



ACBI NEWS BULLETIN

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Clinical Biochemists of India**

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Secretary's Jotting

Dear Members of ACBI Family,

I am happy to share with you that as it was decided in the last EC meeting at Patna, a new Editorial team has been constituted to further improve the quality and scope of the bulletin in future. We hope that this communication link among the members would be more effectively used in future by making it more education oriented. Apart from association related matters, it can cover issues like laboratory management, quality assurance, application of new assay methods, case discussions etc. The editorial team however can succeed in this job only with the valuable inputs and contributions from all the members. I take this opportunity to invite such articles from members and experts in these areas for the bulletin. Our corporate members are also welcome to use the column 'corporate corner' more effectively by providing educative information on technical matters, new methods or equipment etc.

It was also approved in the EC & GB meetings at Patna to initiate an 'ACBI-e group'

as an informal open forum to discuss the matters related to our discipline. Such net based forums facilitate rapid interactions and help to create a family type of bond among the participants. I am sure some of our members having interest and skill in this area would like to take up this responsibility.

I am also glad to share with you that the ACBI in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, USA is launching the Newborn Screening Quality Assurance program (NSQAP) from January 2007. Dr Puneet Kumar Nigam, the coordinator of this activity in India is sharing this programme details through an article on this topic in this issue. This issue also covers the procedural details of selection of venue and the revised guidelines of holding our national annual conferences to provide a ready reference for those interested to host the meetings in future.

Dr M.V.R.Reddy

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Meetings in the Regions

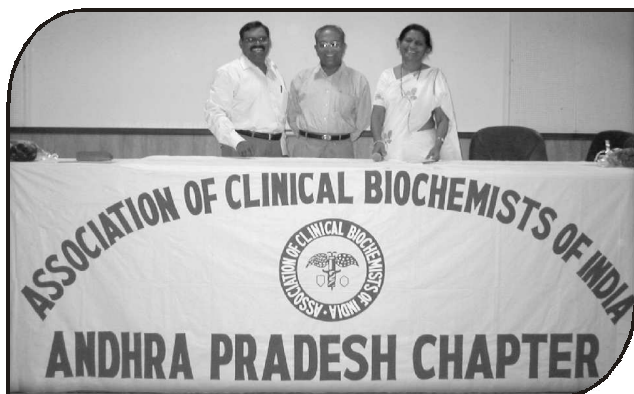
1. AP State Chapter meeting at Global Hospital, Hyderabad

Association of Clinical Biochemist of India, Andhra Pradesh Chapter organized a regional meeting on 13 Oct 2006 at auditorium, Global Hospital, Hyderabad and was attended by over 100 delegates from Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Pradeep Naik, the organizing secretary of the regional meeting welcomed the gathering. This CME was inaugurated by Dr. K. Ravindranath, Managing Director, Global Hospitals. Dr. Kanga Sabhapathi has conveyed the message of Dr. M. V. Reddy, (General Secretary, ACBI) and also gave a brief account of ACBI. Dr. K. Ravindranath, the chief guest of the occasion has expressed the importance of Biochemistry in modern medicine and need for a good interaction of clinicians and biochemists.

The scientific session was chaired by Dr. T. Malati. Dr. K. S. Ratnakar presented a talk on 'Stem Cell approach in management of DM' followed by three more lecturers, i.e., 'Microarray - future diagnostics' by Mr. Pankaj Khana (Spinco-Biotech); 'clinical proteomics in diagnostics' by Dr. C. Laxmi Kiran, 'Global Hospitals and PCR applications and future prospects' by Mr. Chinmoy Sinha (Medi Source).

The second session was on Case Presentations and it was chaired by Dr. Shanti Naidu, Dr. Srinivas and Dr. Prabhavathi Modi, where 4 cases were presented from NIMS, KIMS and Global Hospitals. The discussions were quite fruitful.

*- Dr. Pradeep Naik
HOD, Biochemistry Dept.
Global Hospital, Hyderabad*



2. Madurai Chapter of ACBI conducts Seminar cum work shop on Quality Assurance

The Madurai Chapter of ACBI organized a Seminar cum Workshop on Quality Assurance and Quality Control for laboratory personnel and clinicians on the 28th January 2006 at Madurai Medical College, Madurai. Dr. Rita Mary Aruna, Prof. & Head of Biochemistry, Madurai Medical College and Dr. K. Aruna Devi, Prof. & Head of Biochemistry, Theni Medical College, Theni organized this seminar. M/s Randox Laboratories India Ltd., who are one of the

leaders in Quality controls and External Quality Assurance Systems, sponsored this programme. About 150 participants from all over Tamil Nadu attended this well organized programme. Representatives from accredited Institutions like Arvind Eye Hospital, Madurai and Lister Metropolis Laboratories Chennai participated in this programme.

Dr. Kalyanasundaram, Professor and Head of Department, Surgery and Dean Incharge of Madurai

Medical College, inaugurated the seminar and emphasized the need for providing Quality Lab service, Dr.P.Jeyanthi, Professor and Head of Department of Biochemistry, Stanley Medical College, Chennai chaired the scientific session. The first speaker, Dr.Thirumalaikolundu Subramanian spoke on the 'Importance of Quality Lab Services in Patient Care - A Physicians View'. The Guest lecture was delivered by Dr.A.S.Kanagasabapathy, a pioneer in Quality Assurance in India. He spoke on 'Current Concepts of Quality Control and Quality Assurance in Clinical Laboratories'. Dr.A.S.Kanagasabapathy discussed day-to-day problems encountered in laboratories in detail and solutions to the same were suggested. Participation by the large number of Laboratory

Specialists of Tamil Nadu was testimony to the long felt need for such a programme. Many specialists felt that such programmes should be conducted at least twice a year as more laboratory personnel and clinicians could be benefited.

The afternoon session was devoted to hands on workshop, which was a very enjoyable experience to all the participants. Dr.Kanagasabapathy and the sponsor M/s Randox Laboratories conducted a quiz programme, which involved active and enthusiastic participation from all.

Dr Rita Mary Aruna

*Prof & Head of Biochemistry department
Madurai Medical College, Madurai*

3. Stress 2006

Stress is defined as distress caused by the demand on physical and mental energy. Everyone knows the adage 'Health is wealth'. However, no one seems to be adopting good health practices in his/her fast-paced life.

An international meeting on education for healthcare professions held during 10-11 June 2006 at Kolkata. The meet was organized by National Referral Centre for the Prevention of Lead Absorption in India (West Bengal) and Department of Biochemistry, Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences, Kolkata.

