



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Department of Health Research – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

Media report (13 to 19 April 2019)
(ICMR IN NEWS)

(Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi)
Information Interface Officer

Preface

The PR Unit/PRO office of ICMR since last one and half years have reached from (where is ICMR located) to (everyday mention of ICMR and DG ICMR in National Media). This change from where to why signifies the media visibility and importance of our organization within this stipulated time duration.

Every week Indian Council of Medical Research and Director General ICMR are mentioned by dozens of daily news papers, periodicals and magazines including online editions.

This week's reports (ICMR IN NEWS dated 13 to 19 April 2019) includes the mention Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 10 news papers including top news papers such as Business Standard, ET Healthworld and Live Mint etc.

As an organization we first need to fill internal information vacuum at the headquarters as well as the Institutes for better visibility of ICMR which will pave way for complete dilution of external information gap between ICMR and external public including media, government and other related organizations.

*Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi
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Air pollution is killing more people in India than smoking, says study every one in eight deaths is caused by air pollution

April 13, 2019/Media India Group

MSc in Public Health Entomology at Vector Control Research Centre

April 14, 2019/Mathrubhumi

Heart ailments now at young age

April 15, 2019/Telangana Today

ICMR highlights policy implementation gap in SLT control

April 16, 2019/Bio Spectrum

Cell Line Development Market Prophesied to Grow US\$ 7,200 Mn by 2028

April 16, 2019/Digital Day News

Thus tiny cell is good news for cancer survivors (Health Feature)

April 17, 2019/Business Standard

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April 17, 2019/ET Healtworld

ICMR asks stakeholders to share evidence on efficacy of stem cells

April 18, 2019/Live Mint

Tiny cell: Good news for cancer survivors

April 18, 2019/The Sentinel

Newly identified stem cell is good news for cancer survivors: Study

April 18, 2019/The Health Site

Air pollution is killing more people in India than smoking, says study every one in eight deaths is caused by air pollution

April 13, 2019/Media India Group

A report published by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and The Lancet, shows that there has been 1.24 million deaths in India due to air pollution in 2017. It includes that 0.67 million deaths were due to outdoor air pollution and 0.48 million deaths were from household air pollution, as the Lancet Planetary Health has published. The study assessed the deaths due to diseases caused by higher exposure to air pollution like obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, heart diseases, lung diseases and respiratory infections. Death due to tobacco smoking was recorded at one million for the year, in comparison to air pollution.

The recent study published in the European Heart Journal focused on ozone and the hazardous effects of the fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) report, an initiative by WHO which records the causes of deaths and illnesses all over the world also predicted air pollution to be one of the highest agent causing diseases and infections. PM 2.5 was said to have cost three million pre-mature deaths in 2017, most of which is in China and India.

The 'State of Global Air 2019', found that only 15 pc of the Indian population lives in areas where the air quality is below the acceptable pollution concentration levels prescribed by the WHO, whereas 90 pc of people worldwide live in areas exceeding the WHO guideline of healthy air. The outdoor pollution from vehicular emissions, factory fumes and construction sites as well as household pollution from burning of solid fossil fuels are contributors to the higher concentration of PM 2.5 which is easy to inhale and enters the bloodstream to affect people.

MSc in Public Health Entomology at Vector Control Research Centre

April 14, 2019/Mathrubhumi

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)–Vector Control Research Centre, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India; Indira Nagar, Puducherry 605 006 has invited applications for admission to the 2 year Post-Graduate Degree Course in Public Health Entomology for 2019-21, affiliated to the Pondicherry University, Puducherry

Admissions are offered in 2 categories, Category I: Open Competition and Category II: In-service (Self supporting / Sponsored).

