

National Seminar on Current Trends in Diagnosis, Prevention and Management of HIV

HIV/AIDS is a major threat to the global health, contributing to morbidity and mortality throughout the world. Significant portion of population in India is affected by HIV/AIDS. There is a need for health professionals to keep in touch with the recent developments in clinical care of HIV/AIDS, particularly issues regarding infections, diagnosis, management and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Sensing the need to conduct a more comprehensive faculty development programme to address all the issues as mentioned above, a National seminar on "Current Trends in Diagnosis, Prevention and Management of HIV" had been planned on 25th August 2012. This seminar was jointly organized by the APPI Belgaum branch, Department of Physiology and Department of Pharmacology of J.N. Medical College, Belgaum and sponsored by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The National seminar was planned to strengthen the National AIDS programme by providing important information and recent updates about HIV/AIDS.

This conference brought together top experts in the field of HIV/AIDS research in India in a forum that addressed the key issues relating to HIV/AIDS. The in-depth program covered topic regarding diagnosis, prevention and management of HIV. It helped to understand and learn the latest insights, tools and knowledge. About 220 delegates from various health professional colleges of different states attended the national seminar. Dr. Suneel I Majagi, Organizing Chairman of the National Seminar and the president of A.P.P.I, Belgaum branch, welcomed the distinguished dignitaries on the dais, invitees, deans of various colleges and the delegates. He also welcomed renowned resource persons coming from prestigious institutions like National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune and the host institute. He also introduced the chief guest of the inaugural function Dr. VD Patil,

Principal, J N Medical College, Belgaum and Dr. RS Paranjape, Director and Scientist G, NARI, Pune, who was the guest of Honour of the function.

Dr. VD Patil, the chief guest of the function inaugurated the National Seminar and in his inaugural address stressed the need for conducting such seminars for the benefit of faculty members, postgraduates of pre, para and clinical departments. On this occasion Dr. RS Paranjape was facilitated by the APPI, Belgaum branch for his outstanding contribution to the field. His achievements were highlighted by Dr. RS Goudar, Prof and Head, Dept. of Physiology, J.N.M.C, Belgaum. Dr. Neha Kulkarni, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physiology, J.N.M.C, Belgaum and Secretary, APPI, Belgaum branch proposed vote of thanks.

In the first scientific session Dr. RS Paranjape elaborated on the topic "Immunity and HIV". He explained about the different immunity mediators and how they are affected in case of HIV infection. Dr. VK Mahishale, Associate Professor, Dept. of Respiratory Medicine, J.N.M.C, Belgaum talked on "Pulmonary manifestations of HIV and management". He illustrated the topic with the help of real world cases (X-rays etc). Dr. SP Tripathi, Scientist F, NARI, Pune, spoke on "TB and HIV". He elaborated about various challenges involved in diagnoses and management of tuberculosis like Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), anti-tubercular treatment (ATT) and antiretroviral treatment (ART) etc. Dr. AR Risbud, Scientist F, NARI, Pune, gave a talk on "HIV lab diagnosis and incidence testing". Diagnosis of HIV can be done using various tests like HIV p24 antigen, HIV DNA, HIV RNA and HIV Isolation (Culture). He also explained about the importance of standardizing the testing algorithm and interpretation criteria as well as HIV incidence testing.

After lunch the second scientific session was started. Dr. (Mrs) Manisha Ghate, Scientist F, NARI, Pune shared her views on “HIV associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND)”. She explained about clinical manifestations, diagnosis (biomarkers) and management regarding HAND. Dr. MB Nagamoti gave a lecture on “Opportunistic infections in HIV infected persons- Our experience at Belgaum”. He explained about HIV prevalence (age, gender, HIV-1 subtypes, HIV-2), common opportunistic infections (TB, Candida, Cryptococcus, Cryptosporidium nocardia, P. jirovecii etc) occurred during the period 1998 to 2011 in Dr. PKKLE Hospital and MRC, Nehru Nagar, Belgaum.

Dr. (Mrs) Anita Dalal, Professor, Dept. of OBG, J.N.M.C, Belgaum spoke about “Scaling up prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT)-Indian scenario”. She elaborated about various aspects of parent to child transmission (incidence, prevention etc). After the valedictory function certificates were distributed to the delegates and high tea was served.

Suneel I Majagi, Neha Kulkarni

J N Medical College, Belgaum, Karnataka, India

Correspondence to: Suneel I Majagi

(suneelmajagi@yahoo.co.in)

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