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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

1) QQuest 2011 - The Annual National Conference on Quality Management
Date: 10th - 13th March, 2011
Venue: AT VS Centre Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Website: http://www.annauniv.edu/qquest11

2) National Symposium on Medical Radiation Safety-Biyantra-2011
Date: 17th – 18th March, 2011
Venue: SRM University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Website: http://www.biyantra.in

3) World Congress on Biotechnology
Date: 21st - 23rd March, 2011
Venue: OMICS Publishing Group Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Website: http://omicsonline.org/biotechnology2011/

4) National conference on communication in Health care engineering (Dept of S&H)
Date: 26th March, 2011
Venue: Erode, Tamil Nadu, India
Website: http://www.wllalar.com/FreqS&H%20Conf.pdf

HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH

HEALTH MINISTRY INTRODUCES HEPATITIS B VACCINE IN NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME

Health Ministry has ordered to introduce Hepatitis B vaccine in the country's National Immunization Programme (NIP). Now all new-borns will get a vaccine shot against hepatitis B. As it is a major cause of all liver cancers and one percent of total adult deaths. The ministry is in process of procuring one hundred million doses of hepatitis B vaccine. This program will be rolled out nationally by this April. Under this a child will get a birth shot and then subsequent hepatitis B shots at sixth, tenth and fourteenth week. According to experts, Hepatitis B is more lethal than HIV as it can spread from even single drop of injected blood.

INDIA’S HEART IS AT RISK: WORLD BANK’S REPORT

World Bank Report warns that heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity and other non-communicable diseases will become India’s major health challenges in the coming years. Low birth weight (less than 2.5 kg) is a major risk factor for multiple heart diseases. Despite the continuous efforts to reduce risk of non-communicable diseases, health of the poor has not improved significantly. With the increase in number of youth smokers in India, tobacco related deaths will rise sharply and hit poor families the most.

NEW DRUG POLICY TO CURB MISUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS

India's first ever antibiotic policy will soon be rendered to the Union Health Ministry. This policy would be of utmost importance as it stops the third and fourth generation antibiotics from being misused or used in bulk. The policy calls for new schedule called Schedule HX. Under this proposal Schedule HX would have 2 parts. Part-A of Schedule HX would include drugs restricted only to tertiary hospital use. Part-B of schedule HX would include drugs which would be sold against prescription only.

HEALTH AND HRD MINISTRIES AGREE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION JURISDICTION

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) agreed to settle the conflict on jurisdiction over medical education as per the agreement. Now, National Commission for Human Resource in
Health (NCHR) will handle the matters related to putting forth the standards of medical education while National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) will lay down the guidelines for research to bring in uniformity.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR POOR SET TO COVER WORKERS OF NON-COAL MINES AND BEEDI FACTORIES

According to Union budget 2011, the Government health insurance scheme for poor Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) will now be extended for the workers of non-coal mines and beedi factories. It will provide medical treatment up to 30,000 every year covering 50 lakh people of this sector. Now the Indian Railways and the Postal Department have also decided to include railway coolies and postmen under this scheme.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM LAUNCHES GLOBAL HEALTH DATA CHARTER IN GENEVA

World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, has announced the launch of Global Health Data Charter, a project designed to improve global health by leveraging the collection and management of data. Health systems in many developed and developing countries lack sufficient access to accurate health data. The charter aims to bridge such gaps by using technology to collect, analyze and apply health information. The charter includes eight principles related to two key fundamental data gaps: access to health data; and privacy of health data.

UN CELEBRATES BIRTH OF POWERFUL NEW AGENCY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS : UN WOMEN

Luminaries from the worlds of politics, entertainment, business, the media, music and film joined hands with the United Nations to celebrate the birth of a powerful new agency giving voice to women and girls worldwide. UN Women – formally known as the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – was established in July 2010 by the General Assembly, merging four previous UN bodies dealing with women’s issues. “With the birth of UN Women, we welcome a powerful news agent for progress on gender equality and women's empowerment,” says Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. UN Women will be working with an annual budget of at least $500 million.

