



LEPRA India
healthinaction

BLUE PETER PUBLIC HEALTH & RESEARCH CENTRE

SHODHANA IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH



Volume 2

Issue 1

May 2011

Tri Annual E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

Greetings from LEPRA India – BPHRC!

It is a great pleasure to inform you that this issue is our 1st 2011 tri Annual E-Newsletter – *Shodhana*....in pursuit of excellence in Public Health. BPHRC is a research wing of LEPRA India which conducts research on issues related to leprosy, tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, lymphatic filariasis and manages the selected field projects in Andhra Pradesh.

The Centre observed anti-leprosy week on all the days from 30th January to 4th February, 2011. And we organized Sensitization workshop for PMPs, RMPs and DOTS Providers on 23.3.2011 at BPHRC on occasion of World TB Day. Glad to share with you that LEPRA India received a Memento and a Certificate of Appreciation for rendering RNTCP services in AP from Dr. D.L. Ravindra Reddy, Honourable Health Minister, GoAP and Ms. Srilakshmi IAS, Commissioner, Directorate of Public Health & Family Welfare, Hyderabad during WTD observance today.

The staff attended workshops, meetings and conferences. Several distinguished persons who visited the centre were impressed with the research being conducted here. The research scholars, some of them registered at the universities for Ph.D., continued working on the projects assigned to them and two of them have submitted their thesis. Two of the research projects funded by DBT and CSU were completed.

We sincerely acknowledge and value most the contributions received from PATH India / USAID for our BSL-3 up-gradation and Philanthropists during this period supporting our work. BPHRC developed its strategy along with operational plan for 2010—2020 with support from Mr. Adam Storing.

This edition focuses on the updates from BPHRC lab divisions.



Wishing a happy reading and appreciate your feedback,

With thanks and best regards

Dr. J. Subbanna

Hearty Welcome



We take this opportunity to heartily Welcome Sir Ron De Witt, the new Chairman, LEPRA health in action into LEPRA Family.



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BPHRC

Dr. Madhumathi Chatterji a public health expert from Australia, visited BPHRC for 2 days from 10th to 11th January, 2011. She visited KRISCHIP project during February 1-3, for conducting her volunteer project "Independent review on LEPRA Health inaction's contribution to RNTCP".



Supporters team Ms. Nicole Spaeth, Ms. Jane Bentley visited BPHRC on 25.1.2011.



Ms. Sarah Nancollas, CE, LEPRA UK along with Dr. Carl & Dr. Sally Venn from UK (Wales) visited BPHRC on 27.1.2011 and they were very much impressed with research work at the centre. And Ms. Jenny Barraclough, Chairperson, LEPRA UK visited the centre on 28.1.2011 and

she interacted with the patients and she visited research laboratories where she was briefed by the respective Group Heads.

LEPRA India organized Walk for Leprosy on World Anti-Leprosy Day at Necklace road, staff of LEPRA including CE & Chairperson's from LEPRA UK & India, some of the board members along with staff from other LEPRA India projects and others—volunteers, scouts & guides, corporate participated and made the event successful.



Lt. Gen. V.D. Tiwari visited BPHRC on 23.2.2011. He interacted with patients and visited the research laboratories. The Group Heads briefed on their ongoing projects.



Dr. P.V. Ranganadha Rao, CE, LEPRA India interaction with the patient at BPHRC.



Mr. Bernard Farmer, Dy. CEO, LEPRA UK accompanied by Dr. PV Ranganadha Rao visited BPHRC on 8.4.2011. He interacted with patients and visited the research laboratories.

Ms. Sarah Nancollas, CE, Sir Ron De Witt, Chairman, and Dr. John Porter from LEPRA UK visited BPHRC on 14.4.2011. The same day Dr. Stephan Solat from USAID, accompanied by the PATH India team, visited the center on 14.4.2011, in connection with the BSL 3 facility upgradation at Microbiology Division, an USAID and PATH funded project.



