



January 2011

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President's Message

Dear colleagues,

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year!

This New Year has dawned with the launching of the website for Gastrointestinal Infection Society of India (GISI). The GISI came into existence exactly four years ago. As is true with all academic bodies, we encountered a lot of challenges which we have overcome successfully. It is a matter of immense pride that the Society has its own website for information and interaction among the GISI members. Our members are our strength, our team spirit our forte, challenges our motivation and achievements our endeavor. With this I urge you to visit the website (gisi.in). We shall highly appreciate your comments and suggestions for improvement of the website as well as the GISI newsletter. Interestingly we are also holding our own conference biennially. This year the GISICON III will be held at Manipal and the announcement by Prof. Mamatha Ballal has already been put on the GISI website.



Dr. Chetana Vaishnavi

Additional Professor (GE Microbiology)

Department of Gastroenterology

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research,
Chandigarh 160012 (INDIA)

Dear GISI members,

Your society is inviting bids for holding the biennial GISI conference for the year 2013. Members who are desirous of organizing the conference should send in their bids as soon as possible.

Pallab Ray, Secretary, GISI

Message from Dr. Mamatha Ballal

Welcome to Manipal!

Dear Fellow Members, Colleagues & Friends,

We take great pleasure in announcing that the 3rd National Conference of Gastrointestinal infection society of India (GISICON 2011) will be hosted at Manipal, Southern India in the month of May 2011.



Gastroenterology involves many disciplines, including physicians, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, nurses, dieticians, clinical microbiologists and general practitioners, who need to work together closely to deliver the best care. GSI has evolved with the intention to prevent the incidence and find a cure to the commonest of infections afflicting mankind of all age groups especially in the developing countries....gastrointestinal tract associated clinical conditions. This society strives to accomplish the same by bringing together eminent scientists, clinicians, microbiologists and gastroenterologists from countries all over the world, to share their knowledge and experience in the field of infectious diseases.

There are a vast number of infectious agents that are associated with gastrointestinal (GI) tract diseases. The epidemiology of GI diseases is changing, with a greater number of conditions increasing in incidence. Challenges exist with establishing cause-and-effect relationships because of the ubiquitous nature of these organisms and the milieu in which they exist. Advances in technology should provide novel methods for identifying and diagnosing these organisms and the relationship they have with a specific digestive disease.

In the next 15 seconds, a child somewhere in the world will die from diarrheal disease. Globally, it is estimated that 6-60 billion cases of gastrointestinal illness occur annually. These illnesses are not limited to minor, uncomfortable cases of stomach upset. They are a scourge of humanity and are largely the result of fecal contamination of the environment.

The sum total of the incidence, severity, and duration of gastrointestinal disease are known as the global burden of these illnesses. Grasping these facts is critical to understanding the threat these diseases pose to public health and to appropriately allocating resources and efforts to curb them. Currently, however, there are a number of obstacles to overcome. They include the use of non-standardized definitions of disease and symptoms; failure to identify a causative agent in many, if not most, cases of disease; failure to report episodes to health authorities; and the existence of incompatible reporting systems. There are a number of modes of transmission that contribute to the burden of gastrointestinal disease, and the relative significance of each changes with economic development.

GISICON 2011 aims to discuss the routine clinical data issues central both to the question of global burden of gastrointestinal diseases and to matters of public health. Several key weaknesses exist in the current systems for collecting and processing clinical data were identified. Recommendations need to be developed, including epidemiological training for clinicians and environmental health specialists, improved data collection during outbreaks, improved surveillance and specimen collection and laboratory testing for public health purposes, more thorough investigation of the agents responsible for incidents of gastrointestinal disease, and the careful consideration of the employment of new diagnostic techniques for clinical testing. Advances in the clinical setting can lead to more thorough reporting of disease, and hence, to better management of important routes of transmission and the diseases themselves. Progress in research and education has always been critical to improving public health. In many ways,

efforts in these areas can be honed to better address needs related to gastrointestinal disease. Through establishment of standard definitions of the parameters related to gastrointestinal disease, scientists can ensure that their studies can more easily be related to the results of other work. By coordinating funding programs and encouraging interdisciplinary efforts, research programs and collaborations can more effectively address unanswered questions in the field. Improved efforts in systematic data review and peer review in the relevant journals could help synthesize the current body of knowledge and lend more credibility to findings in the field.

Finally, three specific areas of research, critical to progress in battling gastrointestinal disease needs to be addressed: validation of intervention techniques, quantitative evaluation of gastrointestinal disease, and exploring the role of the host and the dose-response relationship in the development of disease.

