

IIHMR New Delhi, works with a mission of improving standards of health through better management of healthcare and related programmes, prepare students for managerial positions with a focus on national and international healthcare management.

#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- ✓ Hospital and Health insight
- ✓ Global news
- ✓ Recent researches
- ✓ Upcoming conferences
- ✓ Events at IIHMR, New Delhi
- ✓ Do you know??
- ✓ Review Page - "Health IT":  
SCOPE AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### **UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

- 1) International Conference on Stress: Paradigm Shifts in Technology and Allied Sciences (ICONS-PSTAS 2011)  
Date: 27th - 28th December 2011  
Venue: New Delhi, India  
Website:  
<http://www.iismaas.com>
- 2) 11th National Level Biological Congress on Bioscientific Technologies : A Panacea for Human Health and Social Welfare  
Date: 6th - 7th January 2012  
Venue: Rasipuram, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, India  
Website:  
[http://www.muthayammal.in/mcas\\_bio\\_2012.htm](http://www.muthayammal.in/mcas_bio_2012.htm)
- 3) Convergence-2012, 4th International Conference on Doing Business in India: Opportunities and Challenges in the service Sector  
Date: 11th - 12th January 2012  
Venue: Bangalore, India  
Website:  
[http://ifimbschool.com/convergence\\_2012.html](http://ifimbschool.com/convergence_2012.html)
- 4) Bioinformatica Indica 2012  
Date: 12th - 14th January 2012  
Venue: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India  
Website:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/bioindica2012/>
- 5) International Science Symposium on HIV & Infectious Diseases  
Date: 20th - 22nd January 2012  
Venue: Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India  
Website:  
<http://hivscience.yrgcare.org/>



# SYNAPSE..... Monthly health e-newsletter

## HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH

### CANCER TO BE DECLARED A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recommended the Union Health Ministry to enlist cancer under the "Notifiable Disease" category. India has recorded 9.8 lakh new cases last year, an increase in around eighty thousand new cases as compared to 2009. Up till now highly infectious diseases like Plague, Polio, H5N1 (Bird Flu), H1N1 (Swine Flu) are under the notifiable diseases. If cancer gets enlisted, it will become the first non-communicable disease to be in the list. Once made notifiable, each and every case will have to be reported to the Union Health Ministry and no case can be left untreated.

### A SINGLE SHOT VACCINE AGAINST ALL FLU

Lifelong shield against all flu strains will soon be available in the market. The new vaccine, Flu-v, should be administered only once in life. It is effective against all types of influenza virus including the avian flu and pandemic swine flu strains as found in clinical trial. This universal vaccine will reduce the need for people having vaccines every year against seasonal flu.

### INDIA BOOSTING UP RUSSIAN PHARMA MARKET

Over the years, pharma sector has emerged as an important pillar for strengthening Indo-Russian partnership. Russia produces only twenty percent to thirty percent drugs while the import accounts for seventy percent. India is one of the main exporters to Russia. Indian pharmaceutical companies export drugs worth \$600 million to Russia every year. Russia is planning with India to set up testing facilities and infrastructure in Russia to get greater market share. Indian pharma companies are planning to tie-up with other Indian companies in Russia and plan for increasing productivity and increasing distribution all over Russian market.

### DELHI SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BE OFFERED RIGHT TO HEALTH

Delhi is the first Indian state to bring school children under a scheme called "Chacha Nehru Sehat Yojana". Underprivileged students from Municipal Corporation of Delhi Schools, New Delhi Municipal Council Schools and private schools will be provided free medical treatment and health checkups by the Delhi Government. This scheme is collaboration between the Health and Education department for the benefit of school going children. The scheme will be provided up to the age of 14 years.

