ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE: AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE

Dear Reader,

Many of you would have noted the announcement of the establishment of a Centre by ICMR in New Delhi, in collaboration with a multinational pharmaceutical corporation to combat anti-microbial resistance (AMR). We see large full page advertisements with the words “AMR” in the front page of the daily news papers. These advertisements are the result of the efforts to draw the attention of all to the development of Anti-microbial resistance at a much faster pace than predicted. The action is noteworthy. However, it is difficult to comprehend how these advertisements will help to reduce AMR. While many more activities are being planned, it is hoped that the holistic approach being pursued will involve many more institutions and organizations. CDSCO has notified a separate schedule of drugs, Schedule H1 consisting of antibiotics, to ensure better prescription practices by medical professionals and the requirement that retailers maintain copies of the prescriptions served.

Dr. Yusuf Hamied, in his recent address to the scientists at TIFR, Mumbai drew their attention to the development of AMR, the next health crisis. The inception in 2017 of the Yusuf Hamied-Academy of Medical Sciences UK India Exchange program is a notable commitment to work on AMR. The program provides an excellent opportunity for international collaboration on an issue which will probably affect India the most.

In view of the rampant use of antibiotics in India, we must strive to innovate practical methods and protocols that facilitate the judicious use of antibiotics in human and veterinary practice. Is the repeated exposure to antibiotics when used in therapy, the only reason that we develop AMR or are the residual antibiotics in the food that we consume in much larger quantities and at a greater frequency (daily) the reason for the development of this resistance? To control the use of antibiotics, it is also worthwhile to evaluate whether specific diagnostic kits could be developed and its use mandated compulsorily before an antibiotic is prescribed. Needless to state that promoting better hygiene, will be the best methodology to reduce incidence of an infection. This is an effort that the government has been striving for and we must support these efforts to the best of our personal and organizational capabilities.

As we move forward in the new year, we at IDMA endeavor to facilitate greater interaction between the industry and academia. I would like to draw your attention to the excellent editorial in the December 2018 issue by our editorial advisory board member, Dr. Ganesh Deshpande. He talks of Open Innovation, and reminds us that many large corporations have realized that in spite of their huge budgets, they cannot rely on innovation at their own laboratories to deliver. This “Open Innovation” concept, calls for a different mindset of openness. Keeping this December editorial in mind, I am extremely happy to inform you that we shall be celebrating the INDIAN DRUGS ANNUAL DAY 2019 on March 22, 2019 in collaboration with IES Management College and Research Centre. The theme for this year is “INNOVATION IN PHARMA RESEARCH: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE”.

Dr. Ahmed Kamal, Pro Vice Chancellor of JamiaHamdard University has consented to be the chief guest. Dr. Kamal is an accomplished researcher with many laurels to his credit and has spent considerable time, managing research teams and collaborating with Industry. We arealso extremely happy to have Dr.Premnath V., Head of NCL Innovations who will share his experiences and the journey of some of the companies that are housed at the incubation center at NCL, Pune.The presentations will be followed by an interactive panel discussion with many luminaries from the industry. The presenceof both CEOs and pharmaceutical research personnel both from industry and research institutions at this event, would be a great opportunity to meet and exchange ideas. We welcome all and request that you register at the earliest.

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About The Associate Editor

Dr George Patani, is a Pharmacist from the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal and completed his Masters in Medicinal Chemistry and Ph.D. in Drug Delivery from the Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He has approx. 18 years' experience at the INGA group of companies, developing and manufacturing phytochemical APIs and finished dose formulations. This experience has included an extensive record of project leadership in pharmaceutical formulation development and regulatory affairs. He has authored a number of scientific publications and book chapters with over a 1000+ citations from individual manuscripts.

Dr Patani is currently the Treasurer of the Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association for 2017-18, Chairman IDMA's publication committee since 2012 and Chairman of IDMA's Industry Institute Interaction Committee since 2014. He has been a recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award 2016 and Distinguished Alumnus Award 2005 from Manipal University. He has served on various committees such as the Crude Drugs and Herbal Products Committee of the Indian Pharmacopoeial Commission and the Reach Monitoring Committee of the TIFAC CORE in genomics at Manipal Academy of Higher Education etc.

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