Dr. Gitau Mburu, Sr. Advisor, HIV & Health Services, UK visited BPHRC on 4.3.2011. He interacted with the patients and visited the research laboratories and known about the research projects. He was impressed with the work done at the centre.



Mr. G. Ravi Sankar Reddy and Mr. Paresh Badyakar from Credibility Alliance visited BPHRC on 14.3.2011. Director presented BPHRC overview and clinical & research activities.

Ms. Rosalind Kerry, Community Fundraising Manager, LEPRA UK along with Mr. Barry Copeland and Ms. Jean Hasslam visited BPHRC on 25.3.2011. They interacted with the patients. It was in the visitors remarks that they deeply impressed by the research that never compromises compassion for people.



Dr. Vijay Panikkar visited BPHRC and interacted with the patients. Dr. Prathyusha briefed on clinical activities.



Performance of Clinical Division:

Total OPD Visits: 1213

Dr. J. Subbanna participated in a workshop Operational Research on Lung Health, Tuberculosis, HIV and Non- Communicable Diseases held from 7th to 11th March, 2011 at Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), Hyderabad.



World TB Day:

BPHRC organized a workshop on RNTCP for PMPs, RMPs and DOTS Providers to up-date their knowledge. About 50 practitioners' participated in the workshop and they were given the certificates for their contribution to the programme. Dr. Aruna Kumari, DTCO was invited as guest of honor. Also a Public Awareness rally on 24.3.2011 was conducted followed by a sensitization meeting on tuberculosis at Ashok Nagar, Kushaiguda where 75 school children were actively participated.

Leprosy	No. of patients	TB	No. of patients	ICTC	No. of patients
On MDT	47	Sp. Examined	200	Screened	316
Newly registered	25	Found +ve	50	Reactive	21
MB	19	Total detection	68	ANC	14
PB	6	NSP	35	Reactive	0
RFT	14	NSN	6	RNTCP-ICTC	102
Reactions	19	Ex. Pulm.	10	HIV-TB	3
Type - I	7	Re Rx.	17	Ref. to STD clinic	4
Type - II	12	INH prophy.	4	Ref. for ART	21
NFI	10	Cat - I	48	OIs treated	77
Foot-wear	23	Cat - II	13		

Field Activities: LEPRAs India - BPHRC organized awareness programme for 2 days on 2nd & 3rd March, 2011 on diseases Leprosy, TB, HIV//AIDS at Keesara Gutta on event of Mahashivarathri festival.

Observation of Anti-Leprosy week by BPHRC:



Observation of World TB Day by BPHRC at Cherlapally Jail.



Performance of Immunology/Molecularbiology Division:

Dr.Velavan & Prof. Juergen Kun, Tubingen, Germany collaborative project with LEPRa entitled: **“Effects of multi drug therapy on cellular immunity in patients with leprosy”** is initiated and underway. This may help us to understand why some patients do not benefit from treatment with antibiotics specific for Leprosy.

The other project entitled **“Gene expression profiling in Multi-case Leprosy families: The susceptibility genes expression through general proteomics approach”** is also underway which may help us to understand why some members in a family are more susceptible to Leprosy than others.



Mr. Sambasivan V, was awarded Ph.D degree in genetics topic entitled **“Genetic, Molecular and Immunological Studies for understanding susceptibility to Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection”** from Osmania University and Vidya Gouri Shinde presented her colloquium under the guidance of Dr.V. Vijaya Lakshmi. Two other students have got registered for Ph.D under the guidance of Dr. Vijaya Lakshmi and Prof. Anand Raj.

Ongoing Projects:

1. Determine the molecular mechanisms involved in the expansion of regulatory T cells in human Mycobacterium tuberculosis - infection
2. A Longitudinal Cohort Study to Identify Immunological Biomarker for Leprosy
3. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Genotypes And Host Susceptibility To Tuberculosis In Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infected And Non Infected Persons - A Community Based Study
4. Effects of multi drug therapy on cellular immunity in patients with leprosy
5. Centre of Excellence (CoE) project: Characterization of Host pathogen factors influencing the targeting of Mycobacterium tuberculosis to various tissues in man
6. “Gene expression profiling in Multi-case Leprosy families: The susceptibility genes expression through general proteomics approach”

Publication:

One Scientific article published in Tuberculosis in an international journal entitled **“Vaccine for tuberculosis: Up-regulation of IL-15 by Ag85A and not by ESAT-6”** in March 2011.