Geraldine Menezes (St John's Medical College, Bangalore) spoke on 'Environmental lead monitoring'. Some of the uses of lead include manufacturing of batteries, paints, ceramic colours and notably in gasoline (petrol) to improve engine performance, which has resulted in contamination of air, dust and soil, according to her. Occupational lead exposure remains a problem of potentially huge dimensions to lead-based industrial workers. Data were exhibited which mainly dealt with analysis of lead in traditional medicines, paint, ceramic colours, dust and soil in and around lead-based/battery industries. Using field-portable X-ray fluorescence analysers, alarmingly high levels of lead were detected.

Another speaker in this session S. J. S. Flora (DRDO, Gwalior) spoke on 'Preventive and therapeutic measures for lead poisoning'. Blood lead levels below 70 µg/dl, can result in damage to the central nervous system, kidneys and the haemopoietic system. Lead toxicity is also associated with a decrease in IQ test scores. Flora gave examples where lead caused oxidative stress by inducing generation of reactive oxygen species, reducing the antioxidant defence system via depleting glutathione, and inhibiting many other enzymes and essential metals needed for antioxidant enzyme activities. One of the ideal strategies for treatment for lead toxicity is primary prevention of exposure, he stated. Treatment of lead toxicity through chelation therapy for asymptomatic patients is also highly effective. Nutritional components have been reported to have beneficial effects in preventing lead exposure, he inferred.

Amitabha Dasgupta (University of Texas-Houston School of Medicine, USA) spoke on 'Personality, stress and heart disease'. Personality type and daily stress are important factors in determining risks for cardiovascular diseases. Dasgupta stated 'Cardiovascular diseases are the major causes of death in USA and Western countries. Elevated total cholesterol is a common modifiable risk factor and

evidence from trials using lipid lowering drugs clearly established that lowering total cholesterol also significantly lowered risks of coronary heart diseases'. The speaker furnished reports where it was shown that there is a correlation between stressful life events and acute myocardial infarctions.

Abbas Ali Mahdi (King George's Medical University, Lucknow) spoke on 'Stress-mediated biochemical changes: some possible preventive measures'. According to him, stress in medical parlance is defined as a perturbation of the body's homeostasis. In all stressful conditions, there is increased oxidative stress. Mahdi addressed stress-mediated oxidative changes in biomolecules like

proteins, lipids and nucleic acids. Various preventive measures were also discussed.

Sucheta P. Dandekar (SethGS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai) spoke on 'Stress-related diseases: a potential role for free radicals'. To neutralize free radicals, the body uses antioxidants. However, if free radicals accumulate from stress until eventually the body is unable to handle the total load, disease, degeneration and breakdown occur, she stated. The role of oxidative stress and antioxidants in male infertility, acute pancreatitis and blood banking were discussed in detail.

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Stress 2006

4. ACBI Delhi Chapter Meetings

1. Seminar on Laboratory tests for Acute Coronary Syndromes & trends in Molecular Diagnostics

The half day meet was held on 6th May 2006 and was sponsored by American Association of Clinical Chemistry International Advisory Group (AACC IAG), Association of Physicians of Indian Origin in North America (AIPNA-AAPI) and ACBI Delhi Chapter. With the desire to increase the interaction between Biochemists & Pathologists support of IAPM Delhi was elicited and obtained. The meet was organized by Dr Lal PathLabs, in Windsor Hall, Le Meridean Hotel, Janpath, New Delhi. Dr Arvind Lal, Chairman & Managing Director, Dr Lal PathLabs was the Chief Patron and Dr Puneet Kr Nigam was the organizing secretary.

There were two presentations in the meet- Laboratory Tests for Acute Coronary Syndromes & Trends in Molecular Diagnostics. The first presentation on 'Acute Coronary Syndromes' (ACS) was delivered by Dr Selwyn J. Baptist, MD, FCAP Associate Chairman, Department of Pathology, Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, New Jersey 07039, USA. He elaborated on the new markers for ACS and the clinical applications of individual markers.

The presentation on 'Trends in Molecular Diagnostics' was delivered by Dr Helen Fernandes, PhD, Scientific Director, Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory UMDNJ- New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ 07103, USA. She is an international expert on this subject so naturally mesmerized the

audience with her comprehensive and detailed presentation. She also answered a lot of questions related to practical problems that are frequently encountered during testing.

Both the presenters are also College of American Pathologists (CAP) inspectors and are therefore very conversant with regulatory requirements to achieve quality in testing in the respective fields. The meet was attended by about eighty delegates comprising laboratory directors, pathologists, biochemists and NABL inspectors from Delhi and neighbouring cities as far as Ahmedabad. After the presentations the delegates enjoyed a palate tickling luncheon and mingled with the speakers & other delegates. All the delegates were issued certificates of participation.

2. The Annual meet of ACBI Delhi Chapter 2006 and Seminar on Quality Control & Recent Advances in Kidney Function Assessment

The meet held on 4th Nov 2006 was organized by Dr Lal PathLab at India Habitat Centre and sponsored by Randox. Dr Arvind Lal, Chairman & Managing Director, Dr Lal PathLabs was the Chief Patron and Dr Puneet Kr Nigam was the organizing secretary. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Usha Sarma Professor Emeritus, CSIR, highlighting the achievements of ACBI and the Delhi chapter. Her inspirational speech conveyed the need to keep abreast with the latest developments in the emerging fields of Biochemistry like genomics, proteomics and small molecule discovery and also keep the quality & clinical aspect in mind when working in clinical laboratories. She also announced the launch of Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program (NSQAP) by Delhi Chapter in collaboration with Centre of Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, USA.

The meet was very well attended with more than hundred thirty delegates coming from all the premier private/government institutes and medical colleges of Delhi. It was very encouraging to see such enthusiastic participation. The meet was divided into two technical sessions-one on Recent Advances in Kidney Function Assessment and other on Quality control.

The opening presentation was given by Dr Anjali Kale, Chief Reference Laboratory, Dr Lal PathLabs. She spoke on kidney toxicity due to heavy metals present in medicines, foodstuffs etc that can

cause kidney damage which remains undetected due to lack of awareness and sensitive testing facilities. Atomic absorption spectrometry allows detection of these and can prevent kidney damage in persons at high risk e.g. industrial workers etc. The next presentation was by Dr Kapil Bhalla, Head Validation, Dr Lal PathLabs. He spoke on preventing kidney damage in multiple myeloma by detection of lambda & kappa free light chains for early diagnosis of multiple myeloma. This test is easy to perform- can be programmed on automated chemistry analyzer like Hitachi and is very accurate & precise.

