

❖ Name & Designation	: Dr. Philip Raj Abraham, Research Associate (ICMR)
❖ Address	: Laboratory of Molecular-Cell Biology, Centre for DNA Finger Printing & Diagnostics, Hyderabad-500001
❖ Name of the International Conference/ Seminar/Symposium/ Workshop	: 12th International Conference on Molecular Epidemiology & Evolutionary Genetics of Infection Diseases (MEEGID-XI)-2014
❖ Title of the abstract accepted	: The N-terminal region of M. tuberculosis PPE protein Rv XXXX induces strong B cell response in active TB patients
❖ Venue & Date	: Bangkok, Thailand, 11-13th December 2014.
❖ Money sanctioned	: ₹ 75,000/-
❖ Money reimbursed	: ₹ 58,383/-

Participation Report

- **Organization of Training/Workshop:**

The 12th International conference on Molecular Epidemiology and Evolutionary Genetics of Infectious Diseases (MEEGID XII) was held at the Royal River Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13th December 2014. This conference was organized by Elsevier. During the conference special emphasis was given to health problems such as tuberculosis, dengue, H5N1, SARS, AIDS, malaria, leishmaniasis etc.

The conference was evidenced by a wide range of topics covered by the 267 abstracts, 1 invited speakers. More than 100 oral presentations and 90 posters were presented during the Conference. Over 300 participants representing more than 40 countries from all corners of the world took part in the conference.

#### **- Academic highlights of the Training/Workshop:**

The Conference covered following health Topics:

- Genetics, genomics, proteomics, population biology, mathematical modeling and bioinformatics.
- Co-evolution of host + pathogen or pathogen + vector
- All pathogens, including: viruses; parasitic protozoa; helminthes; fungal organisms and prions
- All infectious models, including those of veterinary or agronomical relevance and
- Cancer and infectious diseases

#### **(i) New developments presented at the Training/Workshop**

About 15 researchers working in different discipline of Science discussed latest developments in infectious diseases and epidemiology research. Some of the interesting topics were,-

- Genomic epidemiology of bacterial pathogens
- Evolution and epidemiology of parasitic helminths in the -omics age
- Molecular Epidemiology of Group A Rotaviruses
- New tools for detecting drug resistance in malaria infections
- Human genetic diversity in Asia and the rest of the world
- Molecular epidemiology and evolution of Chikungunya
- Molecular diversity and evolution of the *Leishmania donovani* complex
- Molecular epidemiology of *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* infections
- Phylogeography of Anopheles mosquitoes etc.,

#### **(ii) New developments resulting from the Training/Workshop**

The suggestions of various scientists working in the field of tuberculosis and especially Prof. Michael Strong (National Jewish Health, Denver, USA) in further improving the study and publication of <sup>my</sup> this work were valuable. The study was also appreciated by a co speaker Dr. Monika Konaklieva, American University, USA, who is working on Thioehers, active compounds against *M. tuberculosis*. Dr. Pitchappan, Director, Chettinad University, India has commented on the need of a diagnostic tests especially for multiple and extensively drug resistance tuberculosis patients. My interaction with many researchers who are working in the same area was helpful in understanding the ongoing tuberculosis research at the global scenario.

Overall, participation in this conference helped me in updating my knowledge on Tuberculosis research and especially the molecular epidemiology knowledge that I have gained will help me in my future studies.

**(iii) Name of the publication in case of your work is recommended for publication:**

The organizer is pleased to invite this study in a special issue of *Infection, Genetics and Evolution* (Published by Elsevier).

**8. Participants' contribution to the Training/Workshop**

The purpose of attending this conference was to present my post doctoral work funded by the ICMR. Initially my abstract (No. MEEG2014\_ 0220) titled "**The N-terminal region of *M. tuberculosis* PPE<sup>#</sup> protein RvXXXX induces strong B cell response in active TB patients**" was accepted for Poster and later it was upgraded to Oral presentation (No. O07.2). The coordinator was also pleased to invite me as a **Session Chair** for a Symposium on "**Mycobacterial Diseases**" held on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2014. I shared the Chair with Prof. Thierry Wright, Natural History Museum, France. It was a great experience of leading a session at the international level.