## DO YOU KNOW?

1. Messenger RNAs and Micro RNAs identified as key genes behind high BP
2. Joint venture of Fortis Healthcare and International Centre for setting up of Robotic Surgery Centre
3. Health Ministry launched Measles Vaccination drive
4. "R & D for affordable Healthcare in India" – a joint funding initiative by India & UK
5. Paracetamol combo drugs to carry warning
6. Reboiling milk at high temperatures kills nutrition
7. AyuSoft software by CDAC (Pune) to boost ayurveda in India
8. WHO finds high spending on medicines and health pushing Indians into poverty
9. De-worming programme conducted for school children in Bihar
10. Health scheme for government school children launched by Delhi's Chief Minister
11. Every eight seconds, one person killed by Diabetes – International Diabetes Federation
12. Drug pricing by manufacturers and hospital retailers exploiting consumers
13. Bio-medical waste rules lacking in implementation
14. Health care, education services out of tax net
15. UGC decides to phase out animal dissection in labs
16. Delhi shows skewed sex ratio, ranks low on early childhood care in India Child Rights Index
17. TOI-Pfizer diabetes initiative launched in 60 locations
18. Epilepsy Control and Management System prepared by NIHMHANS, BGS Global and Fortis
19. Free heart surgeries for children by Heart 70 Heart initiative of Aman Ki Asha

## COMBINATIONS DRUGS THERAPY TO CURE MALARIA

Scientists have come up with a new combination therapy for the treatment of malaria and preventing the parasite from becoming resistant. WHO strongly recommends that "Artemisinin" derived from a Chinese herb, has been the most powerful treatment against malaria when combined with another anti-malarial drug. For treating the malarial patients, WHO advises each region to choose an Artemisinin-based Combination Treatments (ACT's) based on the local level of resistance to non-artemisinin medicine in the combination.

## ALLOCATION OF BUDGET IN 12TH FIVE YEAR PLAN ON HEALTH

The Planning Commission has decided to contribute 2.5 percent of GDP on health in the 12th five year plan which starts next year. According to expert committee headed by Dr. S.K. Srinath Reddy, India should spend more than double in public health by 2017 in order to reduce out of pocket spending. The contribution on India's public health is lowest in the world which is 1.2 percent corresponding to 1.8 percent in Sri Lanka, 2.3 percent in China and 3.3 percent in Thailand. Outpatient treatment and private medicines account for seventy-four percent and seventy-two percent of out of pocket expenditures respectively.

## GLOBAL NEWS

### SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES IN THE WORK BEING DONE FOR HIV/AIDS SAYS UN REPORT

The Global AIDS Epidemic 2011, produced by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), has stated that efforts to decrease infection rates and deaths in HIV/AIDS patients have shown optimistic results. There has also been an increase in the number of people who have access to treatment. According to the report, infection rates are at their lowest since the peak of the epidemic in 1997. Noticeable changes have been seen in sub-Saharan African countries such as Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe.

### MOMENTUM GAINING FOR COMMUNITY – BASED HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Global Health Workforce Alliance has come together with other partners to formulate a joint statement on improving the Community-based Health Workforce (CHW) for emergencies. The joint statement explains the importance of the community-based health workforce in coping up with disasters. It also describes methods to train and involve CHW in it. The partners who have worked with Global Health Workforce Alliance in developing this statement are WHO, IFRC, UNHCR, UNICEF. It is supported by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), International Medical Corps (IMC), UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Merlin and Save the Children.

### GATES FOUNDATION COMMITS MILLIONS TO FIGHT INFANT MORTALITY

Bill and Melinda Gates foundation is going to donate \$20 million from their foundation to support the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS). The programme called 'PREVENTING PRETERM BIRTH' will mobilize the scientific community to discover the reasons behind prematurity and to find real world solution to this problem. It will create intervention and prevention methods that will limit infection and improve nutrition in pregnant women to prevent preterm

## EVENTS AT IIHMR

### CIPM

IIHMR, New Delhi launches Online Web based Course of Certificate in Project Management (CIPM) - specialization in Healthcare.

For details visit-

<http://www.cepm-iihmr.org>

### MDP@IIHMR

Forthcoming MDP's at IIHMR

- Patient Safety in Healthcare  
19th -20th January 2012
- Nurse - An Effective Manager  
3rd - 4th February 2012

For MDP details contact:

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and stillborn births. It can create an enormous impact on Global Infant Mortality rates by discovering causes of preterm birth that we have never known.

### NEGLECTED DISEASES AFFECTING SOUTH ASIAN POOR

At a time when South Asia's economy is booming, health experts point to millions suffering from neglected infections, as a consequence of poverty. Studies show many countries in South Asia suffer from these diseases and have a need for new drugs and vaccines. Health experts say many tropical diseases that are mostly associated with sub-Saharan Africa have long been a neglected burden in South Asia as well. One quarter of the world's intestinal parasitic infections occur in India and the rest of South Asia. Indian pharmaceutical companies have been urged to develop drugs not only for diabetes, heart disease and cancer, but on innovative therapies for neglected tropical diseases, as well.