After a short coffee break the section on Quality Control began with the presentation by the master in the field, Dr Kanagasabhapathy who flew in especially from Hyderabad for this. He spoke on the technical requirements under ISO 15189. His presentation of an hour left everyone mesmerized and greatly enlightened. His wonderful oration was full of little anecdotes and tips which reflected his knowledge and passion for this topic. The presentation was followed by sumptuous and tasty lunch.

Then followed presentation by Dr Puneet Kr. Nigam, Chief Technical Officer, Dr Lal PathLabs on Analysis of QC data. He spoke on the need for periodic analysis & review of QC data, Westgard rules, how to identify different types of error and how to analyse and take corrective actions. After this presentation he gave a brief presentation on NSQAP launched by Delhi Chapter. Next, Dr Renu Saxena spoke on the ISHTM-AIIMS Proficiency Testing Programme for haemogram. This is a NABL recognized programme with greater than 400 participant labs. The presentation covered the need and purpose for participation in an EQA program and the main features of this particular programme. The last presentation on Total Quality Control Solution was delivered by Alison Canning, Product Specialist, Randox Laboratories, UK. She spoke on all the products and services available with Randox for QC/QA.

The meet concluded with vote of thanks by the organizing secretary Dr Puneet Kr Nigam. All the delegates were given certificates of participation. The delegates dispersed around 5.00 pm with the desire to meet soon on 9th Nov 2006 for a workshop on EBM organized by Dr Jayshree Bhattacharjee at Lady Hardinge Medical College. The main attraction is presentation by IFCC visiting faculty.

Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program (NSQAP)

A major public health responsibility, newborn screening for detection of treatable, inherited metabolic diseases is a system consisting of six parts: education, screening, follow-up, diagnosis, management, and evaluation. Effective screening of newborns using dried-blood-spot (DBS) specimens collected at birth, combined with follow-up diagnostic studies and treatment, helps prevent mental retardation and premature death. If these diseases are not accurately diagnosed and treated, they cause mental retardation, severe illness, and premature deaths in newborns. Within 48 hours of a child's birth, a sample of blood is obtained from a "heel stick," and the blood is analyzed for treatable diseases, including phenylketonuria, sickle cell disease, and hypothyroidism. The sample, called a 'blood spot,' is tested at a laboratory. Accurate screening ensures that-

- Affected babies are identified quickly.
- Cases of disease are not missed.
- The number of false-positive results is minimized.
- Early treatment can begin that will prevent negative and irreversible health outcomes for affected newborns.

Quality Assurance and Proficiency Testing for Newborn Screening

The NSQAP consists of materials for quarterly (4 times each year) proficiency testing (PT). 6 DBS proficiency testing programs are offered for metabolic disorders, tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) measured analytes, sickle cell disease & other hemoglobinopathies, cystic fibrosis, Type I diabetes mellitus and anti-HIV-1.

The PT program provides laboratories with quarterly panels of blind-coded DBS specimens and gives the laboratory an independent external assessment of its performance. Each year several

laboratories misclassify at least one PT specimen and are provided immediate consultation to resolve the analytical problem.

The NSQAP is designed to help screening laboratories achieve excellent technical proficiency and maintain confidence in their performance. Through the interactive efforts with the program's participants, the program strives to grow and evolve with the changing needs.

Program Operations

NSQAP's purpose is to improve interlaboratory comparability and to work toward interlaboratory harmonization of newborn screening tests that use DBSs. Participants may include newborn screening laboratories, confirmatory testing laboratories, diet monitoring laboratories and manufacturers.

NSQAP prepares quarterly reports that show the distributions of analytical values and qualitative assessments reported by participants. NSQAP offers PT programs for the following parameters:

- T4
- TSH
- 17-OHP
- Total Galactose
- Biotinidase
- Galactose-1-phosphate uridylyltransferase
- Amino acids (Phe, Leu, Met, Tyr, Val, Cit)
- Acylcarnitines (C3, C4, C5, C5DC, C6, C8, C10, C14, C16)
- Sickle cell disease (SCD) and other hemoglobinopathies

At the end of each year, a summary of all PT and QC data reported for that year will be prepared and distributed to all participants. Distributions of PT panels occur in January, April, July, and October.

There is no cost to the participant for products or shipping. There is no fee for

participation in the NSQAP.

Reports are prepared and distributed quarterly of all results that are received by the cutoff dates. The PT quantitative results are grouped by kit or method to illustrate any method-related differences.

NSQAP in India

ACBI Delhi Chapter in collaboration with Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, USA is launching the Newborn Screening Quality Assurance program (NSQAP) from January 2007. More than 400

Newborn screening laboratories in 54 countries are participating in this program.

If you are doing newborn screening in your laboratory enroll today in this international program. The program comes at ZERO COST TO THE LAB.

For details contact
Dr Puneet Kumar Nigam
Head, NSQAP ACBI Delhi Chapter
E mail : nsqap2007@gmail.com



**Call for Nomination - IFCC/Abbott Award
for Significant Contributions
to Molecular Diagnostics 2007**

Friday, 20 October 2006

May 12, 2006

To the National Representatives and Presidents of IFCC Members Societies and Corporate Members:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce a call for nominations for the 2007 IFCC/Abbott Award for Significant Contributions to Molecular Diagnostics. The Award is sponsored by Abbott Molecular Inc. and has been created to honour an individual who has made unique contributions to the promotion and understanding of Molecular Biology and its application in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine throughout the world.

This award is given annually on the occasion of either an International or a Regional IFCC Congress. Previous winners of this award are Professor Peltonen (2002), Professors Bertina and Reitsma (2003), Professor Ferrari and Professor Wittwer (2005).

A nomination package needs to include (1) a statement as to the reasons for the nomination, highlighting the accomplishments of the individual, which warrant the nomination and (2) a complete curriculum vitae of the nominee including a bibliography. This documentation together with the nominating letter should be in English. The nominee need not be aware that a nomination has been made on her or his behalf. The officers of the IFCC or members of the IFCC Awards Committee are not eligible for the award during their tenure of office.

