



JIMSA

JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL SCIENCES ACADEMY

JULY - SEPT. 2004
VOL. 17 NO. 3

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Inland	Rs.	500.00
Overseas	\$	200.00
Single copy	Rs.	150.00

FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Colleagues,

From time to time, it is important to ponder about the past, look at the present critically and also make an attempt to get a glimpse of the future; it is with this objective every issue of JIMSA focuses on the topics of current interest belonging to different disciplines of medicine, through symposia or special issues published alternately, since the year 1996. JIMSA is planning to introduce some of the incentives like the "best published article award" for the young scientists so as to attract quality articles for its forthcoming issues.

There is a growing and justified concern about the public health and economic impact of infections associated with modern health care. During the past quarter of a century; HIV infection has emerged as a major hazard and there is no continent on this earth from where devastating effects of AIDS have not been reported. The expanding problem of antimicrobial resistance have become increasingly complex to monitor and quite difficult to contain; emergence and dissemination of nosocomial and also the drug resistant staphylococcus aureus and extended spectrum β -lactamase-producing *E.coli* in many parts of the world, especially the Indian subcontinent, illustrate this trend. Other ancient diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, intestinal parasitosis, are still with us and have over the years learned to survive against the growing number of antimicrobials; all these problems have raised certain questions. Are the current infection prevention and control programmes geared to address these challenges adequately? Do we have enough adequately trained professionals to look after the infection-control strategies effectively?

The present issue: "**Advances in clinical microbiology and infection disease practice in India**" ably compiled and edited by **Dr. Chand Wattal**, sheds light on most of currently debated infectious disease-related topics in great depth. I am extremely grateful to Dr. Wattal and other contributors for bringing out this excellent monogram; I am confident readers will find the articles informative and stimulating. Dr. Wattal has put in lot of hard work not only in its compilation but through his innovative and brilliant ideas has also given JIMSA' an improved look. I wish to congratulate him for this fruitful effort.

I also take this opportunity to thank all members of editorial / advisory board for their help and also several pharmaceutical firms for financial assistance; without which publication of this issue would not have been possible. Editorial advice and help rendered by Byword Viva Publishers Pvt. Ltd. needs to be duly acknowledged.

P.D. Gulati

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