

2nd February, 2008 Children's Cancer Hospital (CCH), Karachi**Infection Control Workshop**

CCH is a premier facility exclusively dedicated to the care of children suffering from cancer. The foundation has so far provided free treatment and diagnosis to more than 1400 children suffering from cancer.

At the request of CCH IDSP arranged an infection control workshop. 40 doctors, nurses and paramedics attended. Speakers: Dr. Altaf Ahmed, Dr. Seema Irfan, Dr. Kausar Jabeen and Dr. Mohammad Zeeshan.

Comments: Dr. Shamvil Ashraf

24th May, 2008**Antimicrobial resistance**

According to WHO, one in every ten patients admitted to a hospital develops infection. Morbidity and mortality rates result in increased cost of occupying beds, laboratory costs, use of additional antibiotics, patients' loss of work hours and degradation of psychological state. In developing countries with low patient/bed ratio, bed occupancy time is greatly prolonged. All these result in huge financial losses to public sector hospitals.

In Pakistan due to non-existence of a national registry and surveillance system on antimicrobial usage and resistance, random and unjustified antimicrobial usage result in selection of drug resistant bacteria, economic loss and increase in mortality and morbidity. There is hence a great need to establish a system of monitoring antimicrobial prescription writing and following the emergence of resistance.

IDSP organised a seminar on May 24, 2008 on antimicrobial resistance in association with a Turkish team of experts who demonstrated the working of the system. Properly installed, the system can track bacteria isolated in the laboratory to any ward, unit, operating room and personnel as well as the antibiotic prescribed, whether justified or not. Any number of institutions within the city or across the country that operates the system can pool information. Thus, collective results can be compiled.

IDSP, in association with the Hospital Infection Control Society of Turkey is in process of launching a web-based international surveillance system for hospitals in Pakistan. The system functions according to NNIS and CDC criteria and can monitor antibiotic prescription within a given hospital, and guide physicians in prudent and appropriate usage. Ultimately it will serve to minimise hospital infection rates, reduce duration of hospital stay and additional costs. Most importantly, it will

prevent emergence of antimicrobial resistance against hospital bacteria.

The programme was attended by microbiologists, ID physicians, Infection Control nurses, hospital management and Information Technology experts. Participants from diverse hospitals and different cities attended the workshop: Shifa International and PIMS, Islamabad, Sheikh Zayed Lahore, Liaquat National, Aga Khan, PNS Shifa, Ziauddin, The Indus, Patel, and Civil Hospitals, Karachi. All agreed that there was a great need for such a system in our hospitals. Patel Hospital, Karachi has taken the lead by installing the first system. Other hospitals should follow suit

Dr. Altaf Ahmed

President, Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan

July 26, 2008

Management of dog bites

Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Karachi

Dr. Naseem Salahuddin and Dr. Syed Sardar gave a lecture on the subject to ER physicians and nurses to update them on the management of dog bites according to WHO guidelines. Immediate and proper wound washing and disinfection, followed by categorization of wound severity and use of RIG plus antirabies vaccine in Category 3 bite wound are basic essentials in preventing mortality from rabies.

Moderator: Dr. Nayyar-ul Islam

Second Rabies in Asia Conference (RIACON)

February 20-22, 2009 Karachi, Pakistan

For centuries rabies has been regarded as the "orphan disease" of underprivileged humanity. In Eastern culture and in the subcontinent particularly, rabies is perceived as a "curse" ordained by destiny, to be treated by mystics and mendicants but inevitably ending in an agonizing, torturous death. Even today modern medicine has not changed mortality from rabies, and neither have public health authorities in many developing countries made serious efforts towards rabies prevention. Fortunately WHO and the dedicated scientists working towards universal prevention of rabies are making tremendous strides towards this objective. The road to elimination is yet distant and needs serious, concerted effort.

The first conference of Rabies in Asia (RIA) held in Bangalore, India in March 3-4, 2007 became a springboard for Asians to join forces and work together in the region to fight the battle against rabies. At the end of two days of an excellent scientific program enthusiasm to further the cause of rabies prevention was at its zenith. Members and participants voted to hold the second RIA Conference in Pakistan. We gladly accepted, hoping that this meeting of experts would focus on the serious issues

of this neglected disease and help formulate strategies in this part of the world.

RIA (Pakistan Chapter) Foundation is delighted to organize the **Second RIACON on February 20-22, 2009 in Karachi, Pakistan**. Dr. F-X Meslin Coordinator Zoonosis, World Health Organization (WHO) has pledged full support for the conference, as have Drs. Henry Wilde, Deborah Briggs, M.K.Sudarshan, Abdul Rahman and other leading world rabies experts.

The two-day scientific program will include presentations from different Asian countries on the present rabies situation, ongoing control efforts, research activities and future plans. Animal rabies elimination is by far the most important, yet the weakest link in attaining it in most developing countries. We would like to stress on prevention of animal rabies reservoir which is fundamental to rabies elimination in humans.

The Organizing Committee of Rabies in Asia (Pakistan Chapter) Foundation hopes that this meeting will pave the way for collaborative efforts between all representative Asian countries to make our countries rabies safe

Dr. Naseem Salahuddin
President RIA (Pakistan Chapter)

International ID Conference in Karachi.

Aga Khan University (AKU) is hosting an international symposium on diseases of the tropics in collaboration with the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, UK, and the Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan (IDSP). The symposium

will highlight important issues of relevance to tropical medicine, and clinical and public health practice in Pakistan and the developing world.

This meeting will be of interest to all individuals wishing to acquire up-to-date knowledge on developments in clinical and public health aspects of tropical medicine and infectious diseases.

This conference has invited famed international speakers who are authorities in their fields:

- § Dr Kathleen Banford, London
- § Professor Peter L. Chiodini UK
- § Prof. Henry Wilde, Thailand
- § Dr Rohit Chitale, USA
- § Dr Gourie Devi India
- § Dr Hazel M. Dockrell, UK
- § Dr Kerstin I Falk, Sweden
- § Mr Solomon Ghebremicheal, Sweden
- § Professor N.K. Ganguly, India
- § Dr Roger Hewson, UK
- § Dr Kari Johansen, Sweden
- § Dr Karen Kotloff, USA
- § Dr David Laloo, UK
- § Dr Claire Lise, Switzerland
- § Dr Victor Rosenthal, Argentina

Dr Rumina Hasan ,
Chair Organising Committee,
Aga Khan University Hospital .

OBITUARY

Dr. Hassan Sadiq, National TB Control Programme died on 7th July 2008 while travelling by road from Lahore to Islamabad. He dedicated his life for the cause of TB and managed to live a very simple life.

Dr. Sadiq's contribution for TB spans for more than two decades and will serve as a beacon of light for people who wish to work on TB and public health. He served the National TB Programme initially as programme officer and then its manager. In both these capacities he provided vision and leadership for the National TB Programme as it met the critical public health challenge of addressing TB in Pakistan. Dr. Sadiq was known for his mentorship and vision and will be remembered for his values and foresight in Pakistan and globally among the TB world.

The Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan and public health communities share this immense loss. We are with Dr. Sadiq's parents, wife, children and friends in their grief and pray that Allah grants eternal peace to his soul and strength to his family to bear this irreparable loss.

Dr. Sadiq will remain alive forever in the hearts and minds of many people.