

**Visit to the Indian Council of Medical Research - National AIDS Research Institute (ICMR-NARI)  
by the Delegation from People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The Joint Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Bangladesh, Mr. Suleman Khan along with the team of delegates (List of Attendees – Annexure I) visited the ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute (ICMR-NARI), Pune on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.



Dr. Samiran Panda, Director, ICMR-NARI greeted the visitors and ushered the team into the campus. The meeting between the Scientists and staff of ICMR-NARI and the delegation from Bangladesh was convened at the conference room of the Institute. At the beginning a schedule for presentations of research work carried out by the Scientists of ICMR-NARI was made available to the meeting attendees. Silence for a minute was observed by all as a sign of condolence for the demise of former Bangladesh President Mr. Hussain Muhammad Ershad on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

Following a welcome address by Dr. Samiran Panda, Director, ICMR-NARI and opening remarks by the Joint Secretary coming from Bangladesh, delegates and staff of ICMR-NARI introduced themselves. Each of the delegates was presented with two Annual Reports of ICMR-NARI; one for 2016-17 and another for the period 2017-2018. Given the plan for



establishment of "Bangamata National Cellular and Molecular Research Center (BNCMRC)" in Bangladesh, the presentations at ICMR-NARI were grouped into two major components; a) Good Research Conduct and Data Management and b) Brief accounts of

research carried out by the Scientists of ICMR-NARI. Each of the presenters provided an overview of the past and current research activities undertaken by them.

Major highlights of this visit and ensuing discussions were as follows:

- a) Needs for good ethical research and data management practices were stressed upon and the work carried out in this regard at ICMR-NARI was summarized

- b) The delegates appreciated the multi-disciplinary collaborative research work carried out by ICMR-NARI scientists not only in the field of HIV but also other areas like HSV-2 infection, HPV, Tuberculosis, Japanese Encephalitis, Rickettsial diseases, Nipah virus information, Hypertension management and metabolic syndrome etc.
- c) Role of ICMR-NARI in Social Behavioral Research in collaboration with Clinical, Epidemiological and other Biomedical approaches was highlighted.
- d) The meeting ended with a positive note to facilitate future research collaboration in the region.

Dr. Samiran Panda underlined the importance of the visit by highlighting the following issues a) emerging infections that do not respect borders of the countries, b) capacity building through cross-border learning, training and collaborative research and c) need for generation of population and geographic setting specific data, their safe keeping and utilization for informing intervention programs. He ended by saying that opportunities for applying the lessons learnt from HIV/AIDS research in other fields of public health are immense and the time is ripe to do so. The delegates from Bangladesh appreciated the recent discussion taking place between two countries around Nipah-related research response in which ICMR played a catalytic role. Immigration from Myanmar to Bangladesh and other cross-border issues were also cited as the reason for strengthening collaborative research platform.



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**Venue: ICMR-NARI Conference Hall**

**PROGRAM**

| Timing        | Agenda   | Presenter   |
|---------------|--|---|
| 9:00 - 9:05   | Director's address   | Dr. Samiran Panda, Director, ICMR-NARI  |
| 9:05 - 9:10   | Remarks on the visit   | Mr. Suleman Khan,<br>Joint Secretary Medical Education and<br>Family Welfare Division, Bangladesh |
| 9:10 - 9:20   | Informal introduction  |   |
|               | Overview of Research Activities  |   |
| 9:05 - 9:10   | Good Research Conduct Committee  | Dr. Vandana Saxena, Scientist D   |
| 9:10 - 9:15   | Division of Data Management,<br>Biostatistics & Information Technology | Ms. Radhika Brahme, Scientist C   |
| 9:30 - 9:35   | Division of Clinical Science   | Dr. Manisha Ghate, Scientist F  |
| 9:15 - 9:30   | Division of Epidemiology   | Dr. Sheela Godbole, Scientist F   |
| 9:35 - 9:40   | Division of Social and Behavioral Science                              | Dr. Seema Sahay, Scientist F  |
| 9:40 - 9:45   | Division of Virology   | Dr. Smita Kulkarni, Scientist F   |
| 9:45 - 9:50   | Division of Immunology & Serology                                      | Dr. Madhuri Thakar, Scientist F   |
| 9:50 - 9:55   | Division of Molecular Biology  | Dr. Vijay Nema, Scientist D   |
| 9:55 - 10:00  | Division of Microbiology   | Dr. Arati Mane, Scientist D   |
| 10:00 - 10:15 | Touring within the campus and<br>laboratory building                   | Dr. Amrita Rao, Scientist C and Ms.<br>Swati Gaikwad  |