Nominations should be mailed to Professor Vladimir PALICKA, chair of the IFCC Awards Committee before **December 31, 2006** at the following address:

Professor Vladimir PALICKA Charles University, University Hospital Institute for Clinical Biochemistry and Diagnostics CZ-500 05 Hradec Kralove , Czech Republic Tel: +420 49 583 2129; Fax: +420 49 583 2003 Respectfully yours, Vladimir Palicka Chair IFCC Awards Committee

Impact of implementation of Hospital Information System on Clinical Biochemistry laboratory in a rural hospital: sharing the experience

Clinical laboratory service particularly Clinical Biochemistry is largely automation dependant and to control the quality of this service is pivotal in the health care delivery. Following Gordon Moore's (Founder member Intel corporation) exponential growth postulate on hardware industry, laboratory information system (LIS) alone or as integral part of hospital information system (HIS) is becoming an essential component of the modern health care set up.

This computer-based technology utilizes local area networking (LAN) and/or wide area network (WAN) system for transaction of the data collated from various data provider sources to a central processing unit and from there to the receiver computers using certain standard data transfer protocol. The database management is carried on with each patient and sample identification with unique American standard information interchange (ASCII) coding symbology (popularly known as Bar coding). The major advantage of this mode of operation lies in its tremendous potential for database management and more importantly specific data retrieval capacity.

India as a rapidly developing country, is leading from the front in IT sector; the impulse of this boom is disseminated in various other related disciplines like biotechnology and medicine. However, India still being a village-centered civilization with majority of its populace residing in rural area the advantage of this technological impact is slowly percolating into the society. In an effort to expedite this process, our institute (MGIMS, Sevagram) which is happened to be situated in the rural area of Central India adopted the hospital information system with the technical support from CDAC in 2005. Laboratory information system (LIS) is an integral part of this module after a short pilot run, took off successfully with an improved laboratory services propelled by this technology since last one year. The architecture of this module initiates

the sequence by using the hospital raised investigation advices as input data and process these data elements with unique coding following the tandem of acceptance, reporting and validation to the final result generation stage as an output data. This entire operation is linked by the local network following standard intranet protocol to the main central server computer for processing and storage of the data. The system appears to be robust and smooth with a reasonably user-friendly interface for operation.

Initially, it generated a mixed response as it is generally expected in working with a new system. At the level of implementation we faced a dire demand of more wide spread computer literacy as well as integrated and cooperative approach from all the concerned departments in this multidisciplinary user system involving all health care professionals across the strata. However, with full-blown flight people got adapted to a less manually dependant system which ensures better quality control and in tune with the sophisticated automation, direct online connection between data provider and end-users made the overall process more clear and transparent. Moreover a major load of data registry burden is relieved by software based maintenance and retrieval of the database. The major hindrance of its mass popularity which made its use mainly restricted to corporate sector is attributed to the prohibitive cost of the software development.

This system definitely makes the overall operation more oriented towards achieving better specificity, however to improve further in terms of increase in productivity developing cost effective custom made software is the need of the hour to catch up with the hardware development to pave the way for more extensive utilization of this promising tool.

- Dr. Kalyan Goswami

Senior Lecturer, MGIMS, Sevagram.

Guidelines for Holding ACBI Annual Conference

1. Introduction :

A constitutional objective of the Association of Clinical Biochemistry (ACBI) is to sponsor and support regular annual conference of ACBI at national level. The purpose is to provide a national level forum for the free and open exchange of information on the science and technology of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in the academic, clinical or industrial setting and for clinical biochemists and physicians to interact with their peers with the broad objective of promoting human health. The following are the approved procedures and to facilitate the smooth and successful organization of this annual event.

2. Call and submission of Proposals to organize the conference :

The General Secretary through the first issue of the bulletin in the year shall invite proposals from members who are qualified as per the criteria given below for hosting next annual conference. The proposal in the prescribed format (Annexure -I) along with a supporting letter from the Head of the Institute and other supportive documents should be submitted before the last date given in the bulletin. The proposer shall give an undertaking to conform and abide by all the provisions of these guidelines for holding conference.

3. Who can propose for the conference?

The proposer should be a Life member of ACBI of at least 10 years standing as member and must be a senior member of the profession being held in high regard. He/ she should have been regularly attending ACBI conferences and contributing significantly to the academic activities. He / She should have shown leadership qualities as evidenced by active participation

in activities of ACBI either at state or at national level, organizations of scientific meetings and influenced at least 10 biochemists for enrollment as members of ACBI.

4. Selection of the hosting institute & venue

The Secretary shall forward all proposals received within the specified period to a three member 'Conference Committee', consisting of a senior member of ACBI as Chairperson, President of ACBI and chairman of the ACBI - corporate wing. The conference committee will evaluate the proposals and rate them using rating scale with respect to the details provided, facilities available, preliminary scientific programme and other aspects specified in the application. This review and scoring will be presented in the Executive Council. The proposers if needed shall be invited by the Secretary to attend the EC meeting to give presentation about facilities available for holding conference. Then the EC members shall take final decision unanimously or by majority vote. The Secretary shall inform the members in the GB meeting the details of the selected venue and the institute holding the next conference and the Organizing Secretary will extend a formal invitation to all the members.

5. Conference Organizing Committee

The Organizing Secretary shall form a local Organising committee for managing the conference. This committee shall manage and look after the following activities: -

- 1) Management of scientific activity which will include paper presentation (oral & Posters), seminar, symposia, workshops, guest lectures and demonstrations,
- 2) Accommodation,

- 3) Transport and travels,
- 4) Food,
- 5) Cultural and social programmes,
- 6) Finance
- 7) Volunteers,
- 8) Programme for Associate delegates (spouse & family)
- 9) Arrangement for holding GB meeting and Executive Council meetings - one before Inauguration and another after GB meeting. Arrangement for meetings of various committees such as Education, Journal, and Quality Assurance etc should also be made. The venues for each meeting should be mentioned in the conference programme.

6. Consultation With President

Programmes of the conference is prepared in consultation with Conference committee consisting of President, Secretary, Advisor and any member nominated on this committee.

7. Scientific Activities

- A. Scientific activities include arranging for:
 - a) **Orations** such as [a] Awadhesh Saran Memorial Oration, [b] K. L. Gupta Memorial Oration, [c] Seth G. S. Medical College & K. E. M. Hospital Oration, [d] Dr. T. N. Pattabiraman Oration, [e] Mrs. & Dr. G. P. Talwar Oration and [f] Any other orations approved by the GB
 - b) **Oral Presentation of Award Papers** such as [a] Pitabus Jamuna Burma Memorial Award Papers, [b] Sita Devi Award Papers, [c] P.S. Murthy Award Papers, [d] NIMS (Hyderabad) Best Poster Award Papers, [e] MGIMS (Sewagram) Best Paper Award For Tropical Diseases and [f] Other awards as decided by G.B.
- B. Presentation Of Oral And Poster Papers
- C. Holding Of Seminars, Symposia And Workshops Including Industrial Workshops On Various Important Aspects,

- D. Pre/Post Conference Continuing Education Programme/ Workshop/ Hands On Training/ ACBI-Professional Courses.

