

## From the Desk of the Organizers

Since the establishment of Bioinformatics Centre in 1999 with support from DBT, the Centre has identified Medical Informatics as the thrust area and has been conducting annual Workshops on Medical Informatics along with web portal MGIMS-JBTDRC Health Update – Web for current awareness on Emerging Infectious Diseases and Life Style Health Problems (<http://www.jbtdrc.org/Health-Update/>) and publication of SEVAMED – Quarterly Update on Infectious Disease Research And Traditional Medicine for dissemination of advances in diagnosis and management of infectious diseases and complementary & alternate medicine for life style health problems.

In addition to regular National level Workshops on Medical Informatics, the Centre also conducted Workshop in December 2002 on ‘Storage and Retrieval of Information’ in collaboration with ICMR supported by WHO and National Symposium on Medical Informatics & CME on Hospital Information System in September 2004 and National Seminar on Biomedical Informatics in December 2005 with support from DBT, MCI, CSIR, DST, ICMR and AYUSH. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> annual National Workshop being conducted at this Centre. We are grateful to President, Kasturba Health Society for absorbing two BIC staff (Information Officer and Technical Assistant), recognizing the importance of Medical Informatics in a Medical Institute. We are also thankful to DBT for approving support for next five years and including this Centre in TB Research group for exploring Bioinformatics approach to TB research.

Medical Informatics (MI) deals mainly with clinical data with emphasis on information system on patient care, disease management etc, while Bioinformatics deals with scientific data related to molecular biology, biochemistry and other life sciences. Medical Informatics utilizes medical information and computer tools and software for efficient health care management and reducing health care costs. With vast information at our disposal, importance of Biomedical Communication was felt for successful presentation of clinical information. With this objective since 2001, we have been having Special sessions on Biomedical Communication. These sessions were well received by the participants in the Workshops. We are highly thankful to Dr. K. Satyanarayana & Dr. N.C. Jain, ICMR and Dr. Shripad Deshpande, BHU for the interest and guidance in conducting this session.

We are grateful for the support of ICMR for having Special session on Biomedical Communication during this Workshop. We are highly thanks to Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, VC, DMIMS University for guidance and support of MCI for publication of the Proceedings. We are highly thankful to all the Guest speakers for sparing their valuable time and sharing their experiences in these areas.

We are grateful to Dr. T. Madhan Mohan, Advisor, DBT and our dynamic President, Shri. Dhiru S. Mehta for the continued support and encouragement for the Bioinformatics Centre. We are highly thankful to the administration, associates at JBTDRC and Biochemistry Department who have been contributing for the success of the Workshops. We hope your visit to MGIMS will be useful and enjoyable.

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