drugs, a number of diagnostic procedures, therapeutic interventions and prevention measures including the use of vaccines, are being introduced which involve human subjects. Further the advent of new medical devices and radio-active materials and therapeutic benefits of recombinant DNA products have added a new dimension to the ethical issues that need to be considered before evaluating these for their efficacy, utility and safety.

Any research using the human beings as subjects shall bear in

mind the following principles of : (i) essentiality, (ii) voluntariness, informed consent, (iii) non exploitation, (iv) privacy and confidentiality, (v) precaution and risk minimisation, (vi) professional competence, (vii) accountability & transparency, (viii) maximisation of public interest and distributive justice (ix) institutional arrangements (x) public domain (xi) totality of responsibility and (xii) compliance.

Recent advances in the field of Assisted Reproductive technologies, organ transplantation, Human genome analysis, and gene therapy promise unquestionable benefits to mankind. At the same time, they raise many questions of law and ethics, stimulating public interest and concern.

(Source : ICMR Publication 2000)