8. Oration & Best Paper Awards

The General Secretary, through the News Bulletin to be published just after the annual conference, shall call for nominations for different Oration awards of the Association.

The nominations along with some information about suitability of the nominee should be sent to the **Secretary**, who in turn shall forward them to members of **Award Committee, constituted for the purpose. There shall be one award committee for all the awards.** The Award committee shall select at least 2 names in each award in order of preference and communicate the decision to Organising Secretary. The award committee, if it finds no suitable nominee in any award, shall suggest a suitable speaker. The Organizing Secretary, will then invite the first person of each award. In case, the nominee shows inability, the second person on the list will be invited. All these procedures should be completed at least 3 months in advance of the conference.

Please refer in July 2006 issue of the ACBI Bulletin for the details on ACBI Oration Awards & Best Paper awards.

Organizing Committee shall also announce 5 or more awards for excellent posters and the process of selection will be by the same judges of the NIMS Award.

9. Certificates and Medals

The Head Office makes the certificates and medals for Oration awards and Fellowship award ready. The Organizing Secretary prepares the rest of the certificates and medals.

10. Call for Papers :

A first flier informing the members about the venue of the conference as well as the main topics or themes and attractive features of the place of

conference must be sent to members at least 6 months in advance. This information can be additionally circulated through first News Bulletin and Notice on ACBI Website. At this time, members shall be requested to send names and topics to participate in symposia. In the second information brochure, invitation should go from Organizing Secretary to members to attend the conference and send abstract of papers for various Awards (such as Sita Devi Award etc in detail), for Symposia and for other oral or poster presentation during the conference, at least 3 months in advance of the date of commencement of the conference. The abstract must reach the conference secretariat at least 2 months in advance along with registration fee of the conference. Any person who is not a member can also present paper provided he / she becomes sessional member for the conference by paying Rs. 250/ and also pays registration fee. The sessional membership fee can be collected either by Joint Secretary (Head Office) or by Organizing Secretary. The sessional fee collected by Organizing Secretary shall be later remitted to Head Office. The abstract should be submitted in the way suggested by the Organising committee, which should be on the line of IJCB. Along with 3 hard copies of the abstract, or it would be better that the abstract is sent on CD or through e-mail attachment. Members should be advised to prepare slides or power point presentation, which is clearly visible from a distance of at least 15 meters. Bad slides will not be accepted during preview of slides. The CD containing the slides must be given to the projectionist at least 30 minutes before the start of the session. The author presenting the paper should be a **member or sessional member** of the Association and must mention membership number on the registration form and send registration fee along with the paper. If the member later desires not to attend the conference, the paper will be deemed to be withdrawn and will not appear in the Abstract book. Authors should be informed about the duration, date and time of the presentation at least 10 days in advance, preferably putting the program on website.

The abstract of papers shall be reviewed by the scientific committee and if found suitable, shall be accepted. **The letter of acceptance of the paper should be sent to the authors as soon as possible in order to enable him/her to obtain permission and assistance to attend the conference from their institutions and should not wait for receipt of registration fee.**

11. Arrangement for Scientific Sessions:

Required number of Halls of adequate size (usually 3) and facility, having screen and proper lighting arrangement for switching on & off all the lights of the room, should be available for parallel sessions. A slide projector, LCD projector and an overhead projector with spare bulbs should be made available to each hall. One set of projectors should be kept reserved for failure of these equipments in any hall. There should be a trained projectionist well versed in using those projectors available for each hall. In addition, there should be proper lectern, collar mike and light pointer.

One or two persons / volunteers should be deputed for each session whose work will be to see that the Chairpersons are informed in time, every facility is available, and session starts in time and keep momento / certificate ready for being presented to the chairpersons and speakers.

12. Financial Resources and Liabilities:

To start with, the Organising Secretary can get a **refundable** advance of up to Rs. 30,000/- from the Association secretariat on request.

The following are other sources of income:

- A. Delegate registration fee. It should be kept as low as possible.
- B. Advertising charges for the souvenir.
- C. Charges of exhibition stall bookings.
- D. Sponsorships for symposia, workshops or for invited speakers

- E. Assistance from own institution / University / Government.
- F. Donations from local colleagues - as reception committee membership fee.
- G. Assistance from extra mural funding agencies, for example
 - a) INSA, ICMR, UGC for sponsoring scientific programme
 - b) NAMS for pre-conference workshop under continuing medical education. This activity should not be projected as conference activity to NAMS.
 - c) DST, DBT & CSIR for workshop, symposia, etc.

Note :

- a) The rate for advertisements, exhibition stalls and sponsorship charges for symposia / workshop should be kept at a realistic rate in consultation with the members of National Convention Committee and few past Presidents in order to attract more industrial participation.
- b) The management of fund should be efficiently done, so that a handsome amount of money is saved for the parent organization. The Organizing Secretary has to give 40% of the savings from conference to the central fund of the Association and 10% to IJCB account
- c) The Organizing Secretary shall also contribute 10 % savings from payment by companies towards advertisement, exhibition charges or sponsorship charges to **ACBI-Corporate Wing**.
- d) **Losses incurred by the Organising committee are not made good by the Association Secretariat.**
- e) **The Account of the conference should be audited and full report presented to the General Secretary for being placed in next Executive Council meeting.**

13. Registration of Delegates :

A). G.B. resolution dated 29.12.1983:-

The last date of registration on payment of normal fee should be 8 weeks prior to the onset of the conference. Any one registering after this date shall be liable to pay a late fee of an amount to be decided by the Organising secretary.

After having registered as delegate, if any member informs the organizing secretary about his or her inability to attend the conference at least 4 weeks in advance of the start of the conference, he or she shall be entitled for refund of 75% of the registration fee. But when request reaches 2 weeks in advance, only 50% and no refund, if the member informs within 14 days of the start of the conference or does not turn up. However, the accommodation and return journey ticket charges shall be refunded after necessary deductions.

B). Registration Fee :

The registration fee should be kept as low as possible. The President and Secretary are not asked for registration fee and Accommodation charges. Office bearers should also be exempted from paying registration fee. Accommodation should be arranged for the President and the Secretary at the venue or nearest point to the venue to facilitate the secretariat work at the conference.