GLOBAL FUND ANNOUNCES NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is launching new anti-corruption measures after intense scrutiny from donors. Fund officials stated that they are creating a high-profile panel of international experts to examine the fund's ability to prevent and detect fraud and misuse in its grants, and to ensure that its financial safeguards are among the strongest in the world. They also announced plans to double the inspector general's budget, hire more financial managers and strengthen nations' financial controls.
TUMOUR TEST FOR KEY PROTEIN CAN PREDICT CANCER SPREAD

A research associated with predicting spread of cancer by detecting certain proteins was published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation. According to it a protein Carboxy Peptidase E (CPE), involved in processing of hormones and present in high levels in metastatic tumours is a useful biomarker. It can help in detecting and treating various types of tumours and thus preventing them from metastasizing to other body parts.

FUNGUS KNOCKS OUT MALARIA IN MOSQUITOES

According to the study published in the journal Science, researchers have found a new approach for controlling malaria. Now, instead of killing the mosquito that transmits the malaria parasite, the researchers have found a way to let the mosquito live, while killing the parasite inside it. The technique involves a fungus called *Metarhizium anisopliae*, which can penetrate directly into a mosquito. With time, the fungus will kill the mosquito. So it acts like a little hypodermic syringe, and when it is in the blood of the insect, the fungus then produces the anti-malarial protein, and within a couple of days it basically cures the mosquito of malaria*.

HEARING CAN BE RESTORED BY NASAL STEM CELLS ACTION

Early onset of sensorineural hearing loss can be restored or reversed through injecting nasal stem cells in ear of mice, as claimed by a study conducted by Sonali Pandit and colleagues at Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Australia. Researchers have found that stem cell appears to release factors or chemical substances that help to preserve the function of cochlear hearing cells without the stem cells becoming part of the tissue of the inner ear.

CURE FOR AIDS-GENES MAY HOLD KEY

A team of scientists have found a genetic method which would help the body cure itself of HIV. They conducted the experiment on mice. According to the result obtained a gene called “SOCS-3” got activated when the mice was infected with HIV and it thus decreased the immune response, so to counteract this the scientist boosted level of hormone called IL-7, which switched off the gene (SOCS-3) and consequently the mice were able to remove virus from the body.
NATIONAL WATER POLICY

National Water Policy was adopted in September, 1987. Since then, a number of issues and challenges have emerged in the development and management of the water resources. Therefore, the National Water Policy (1987) has been reviewed and updated. There were major changes done in year 2002 in National Water Policy. The main features of National Water Policy 2002 are:

1. Comprehensive water database in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resources.

2. Promote citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation which includes implementation of irrigation projects, groundwater development, mapping flood-affected areas, capacity-building and awareness.

3. Focused attention on over-exploited areas – intensive rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge programmes, pursuing enactment of groundwater regulation and management bill.

4. Increasing water use efficiency by 20 percent – Guidelines for incentivizing recycled water, water neutral and water-positive technologies, improving efficiency of urban and rural water supply systems.

5. Basin-level integrated water resources management – basin-level management strategies in order to ensure integrated water resources management, appropriate entitlement and appropriate pricing.

Why we need National Water Policy?

A larger concern is that the availability of water in the country is decreasing with every passing day and unless something is done to conserve water, we may be courting trouble viz population, agriculture and industry.

Currently only 10 per cent of the wastewater generated is being treated. The rest is discharged as it is into water bodies. Due to this, pollutants enter ground water and other water bodies. This water, which ultimately ends up in our household, is often highly contaminated carrying disease-causing microbes. These microbes result in diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, and typhoid.

The morbidity rates of these water borne diseases is quite high which adds to a burden of already existing communicable diseases.

References:


NOTE: The newsletter is open for inclusion of any information or advertisement; however selection of information will be governed by the SYNAPSE Team, IIHMR, New Delhi

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