### RECENT RESEARCHES

#### BIONIC EYE RESTORES SIGHT

According to a study published in the 'Daily Mail', limited trials of a bionic eye have helped many patients to restore their sight. A microchip packed with fifteen hundred light sensors is implanted to the back of the eye. These sensors convert light to electrical signals, which stimulate the retina to pass down signals to the optic nerve which would move into the brain to implement an image. This procedure has been performed successfully for the first time in Oxford and London.

#### LOW DENSITY LIPOPROTEINS CAN BE REDUCED BY TWO-THIRDS BY A SINGLE JAB

According to the American Heart Association, a jab, tested for the first time in humans, has been found to reduce harmful cholesterol by sixty-four percent. Although, there is still time before it is introduced into the market, yet it could someday prove beneficial in case of patients who do not respond well to statins. If the treatment proves to be safe and effective, it could be used in addition to current treatments.

#### GENE DEFECT RESULTING IN BONE MARROW CANCER

A report published in the Daily Mail, has cited a gene defect behind the bone marrow cancer, Multiple Myeloma. Multiple myeloma is a white blood cell cancer occurring in bone marrow. It causes bone pain, fractures and anaemia. Comparison of the genetics of people with and without this disease was done which found that two genetic variations were more common in people with multiple myeloma. These variations cause 30 percent increase in the overall chances of encountering multiple myeloma. The DNA sequence of people with and without this disease was investigated. A single "letter" variation in the participants' genetic code was looked for and the variations that were present commonly in individuals with the disease, were found. The study was carried out at the Institute of Cancer Research and published in the journal, Nature Genetics.

## CURRENT TOPIC

### “Healthcare IT”: SCOPE AND OPPORTUNITIES



## TOPIC IN NEXT ISSUE

Dr Simon Craft talk about “Neglected Diseases”



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## REVIEW PAGE

### “HEALTHCARE IT”: SCOPE AND OPPORTUNITIES

A conference on Opportunities in Health IT was organized by IIHMR, New Delhi on 7th Nov. 2011 at IIC chaired by Baljit Singh Bedi and attended by delegates from various IT Companies.

#### **Baljit Singh Bedi (CDAC)-**

He described the various government initiatives in HIT such as telemedicine, HIS, Decision Support Systems, HMIS, m-Health for imparting effective and efficient healthcare to masses. Also how the implementation of Business Intelligence System has helped in future decision making.

#### **Ashok Chandavarkar (INTEL)-**

He highlighted that the changes in quality of life has led to increase in cost of care. So the Health Informaticians must focus on providing preventive healthcare rather than curative.

#### **Saurabh Gupta (Price Waterhouse Coopers)-**

He said India is having a lot of scope in HIT so training must be given to the healthcare providers on the various pros and cons of this technology and how it will benefit both the providers and the payers.

#### **Prof.(Dr.)S.V.Mani (TCS) -**

TCS implemented HMIS in the states of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu which has administrative, clinical and financial modules. Also Clinical EMR based on HIT standards has helped in reducing patient waiting time which resulted fast and easy administrative reports generation.

#### **Dr.Vivek Sahi (DELL)-**

He pointed on using open source software's like VISTA EHR to configure EMR so as to make them user friendly.

#### **Aloke Baidya (Microsoft)-**

He stressed on proper utilization and optimization of healthcare data through Decision Support System and ICT tools.

#### **Partha Dey (IBM)-**

His view was that while designing hospitals, focus should be on room planning for Data and IT centre to overcome the challenges of implementing the system including technological as well as human resources.

#### **Sanjeev Gupta (Accenture)-**

He said that providing healthcare is the responsibility of both the government and the service provider. For this we should have such an ecosystem which allows free flow of data based on universally accepted Health IT standards such as developing a model for filing of Health returns especially in rural sector which would then act as an EHR.

#### **Avanish Singh (HCL)-**

He said that though a number of softwares are available in the market such as HIS, PACS etc. but these are not able to aggregate the past medical history of a patient to one point. So integration of stakeholders of healthcare industry must be focussed.

The closing session was by Prof. Indrajit Bhattacharya, IIHMR who described institute role in providing Health IT professionals which will create a synergy between medical fraternity and technology.

**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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