14. Travel Grants

The Organising secretary through conference brochure or Secretary through news bulletin shall invite applications for Travel grant for attending the conference. Only members whose age is below 35 years are eligible for the grant. The applicant has to give undertaking that he / she has not received any assistance from any other source including his or her institution. The grant is limited to return 3 tier (non-AC) rail fare but not exceeding Rs. 1000.

President and other Executives are given appropriate rail fare if funds permit.

15. Executive Committee Meeting :

The meeting is held on the day prior to the conference. The meeting is of 2 -3 hours duration and is held in the afternoon. Suitable time slot and place of meeting should be indicated in the programme. In order to attend these meetings, some members have to come one day in advance. It would be ideal if one night accommodation is made by the Organising committee for those members who have to come one day in advance to attend the meeting.

For the meeting, a hall with a capacity of 50 persons is kept ready for the scheduled period. Arrangement for a steno typist should also be made. In addition, there should be arrangement of a cassette recorder to record the proceedings. Arrangement for snacks and tea or cold drink and water is highly appreciated. Another meeting of the Executive committee is held on the day following the General Body Meeting. Arrangement for that meeting should also be made and time provided in the programme.

16. General Body Meeting

The General Body meeting is generally held on the second day of the conference between 4 to 6 p.m. and for which the Secretary notifies to all the members. The Organising Secretary includes this programme while drafting the programme of the conference. He also arranges a steno typist and a cassette recorder to record the proceedings.

17. Collection of Association Subscription and Dues :

There are many delegates who desire to renew their subscription or apply for membership during the conference. Hence, the Organising Secretary will keep a counter at the reception desk manned by a volunteer for this purpose. The treasurer and /or the Secretary or Joint Secretary of the Association or their representative will assist the volunteer.

If the Organising Secretary has received association subscription or sessional membership fee

(equal to prescribed fee for ordinary membership) along with delegate fee, he should pay to the Association Treasurer / Secretary that amount during the conference so that proper receipt is issued to the members.

Any delegate whose name does not appear in the current Directory of Members or does not show receipt of up-to-date payment should be charged membership fee along with the application for membership or sessional membership.

18. Inaugural Function :

On the dais, besides arrangement for special guests, Organising Secretary and Chairman of the reception committee, there should be sitting arrangement for the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the association. At this function, besides welcome and inauguration, General Secretary will give a talk about activities of the association, then Presidential speech, followed by installation of the new President, presentation of awards & medals and address by chief guest or any other guest. The inaugural function should not last for more than 90 minutes

19. Arrangement For Food And Tea :

- (1) Breakfast to delegates is arranged at the venue.
- (2) Lunch also should be arranged at the venue.
- (3) Tea/Coffee break be arranged nearer to exhibition area and/or Poster session area to increase visit to exhibition and poster lobby.
- (3) A welcome dinner is given to Corporate members and Executive Committee members after the first Executive Committee meeting.
- (4) Banquet is arranged on first or second night of the conference.
- (5) It must be stressed that the food served, as far as possible, should be of all taste so that it is acceptable to people from all parts of the country. There should not be too much stress on local menu. **It is needless to stress that**

proper hygiene is taken care in preparation and dispensation of food articles. There should be arrangement of good quality drinking water and disposable glasses at suitable places.

20. Cultural Programme :

It is usually arranged on first or second night of the conference.

21. Souvenir of The Conference :

This should be published. Besides containing articles about the local place and information about the conference, it should contain President's address, Secretary and Treasurer's report. Souvenir should be a source of income for the conference by taking advertisements. Abstracts of papers being presented should go in to it.

A separate Handbook for Delegates should be published showing map of venue and location of rooms for meetings, food, Preview room etc. Map of the city showing railway stations, airports, bus stand, hotel locations, market places and sites of importance for visit should be included

22. Programme for Delegates and their Spouse

[1] One half day during conference period should be utilized by taking the delegates to some

nearby important visiting places, or to some important centers of arts and craft, or to some renowned institution worth seeing or to some industries, etc. **THIS IS ALSO A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF ANY CONFERENCE**

[2] There should be a separate and simultaneous programme for co-delegates, wives and children of delegates, like visiting places of importance or visiting important shopping centers. If such programmes are not arranged, there should be no registration fee for the spouse and Food to them should be optional on the basis of food coupons, which may be purchased one day in advance. One person from the Organising committee should be made responsible for the programmes for the Associate Delegates.

23. Conference Account :

The Income - Expenditure Account of the conference, duly audited by and approved by the Organising committee must be submitted to the Secretary and the Head Office for record, within 6 months after the end of the conference. This report is also frequently asked for by the funding agencies.

11thAsian-Pacific Congress of Clinical Biochemistry (APCCB) at Beijing in 2007

The 11th APCCB will be held during October 14-19, 2007, in Beijing. Beijing is the capital of China with a history going back thousands of years. It has many attractions including the world famous Great Wall and Ming Tombs. Autumn is the golden season in Beijing with temperatures ranging from 8 - 20 degrees centigrade. Professor Yang Zhen Hua is the Chairman, Organizing Committee. Please visit the website : [www.chinamed.com.cn/11 apccb](http://www.chinamed.com.cn/11_apccb) for more details.

Annexure - II

PROPOSAL FOR HOSTING ACBI CONFERENCE

1. Proposer's name and address (both Institutional & Residential)
(Note: Proposer should be eligible for the post of Organizing Secretary)
2. Proposer's date of birth
3. Date of joining ACBI as Life member (give Life membership number)
4. ACBI conferences attended giving place and year (attach photocopy of attendance certificate.)
5. Experience of organizing any conference, Symposia, Workshops etc (give evidence)
6. Is his / her Institution ready to host the conference (letter from Head of the institution to be attached)
7. What other National / State level or International conferences have been held in past three years by that Institution? (Attach list of those showing number of delegates who attended)
8. Proposed venue name and location, its distance from Institution- if it is other than the Institution, distance from Railway Station, Nearest Airport and Highways.
9. Detail about available halls at the venue for Inauguration, Scientific sessions (three), Workshop, Rooms for slide preview room, Office room, room for office support such as fax, computer, printer, e-mail, telephone, photocopy etc, suitable hall for Executive Council meetings, corporate meeting and sub-committees meetings
10. Availability of internet and telephone facility
11. Names of important nearby visiting places of tourist importance
12. What would be probable registration fee for delegates and accompanying person
13. Types of accommodation available, room tariff, and their distance from venue
14. Possibilities of sight seeing arrangement for spouses and families
15. Undertaking that the savings from the conference will be divided between Organizing State Branch and the Main Association as specified in the Guidelines.