Communicating the risks and priorities related to gastrointestinal disease is critical to gaining recognition of these issues among the public and policy makers. On a related note, there is a great need to adequately educate and train the scientists of tomorrow. These are both key issues in addressing gastrointestinal diseases today and in the future.

The 3rd GISICON will be a platform for the delegates especially the young students whose innovative research mind will be reflected through the poster presentation sessions. We have tried to organize the scientific sessions in such a way so that it gives a holistic approach to any given GI infection.

Manipal, an International University Town, is well connected by road, rail and air. There are two main cities close to Manipal which serve as entry points - Udupi and Mangalore. Udupi is about 5 km from Manipal (10 min drive), The nearest airport is at Bajpe, near Mangalore - about 65 kms away (1 and a half hour drive). MANIPAL in Karnataka is bordered by Kerala, Tamilnadu, Goa, and Andhra Pradesh where many infectious diseases are endemic, and the choice of Manipal reflects the commitment of GISI to host meetings in areas where healthcare, education and training in infectious diseases are important issues.

This University township (Manipal) is not only a place where people are : "inspired by life" (as our logo says - Pragyan Brahma) but also inspired to learn. The University is constantly supporting us in carrying out research, to find out novel solutions to some of the pressing problems of the developing world. This educational hub of Karnataka has a lot more to it besides academic growth. Mother nature has greatly enhanced its richness. There are many tourist spots in and around Manipal including exotic beaches and temples.

We hope you will enjoy this scientific feast and return home enriched with knowledge. We request you to kindly register early for the program.

Your active participation is honestly solicited.

We look forward to your participation at the 3rd GISICON and to meeting you in Manipal, May 2011.

Dr. Mamatha Ballal

Chairman Organizing Committee,
GISICON 2011

Achievements of GISI Members

Prof. (Mrs) S V Rana Department of Gastroenterology, PGIMER, Chandigarh

- Received the **award for best oral presentation** during ISGCON -2009 held at Kolkata from 9th -13th Dec., 2009.
- Presented the research work titled "**Lactose intolerance in adult celiac patients**" at the conference of Experimental Biology 2010 at **Anaheim, CA, USA** in April 2010.
- Presented the research work titled "**Lactulose hydrogen breath test can't be used to diagnose small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in patients of irritable bowel syndrome**" at DDW 2010 at **New Orleans, Louisiana, USA** in May 2010.
- Worked as **Executive Council Member** of Indian Society of Parental and Enteral Nutrition.
- Has been selected as the **member of Third World Organization for Woman in Science** during the year 2010.

Dr. Chetana Vaishnavi, Department of Gastroenterology, PGIMER, Chandigarh became a Fellow of International Medical Science Academy for her significant contribution to medical science. She was conferred with the honour during the 30th Annual conference of IMSA at the Royal Society of Medicine, London on 10th Sept. 2010.



Dr. (Mrs.) Praveen Rishi, Department of Microbiology, P.U., Chandigarh

- has been elected as a member of Central Council of Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI)
- Two Best Poster Presentation Awards from the lab during MICROCON-2011, held at Panjab University, Chandigarh from 11-12 Jan, 2011.
 1. Paneth cell antimicrobial peptide as a novel therapeutic agent for *Salmonella typhimurium* infection.
 2. Immunogenic and inflammatory potential of recombinant Flic protein of *Salmonella typhi* expressed under acid stress conditions.

Dr. K. K. Prasad, Department of Gastroenterology, PGIMER, Chandigarh

- was awarded the "Royal college of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) Quality Assurance Programs Pty Limited Congress Grant" to attend XXV World Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Sydney, Australia in Mar 2009
- was awarded the "Indian Society of Gastroenterology (ISG) Travel Fellowship for Asia Pacific Digestive Week 2009" at Taipei, Taiwan in Sept 2009
- awarded the "United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF) Travel Grant for Basic Scientists" for attending GASTRO 2009-UEGW/WCOG at London, United Kingdom in Nov 2009

Dr. Vikas Gautam, Department of Medical Microbiology, PGIMER, Chandigarh

- was elected as an Executive member of the PGI Faculty Association

GASTROINTESTINAL INFECTION SOCIETY OF INDIA



MICROBIOLOGY DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF SUPERSPECIALTY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY
POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please type or write in Capital Letters)

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Note: Membership is open to Clinical Microbiologists / Gastroenterologists / Clinicians and Health Care Workers involved in Gastrointestinal Infections.

	Annual (Rs)	Life (Rs)
Institutions	1000/-	3000/-
Individuals	500/-	1500/-
Patrons	Rs. 20,000/- and above	

Drafts should be drawn in favour of **"Gastrointestinal Infection Society of India"**.

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