Performance of Microbiology Division:

BPHRC was upgraded with BSL-3 facility at Microbiology division. Validation of BSL-3 laboratory was done by Dr. Selva Kumar, TRC, Chennai, State TB officer and his team and also PATH team on 25.3.2011. Dr. David Berger & Ms. Charusila from USAID visited on 23.2.2011.



Dr. Stephan Solat from USAID, accompanied by the PATH India team, visited the center on 14.4.2011, in connection with the BSL 3 facility at Microbiology Division, an USAID and PATH funded project. Mr. NM Chandra Sekhar, Dr. Michael and Mr. Ram Babu participated in the programme, where posters on the USAID funded activities were presented. Dr. PV Ranganadha Rao briefed the delegates about LEpra activities and Dr. Subbanna briefed about BPHRC activities.



Dr. Svenja Steinfelder & Ms. Noelle O'Regan (Phd Student of Dr. Hartmann, Humboldt University, Germany) carried out their project work on Lymphatic Filariasis (Indo-German IRTG project – Microbiology Division) from 20th January to 10th February, 2011 at KRISCHIP project.



Ongoing Projects:

1. Genotyping of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis of Multi drug resistant (MDR) tuberculosis suspects from Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, South India
2. Prevalence of second line anti TB drug resistance from four districts of Andhra Pradesh- a community based study.
3. CoE Project: Investigation of differential expression of fadE20, fadE26 and fadE28 by clinical strains of M. tb occupying different host tissue and its correlation with tissue tropism. (Funded by Dept of Biotechnology)



Anti-Leprosy Week Observance at Area Hospital, Nirmal :

The project has organised a meeting on 31 Jan. 2011 with Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP) at Area Hospital, Nirmal to mark the observance of Anti-leprosy Week.

Dr. Nageshwara Rao, Medical Officer, addressed the meeting and appealed support for Leprosy patients in accessing the services of Referral Centre, Nirmal. Around 45 RMPs representing the Nirmal and Adilabad divisions participated in the program.



44 persons availed services from 3 Prevention of Disability (POD) camps in Primary Health Centres (PHC) of Kuntala, Lokeshwaram and Sarangapur mandals with assistance from District Health Department. 26 pairs of (GII) footwear was provided to the needy beneficiaries in these camps.



On Observance of Anti Leprosy week celebrations, a school education program and an elocution competition to the students was held on Leprosy in UMA's Montessori & High School, Secunderabad. Winners were given prizes. The School principal, teachers and students participated in this program.



On observance of International Women's Day, a meeting with the members of Andhra Pradesh Bank Employee's Federation was organized where children living with HIV and their family members participated at Cheyutha project. The members interacted with the children, family members and distributed nutritional food to 15 children.



A team of four members from Sugathi Organization visited Shanthinagar leprosy colony. They interacted with the community leaders and students of the colony. Their aim is to increase the knowledge, confidence and skills of the students and decided to visit every Sunday (holiday) and teach the students in all aspects (all classes).



Ms. Sarah Nancollas, CEO and Sir Ronald De Witt, Chairman LEPROA UK visited Shanthinagar leprosy Colony on 19th April 2011.



Organized Self care camps at NLRC Nallakunta and UHP Addagutta for Leprosy and Lymphatic Filariasis on 27th and 28th April 2011. Counselling and demonstration sessions were held to reiterate the importance of self-care in the camps .

On observance of World TB Day, Medical Officers of UMEED project conducted sensitization programme to Private Medical Practitioners to up grade their knowledge on

TB / MDR TB. Totally 44 PMPs from the geographical area of 5 DMCs. Also, a training program was organized for DOTS providers and explained about the importance of regular treatment of Tuberculosis.