Signature of Proposer

ACBI Congratulates !

- **Dr P.S.Muthy, Senior member of ACBI & Ex Editor- in-Chief, IJCB** for receiving the 'Shri. A.J. Thakur Award for distinguished services in Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine for the year 2006', which is sponsored by **Accurex Biomedical Pvt Ltd., Mumbai.**
- **Dr. Subir Kumar Das** of Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Elamakkara, Cochin, for receiving the **2006 Van Slyke Foundation (VSF) Research Grant in Critical and Point-of-Care Testing (VSF POCT Research Grant Award)** for his project, 'The Role of Alcohol Induced Liver Damage in the Regulation of Vessel Maturation'. This grant was made possible through a generous contribution from the CPOCT Division to the Foundation.

Fellowship of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India (FACBI)

The procedure being followed for the Award :

The Association awards **Fellowship of ACBI (FACBI)** to distinguished members on the basis of the achievements. The nominations for Fellowship are invited annually through announcement by the General Secretary in the 1st News Bulletin of the year. Only Fellows of ACBI or very senior member can nominate a member for the award. Nominations have to be sent to the President along with biodata of the nominee with a copy to the General Secretary. All nominations received before 31st, August are considered by award committee and those found suitable are admitted as Fellows during a convocation held at the time of Annual conference. Nominations are submitted on prescribed form available from ACBI website or Head Office. Fellowship is also awarded to Past Presidents of the Association as honoris causa. ACBI Fellow who is nominating any member of ACBI for FACBI award should verify the statement given in biodata of the nominee and make a statement to that effect. In addition, the nominee shall provide evidence of facts stated in biodata.

There will be an award committee for evaluating the nominations for the award. The committee will consist of (1) Advisor or General Secretary, (2) A senior member from teaching faculty and (2) A senior member from practicing clinical biochemist member group.

The Award committee shall receive the copy of nomination paper, biodata and evidence of facts stated from . Each member of the committee shall allot mark per item and then submit it to President individually. The President shall make average of marks of each nominee and declare the names of top 2 persons who secure more than 75 % marks. If no one from non-teaching side is selected as per criteria laid down, then out of every 6 awardees one will be from this category, provided the nominee secures at least 60 per cent marks.

Once the names have been announced, the General Secretary shall inform the winner of the award to attend the conference and receive the award during Inaugural function.

The last Past- President is also invited to receive Fellowship award (Honoris-causa) during the conference.

(Note : Convocation fee of Rs. 1000/ should be paid by each awardee (but not by Past-President) as prevalent earlier. This needs to be restored. If approved, Secretary should ask for the fee at the time of inviting him / her to attend convocation and receive the award.

ACBI Fellow who is nominating any member of ACBI for FACBI award should verify the statement given in biodata of the nominee and make a statement to that effect. In addition, the nominee shall provide evidence of facts stated in biodata.

There will be an award committee for evaluating the nominations for the award. The committee will consist of (1) Advisor or General Secretary, (2) A senior member from teaching faculty and (2) A senior member from practicing clinical biochemist member group.

The Award committee shall receive the copy of nomination paper, biodata and evidence of facts stated. Each member of the committee shall allot mark per item and then submit it to President individually. The President shall make average of marks of each nominee and declare the names of top 2 persons who secure more than 75 % marks. If no one from non-teaching side is selected as per criteria laid down, then out of every 6 awardees one will be from this category, provided the nominee secures at least 60 per cent marks.

Once the names have been announced, the General Secretary shall inform the winner of the award to attend the conference and receive the award during Inaugural function.

The last Past- President is also invited to receive Fellowship award (Honoris-causa) during the conference.

(Note : Convocation fee of Rs. 1000/ should be paid by each awardee (but not by Past-President) as prevalent earlier. This needs to be restored. If approved, Secretary should ask for the fee at the time of inviting him / her to attend convocation and receive the award.

**GUIDELINES FOR SCORING SYSTEM FOR EVALUATION OF
NOMINATION FOR AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP OF ACBI**

Sr.No.	Item	Max Marks
1.	<p>Working Experience Teaching & Research Experience : (A) As Director/ Principal/ Dean of Medical Teaching Institution : 2 marks for each year (B) As Professor/ Dy-Director in Medical College / Institutes :1 mark for each year (C) As Associate Professor/Reader/ Senior Scientist : 0.5 marks per year Or Clinical Laboratory Experience (A) As Senior Consultant (more than 10 yrs experience : 2 mark/years (B) As consultant : 1 mark /year</p>	20
2.	<p>Organizational Experience (A) As President of International Scientific Society 5 marks (B) As President of National Scientific Society (C) As Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer of National or International Society- 2 marks for each term of 3 yrs (D) As Joint Secretary / Member of Governing Council 1 mark for each three year term</p>	10
3.	<p>Publications (list of publications to be attached) (A) Publication in IJCB or Journal in Cumulative index or equivalent : 1 mark each (B) Publication in other important Journal : 0.5 mark each (C) Authorship of Text Books and Monographs : 2 marks for each (D) Authorship of chapter in books : 1 mark each (E) Relevance, impact and quality of papers as judged by experts : up to 5 marks</p>	20
4.	<p>Special Services rendered Programmes organized to improve Laboratory services in India :1 mark each Programme conducted for educational courses - for each - 2 marks for organizer, 1 mark for faculty Any service rendered to community or Nation during calamity -1 mark each</p>	10
5.	<p>Awards National or International award for excellence in teaching / research : 2 marks Award by ACBI : 2 marks each Any other award of importance : 1 mark each</p>	05
6.	Per year of continuous membership of ACBI 1 mark per year	15
7.	Number of ACBI conference attended- 1 mark for each conference	15
8.	Marks given by award committee members on the basis of perception about human qualities and eminence in the society	05
	Total	100

Note : Suggestions for any amendments to be made in the above procedure for ACBI Fellowship Awards may please be communicated to General Secretary.

