

## BSMM News & Notices

### Seminars conducted

Many seminars were conducted since the inception of Bangladesh Society of Medical Microbiologists (BSMM) on different current topics in Medical Microbiology. The first seminar during the current tenure (2007-2009) was conducted in the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) on "The efficacy and safety of a short course of Miltefosine and liposomal Amphotericin B for Visceral Leishmaniasis in Bangladesh". The seminar was presented by Dr. Be Nazir Ahmed, Assistant Professor (Against the post of senior Scientific Officer) and Co-investigator of the study. This was actually a dissemination seminar of a WHO-sponsored phase III trial of the Miltefosine and liposomal Amphotericin B. Dr. Be Nazir Ahmed presented detailed protocol of the study including the methodology and trial status. The seminar was presided over by Professor Md. Nazrul Islam, President, BSMM. Many eminent Medical Microbiologists including Professor Md. Ruhul Amin Miah, Professor Md. Zafor Ullah Chowdhury, Professor Naima Muazam were present and participated actively in the discussion session.

The second seminar was arranged with joint collaboration of the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCH). This was a dissemination seminar of the national tuberculosis reference laboratory (NTRL) and presented by Dr. SM Mostafa Kamal, Assistant Professor and NTRL coordinator. The seminar was chaired by Professor Md. Zamshed Haider Siddique, Head of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, NIDCH. Many of the Medical Microbiologists participated in the seminar. Guest of honour was Dr. Rubhana Rakib, Associate Scientist and Head, Immunology laboratory, ICDDR,B. Dr. SM Mostafa Kamal briefly presented the history of NTRL, human resources and a pictorial overview of the centre. He also presented Laboratory procedures and data generated during routine activities since 1998 including the Drug Sensitivity Test result of the pilot study with the title "Resistance pattern of the Mycobacteria isolated from category II failure patients in 2006". He also recalled the ongoing collaborating research investigations with ICDDR,B (ALS assay for the diagnosis of MTB) and the University of Dhaka (PCR detection of MTB and resistant

genes).

The third of such seminar was conducted in the department of Microbiology and Immunology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on "Immunological memory: Journey into a black hole" and was presented on 29 November, 2007 by Dr. Saifullah Munshi, Assistant Professor, Virology, BSMMU, Dhaka. The presenter started with recalling history of vaccination by Edward Jenner. He also mentioned duration of humoral immunity and three basic parameters of immunology namely specificity, tolerance and memory. He presented the unique concept of bystander activation.

The present EC is trying to execute seminars regularly along with a projected vision to exchange professional knowledge and skills with allied bodies throughout the world. With the vision, the eminent Japanese scientist Professor Nobumichi Kobayashi presented his research findings during his visit to Bangladesh on 08 January 2008. Professor Kobayashi presented on Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* genotyping by multilocus sequence typing (MLST). The BSMM expect to conduct similar other sessions of presentation by dinified Medical Microbiologists working worldwide.

Another seminar was held at the Institute of Public Health (IPH) with collaboration of the institute on 25th June, 2008 with title " Vaccine Production at IPH: past, present and future". The seminar was presented by Dr. Moyez Uddin, the then Director, IPH and presided over by Professor Md. Nazrul Islam, President, BSMM. Purpose of the seminar was to inform the Medical Microbiologists in the country the microbiological aspects of IPH seeking suggestions from the BSMM members for further improvization. The eminent Medical Microbiologists including Professor Md. Ruhul Amin Miah, Professor Abdullah Akhtar Ahmed, Professor Jalal Uddin Ashraful Haq, Professor Naima Muazzam and many others were present and participated actively in the discussion. Officers and staff of the institute were also present in line with the members of the BSMM. A committee, led by Professor Jalal Uddin Ashraful Haq was formed to made recommendations for upholding the visions of the IPH.