

## REPORT

The Departments of Microbiology and General Medicine, Government Medical College Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh (India), organized a two day's multidisciplinary Symposium on "*Practice Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Common Fungal Infections*" with an active participation of clinicians, laboratory physicians and pharmacologists on March 4-5, 2006. There was also a panel discussion on "*Guidelines for the Management of Invasive Candidiasis*". The total number participants were 138. Out of which 21 were postgraduate students.

Eminent speakers all over the Northern India delivered the Lectures on the most important topics related to Medical Mycology. The topics covered were on Diagnosis, Ecology of fungal infections and their involvement in ENT, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, ICU, Paediatrics, Transplant, Malignancies and AIDS patients. The management of fungal infections and newer antifungals with drug resistance were discussed in details. There were deliberations on some new topics, which have not been discussed earlier like Outbreak of fungal infections and Emergence of Zygomycosis.

Prof. T. D. Chugh elaborated on the present scenario of fungal infections in India. The diagnostic methodology, management and prevention pertaining to fungi were discussed as an overview. Dr. Jagdish Chander, Dr. Harsh Mohan and Dr. Niranjana Nayak discussed at length the diagnostic aspect of fungal infections. The conventional methods, histopathological diagnosis of opportunistic fungal infections and the latest molecular methods for fungal diagnosis were covered as a part of their orations. Prof. H. C. Gugnani enlightened the gathering with the prevalence of endemic fungal infections in India. He discussed various systemic infections, which occur in different parts of India. Prof. Uma Banerjee has a lot of research work on Cryptococcosis, which was discussed in details in her lecture on Ecology of Cryptococcosis.

Dr. Monorama Deb took up a new topic pertaining to outbreak of fungal infections, which is an emerging topic these days. Further the individual fungal infections related to ENT, Ophthalmology and the Dermatology were discussed by the clinicians in these fields. Dr. Naresh Panda talked about fungal sinusitis. Dr. S. K. Arya, Dr. R. K. Bansal, Dr. Subina Narang, Ophthalmologists took up the different parts of Eye infected by fungi as individual subjects and elaborated each one of them. Dr. G. P. Thami discussed various subcutaneous mycotic infections. Dr. K. K. Gombar discussed fungal infections in ICU patients.

Dr. A. Chakrabarti elaborated on zygomycotic infections, which are fast emerging both in diabetic and non-diabetic individuals. He discussed a few new species of these infections, which are fast becoming important pathogens. Dr. Varsha Gupta elaborated on opportunistic fungal infections in AIDS patients. Dr. Sunit Singh discussed the role of fungal diseases in Paediatrics. Dr. Vinay Sakhuja gave a lecture on fungal infections in transplant patients. Dr. Shyam Aggarwal discussed the relevance of fungal infections in Hematopoietic Malignancies. The treatment, newer antifungals and drug resistance was discussed by Dr. Subhash Verma, Dr. Atul Sachdev and Dr. Ashish Bhalla, respectively.

Lastly, a panel discussion on the "*Guidelines for the Management of Invasive Candidiasis*" was done by eminent speakers as Dr. K. K. Gombar, Dr. Sunit Singh, Dr. Vinay Sakhuja, Dr. A. Chakrabarti and Dr. Shyam Aggarwal which was moderated by Prof. T. D. Chugh. The technical discussions held were mainly on non-albicans *Candida* emergence and management of fungal infections. Some recent advances on the molecular techniques for diagnosis were discussed like PCR and the use of DNA extraction kit for PCR analysis. Various new species of Zygomycetes and some opportunistic new infections in AIDS cases were discussed at length. The importance of identifying *Candida* to the species

level was highlighted. This is important in response to treatment of fungal infections, as some non-albicans *Candida* may be inherently resistance to fluconazole and other antifungal.