Those seeking admission under Category I should have passed any one of the following examinations of any University accepted by the Academic Council of Pondicherry University, Puducherry: B.Sc., in Zoology / Botany / Life Sciences / Medical Laboratory Technology/ Microbiology / Ecology / Environmental Science / Biochemistry or B.V.Sc/M.B.B.S/B.E/ B.Tech degree with Biotechnology as one of the subjects. Those who are appearing for the Under Graduate final examinations / waiting for the results of the above courses can also apply subject to producing evidence for the successful completion of the course fulfilling the eligibility criteria at the time of admission. Category II: In-service (Self supporting / Sponsored) admissions are offered in 2 groups, A and B. For Indian National (A), In-service

candidates employed either in Government or Non-Government organizations and sponsored by the employer should have passed the Degree examination in any of the disciplines indicated under Category I from a recognized University accepted by the Academic Council of Pondicherry University, Puducherry. The in-service candidates should send their application with a 'No Objection Certificate' from their employer. Category II (B) relates to foreign Nationals details of which are available in the admission Notification at <http://www.vcrc.res.in/writereaddata/Admn19.pdf>

There are 12 seats for the Programme of which 8 are in Category I: (General 50.5%, OBC 27%; SC 15% & ST 7.5%) and 2 in Category IIA and 2 in Category IIB.



Heart ailments now at young age

April 15, 2019/Telangana Today

The average age at which persons experience a heart episode has reduced drastically in the last quarter of a century. Back in 1990s, the typical age at which an adult was most likely to experience a heart episode was 50 years and by 2019 that age has reduced to 30 years. According to the disease burden profile of Telangana State, prepared by **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** in collaboration with Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), in 2016, cardiovascular diseases accounted for 13.5 per cent of fatalities of youngsters who were aged between 15 years and 30 years and 38 per cent of the deaths in the age group of 40 years and 50 years. Between the age group of 15 years and 30 years, heart diseases were the second most common cause of deaths, after suicides, while for the age group of 40 years and above, heart ailments were the single most reason for deaths, the PHFI study said.

According to the disease burden study of PHFI and ICMR, in 2016-17, the number of kidney related ailments reported in the State was almost 90,000 cases. Similarly, based on the official health statistics available, the public health machinery had received 67,500 cases of cancer in 2016-17. The heart ailment cases that were handled at State-run hospitals in the last one-year hovered between 22,000 and 30,000. Given an ever-increasing number of patients with NCDs, the State is also incurring an ever increasing expenditure in treating the patients. In 2016-17, the State government has incurred expenditure of Rs 750 crore to treat NCDs through Aarogyasri. The number of therapies related to NCDs that were approved under the healthcare scheme for patients in Telangana was 2,80,510. When compared to the last two years, between 2014 and 2016, the government has spent 10 per cent more, in terms of amount paid for each procedure. In 2015-16, the health authorities under Aarogyasri had incurred an expenditure of Rs 680 crore and for 2016-17, the expenditure was Rs 750 crore. In 2015-16, the number of approved therapies related to treatment of NCDs in the State was 2,58, 838.

ICMR highlights policy implementation gap in SLT control

April 16, 2019/Bio Spectrum



A paper published on 4th April, 2019 in the Lancet Oncology journal describes the extent of the policy implementation gap in smokeless tobacco (SLT) control, discusses its key reasons and makes recommendations to bridge this gap.

Professor Ravi Mehrotra, Director of the National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (ICMR-NICPR), India and the lead author of the paper said “Smokeless tobacco use as a public health concern requires a comprehensive approach to deal with the challenges identified in the paper. In this regard, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Global Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco (<https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/>) at ICMR-NICPR is committed to assisting all countries in implementing the key recommendations from the paper.” Dr. Dharendra Sinha from the School of Preventive Oncology (co-author) highlighted the global burden of SLT use and said that “smokeless tobacco kills over half a million adults worldwide”.

Prof Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, Government of India and Director General ICMR, New Delhi mentioned that, “Given the extent and multiple faces of SLT in India (almost 65% of the world SLT users are in India), the need of the hour is to undertake a national mission to fight SLT use by bringing together all stakeholders under one umbrella. In this regard, **ICMR** envisages a comprehensive and scientific approach to reduce the SLT burden of the country’, he added.