Mr. Muzafarullah, Physiotherapist, LEPROA India retired on 31.3.2011. The organization appreciated his hard work and valuable contribution to field of Leprosy (for 35 years) and the staff of DLRC felicitated him with a small gift.





India Bike ride team visited referral centre, Vizianagaram on 2.2.2011, interacted with staff, beneficiaries and ADM&HO-Leprosy. They were made aware of the referral centre services.



On 3rd February Ms. Sarah Nancollas, CE, LEPRO UK visited referral centre Vizianagaram along with Dr. P. V Ranganadh Rao, CE, LEPRO India. They interacted with staff and beneficiaries being treated at Temporary Hospitalization Ward.



The District Leprosy society, Vizianagaram recognized the Referral centre services and awarded Ms. Padmavathi, Counsellor as best worker. She received this ward from Dist Collector, Vizianagaram on 30th January 2011 in the public meeting.

Vijayawada project participated and observed World TB day with the collaboration of Dist TB society. Project Associate and LTs of 2 DMCs (Ranigarithota and Kothapeta) participated in the rallies and awareness meeting conducted at Vijayawada TU and Rajeev Nagar TU. Created awareness on TB through “Burra Katha” by the St. Ann’s nursing students at Vijayawada.



The Project with the support of SCWEC and NABARD organized a three months training programme on Italian Lace Making for 30 women. The Objective of the programme is to improve the economic conditions of the Women Living with HIV/AIDS in particular along with the general household women. The programme was supported by Smt. Indira Dutt, Chairman, SCWEC & JMD - KCP Cements.



Photographs

Republic Day Celebrations at LEpra India – BPHRC



CASE STUDIES

SCREENING OF FAMILY MEMBERS-MANDATORY TO IDENTIFY POCKETS OF LEPROSY INFECTION

Mr. Naresh is 17 years old boy of Nalgonda district reported to us on 14th December, 2010 with complaints of non itchy skin rashes all over the body since one month. While inquiring, he revealed that he has noticed patches one year ago but his parents denied and discouraged him in seeking the medical advice. Further, he has contact history of his father and younger brother. On examination, he had infiltration of face, nodules and papules over ears, back and all the limbs. He had bilateral thickened Ulnar and Median nerves with intact sensation. Interestingly, nerves were not tender, yet, he had Grade 3 motor weakness. Skin smears showed BI-5.75+ & MI-6%.

He has shown considerable improvement with the first month treatment itself and but became a defaulter after two months of treatment. Later, he reported after a gap of one month as he had developed Type-II reaction. The reason he gave for defaulting is, since he observed good improvement in his symptoms, he assumed that he got cured though he was advised to complete 12 months of treatment irrespective of improvement. He was thoroughly counseled again and reiterated the importance of treatment compliance to be completely curable.



TIMELY MANAGEMENT OF COMPLICATIONS - KEY TO TREATMENT COMPLIANCE IN TB

Krishna, a 50 year old male patient, labourer by occupation and a resident of Cherlapally, presented to BPHRC with the signs & symptoms suggestive of TB. Interestingly, he is an old case of Hansen's disease diagnosed 10-15 years back for which he took Dapsone for 6 months. He has no other medical illnesses.

His sputum was positive for AFB and was non reactive for HIV. Within 3 weeks of initiation of Cat-I ATT, he developed itchy skin rash possibly as a side effect of medication. Due to intense itching, patient discontinued ATT. After repeated attempts with appropriate counseling, motivation and assurance together with family members' involvement, he was successfully retrieved. With the appropriate medication, his itching subsided. As he developed confidence and trust in us, he continued ATT and became sputum negative.

This shows that empathetic commitment from health care personnel and family members together with timely management of treatment complications is imperative to keep patient adherent to prolonged treatment regimens like in TB.

News Clippings



Forthcoming Special Days/Events

World No Tobacco Day - 31st May
 World Environment Day—5th June
 World Blood Donor Day—14th June
 National HIV Testing Day—27th June
 World Population Day—11th July
 Independence Day - 15th August
 WHO leprosy DRS workshop - 22nd-23rd August

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