Cell Line Development Market Prophesied to Grow US\$ 7,200 Mn by 2028

April 16, 2019/Digital Day News

According to International Agency for Research on Cancer, the number of new cancer cases per year is expected to rise to 23.6 million by 2030 globally. In recent times, cell line development and its applications are considered as potential tools in oncology research. Cell lines are projected to be used for development of new treatment pathway for various disease including cancer and neurological diseases. According to a latest research by Future Market Insights (FMI), the global cell line development market size is anticipated to account for over US\$ 7,200 Mn, in terms of value, by 2028 end. The report on cell line development market further projects significant growth potential with CAGR at 7.2% through 2028. Rapid increase in prevalence of cancer and neurology disorders and lack of efficient treatment solution for these diseases has created the need of more advanced and efficient treatment pathway. Companies and government organizations are investing on research and development activities and are also focusing more on cell line development in search of new cellular pathway to develop novel drugs. The increased spending on biosimilar R&D from exiting biopharmaceutical companies would provide boost to cell line development market. In recent time the contract research organizations are focusing on cell line development and cell line research activities. According to National Institutes of Health (NIH) the estimated total federal spending on all type of stem cell line research for 2017 is US\$ 1.58 Bn. In developing countries like India, government is supporting cell line development through national funding agencies like Department of Biotechnology (DBT), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, and Department of Science and Technology (DST). Regenerative medicines are the next generation treatment solution and Cell Line Development or Cell Culture is a vital part for regenerative medicine.

[Thus tiny cell is good news for cancer survivors \(Health Feature\)](#)

April 17, 2019/Business Standard



A scientist at the National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (NIRRH) in Mumbai -- an institute under the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** -- says a new type of stem cell identified by her team can help restore fertility in men and women who have undergone treatment for cancer. Cancer treatment, or "oncotherapy", that involves use of radiation and chemicals, renders patients infertile as an unwanted side effect and, while cured of cancer, they cannot beget children. Though women are born with a lifetime reserve of "oocytes" (immature eggs), these are wiped out by oncotherapy. In males, the testes responsible for the production of sperms, stop making them following cancer treatment. Currently accepted approaches for fertility preservation require male patients to deposit their sperm in "cryo-banks" before beginning cancer treatment for later use. Similarly women, wanting to have children, must have their eggs or embryos "cryopreserved" for use after oncotherapy. "Such approaches are invasive, expensive, technically challenging and depend on assisted reproductive technologies," reports NIRRH cell biologist Deepa Bhartiya in the latest issue of the Indian Journal of Medical Research, the flagship journal of ICMR.

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[ICMR asks stakeholders to share evidence on efficacy of stem cells](#)

April 18, 2019/Live Mint



The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has appealed to doctors across the country to share scientific evidence on clinical efficacy of stem cells in any disease condition or disorder in their specialties. The appeal comes in the wake of several complaints by patients about the misuse of stem cell therapy.

The apex research body has also asked professional associations to submit a position statement on stem cell therapy in their area of specialty to help the public and professionals. "Stem cell research is a very active area of research around the world. The current research focus is to understand the biology of stem cells and their potential clinical applications in a range of human diseases. However, as a proven therapy, stem cells are currently considered as a standard therapy option only in certain haematolymphoid and immunological conditions, as listed in the National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research (NGSCR-2017)," the ICMR said in its notice. The government has entrusted the ICMR to frame guidelines on stem cell therapy. The Guidelines for Hematopoietic (blood) Stem Cell Transplant are currently being drafted by ICMR. "For stem cell therapy in other non-haematological conditions the expert clinicians and representatives of professional societies are requested to provide the current status of evidence-based use of stem cell therapy in diseases that their specialty deals with, if any," the ICMR said.

"Based on the feedback received by experts and professional societies and a detailed review of scientific literature Guidelines for Stem Cell Therapies shall be drafted, that may consider use of stem cell in a specific condition as one of the therapy options if there is level I or II scientific evidence and Grade A or B recommendation. To ascertain the level of evidence and grade of recommendation, the comprehensive and widely used Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine—Levels of Evidence (March 2009) could be used," it said.

[Tiny cell: Good news for cancer survivors](#)

April 18, 2019/The Sentinel

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With regards,

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