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF INDIA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Please write in Capital or Type)

1. Category of Membership Applied (tick the choice) : Life / Associate Life / Annual / Corporate
2. Name **Dr/Mr./Mrs./Ms.** :
Family Name First name
3. Sex : 4. Date of Birth : 5. Nationality :
6. Academic Qualifications with Year : (attach Photocopies)
7. Designation :
8. OFFICIAL ADDRESS
- 1. Department :
 - 2. Institution :
 - 3. Address :
 - 4. City : 5. Pin Code :
 - 6. State :
 - 7. Telephone (with code) :
 - 8. Fax (with area code) :
 - 9. E-mail :
9. RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
- 1. Address :
 - 2. City : 3. Pin Code :
 - 4. State :
 - 5. Telephone (with area code) :
 - 6. Fax (with area code) :
 - 7. E-mail :
10. Address for Communication : Official **OR** Residential (please tick the choice)
11. Professional Experience (briefly) on separate page : Teaching / Research / Diagnostic :.....Years
12. Field of expertise/ Areas of Interest: (1) (2)
13. Publications, if any : **Attach a list giving details of publications.**
14. Membership of other professional bodies, if any :
15. Any other relevant information (brief) : (on separate page)
16. D.D. No. Date : Bank :.....
Branch :..... Amount : Rs.
- (Enclose the crossed D.D. for an appropriate amount drawn in favour of "Association of Clinical Biochemists of India" payable at **Patna**)

Undertaking by the Applicant

I have gone through the bylaws of the Association of Clinical Biochemists of India. If admitted as a member, I shall abide by the rules and regulations of the association.

Signature of the Applicant

Date

Place

Recommendation by a member of ACBI (This is essential)

I have verified the information given in this application that are true to the best of my knowledge. He/She fulfils eligibility requirement for becoming a member of ACBI. I recommend that he/she be accorded the membership of the ACBI.

Name & Signature of the Member.

Date :

ACBI Membership No.:

Place :

(Office purpose only)

Membership of approved by the Executive council meeting held onat and the assigned membership No, is Membership subscription of Rs..... (D.D.No..... dated..... of

Bank debited to ACBI A/c No.01000006833. at State Bank of India, Patna main Br. on

Signature of Treasurer

Date

ADMISSIBILITY RULES

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA : Membership of the Association is open to teachers & research scientists in the discipline of Biochemistry, Clinical Biochemistry, Immunology, Pathology, Endocrinology, Nutrition, Medicine and other allied subjects in a medical institution and also to persons holding M.B.B.S., M.Sc.(Biochemistry or Clinical Biochemistry) and are engaged in research or practice of clinical Biochemistry in hospital or in private laboratory.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP : Those graduates who do not fit in the above criteria, but have an interest in Clinical Biochemistry are eligible to become Associate Members.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP : A company dealing in biochemicals and instruments for biochemistry laboratories can become corporate members.

MEMBERSHIP FEE : (a) **Annual Member** - Rs. 250/- annually , (b) **Life Member** - Rs.2500/- once + Rs.30/- for L.M.certificate posting [Total : Rs.2530/-] (or Rs. 850/- annually for 3 consecutive years.) (c) **For persons residing in other countries** - US \$200/- (d) **ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERS** - Rs.2500/- once + Rs.30/- for A..M. certificate posting [Total: Rs.2530/-] , (e) **Corporate Member** : Rs. 25,000/- one time payment. (f) **IFCC subscription (optional)** - Rs. 1500/- once.

Prescribed fee should be paid by **BANK DRAFT** only payable to "ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF India" at **PATNA. NO CHEQUE PLEASE**. The completed application (along with enclosures) & draft should be sent to **Dr. Rajiv R. Sinha, Biochem-Lab, East Boring Canal Road, Patna - 800 001**, preferably by registered post.

Corporate Corner

Procalcitonin

A New and Innovative Sepsis Marker.

Procalcitonin (PCT) is a specific infection parameter for severe, bacterially induced inflammatory reactions and a reliable indicator of inflammatory activity in sepsis and multiple organ dysfunction syndrome.

Procalcitonin is a 116 amino acid protein with a sequence identical to that of the prohormone of calcitonin.

Key features of Procalcitonin.

- Early diagnosis of systemic bacterial and fungal infections and sepsis.
- Assessment of severity and prognosis of systemic infection, sepsis and multiple organ failure.
- Differential diagnosis of systemic infection vs acute inflammatory disease.
- Differential diagnosis of bacterial vs viral infection.

- Infectious disease monitoring of high risk patients ie., after Organ transplantation, immunosuppression, or multiple trauma.
- Therapeutic monitoring after surgical elimination of infected focus and after administration of antibiotics

Procalcitonin is available in the following test formats.

- **BRAHMS PCT Q**
(Immunochromatography test)
- **BRAHMS PCT LIA**
(Quantitative Immuno Luminometric Assay)

For further details please contact us at:

CPC Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd.

No. 9, 5th Floor, Gokul Towers, 9 & 10,
C.P.Ramaswamy Road, Chennai 600 018.
Tel. +91 44 24993989, Fax +91 44 24993357
Email:immuno@cpcdiagnostics.in
Website: www.cpcdiagnostics.com

Forth Coming Events

1) International Conference on Free Radicals In Clinical And Laboratory Medicine

SFRR-INDIA NATIONAL SATELLITE MEETING on "International Conference on Free Radicals In Clinical And Laboratory Medicine" will be held at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Cochin, Kerala on January 4-5 (Thursday and Friday), 2007. Renowned Scientists from India and Abroad will share their experience in this meeting. It is a rare opportunity for students and researchers working in related fields. For Further Details Contact:

The Organizing Secretary, Department of Biochemistry, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Elamakkara P.O., Cochin 682026, Kerala,INDIA.

e-mail: biochemistry@aims.amrita.edu

2) Training Course on 'Immunodiagnosics for Infectious Diseases'(Sponsored by Dept. of Biotechnology) February 5-10, 2007

A hands on short-term training course for

Medical teachers, Clinical Lab Practitioners and Research & Post Graduate students on "Infectious Disease Diagnostics" will be held during February 5-10, 2007 at JBTDRC. Dip-Stick Pencillinase ELISA and Peroxidase plate/strip ELISA for filariasis and tuberculosis including preparation of antigen coated sticks & enzyme conjugates, SDS-PAGE analysis & western blotting techniques, PCR etc. will be covered. There will also be talks on disease diagnostics and prophylactic aspects by experts from outside and faculty of the centre during the training course. Details on the Course & Registration form can be downloaded from website www.jbtdrc.org.

For Further information contact Course Organizer, Dr. M. V. R. Reddy, Professor & Head, Department of Biochemistry, JB Tropical Disease Research Centre, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram (Wardha) - 442 102, M.S., India, E-mail:jbtdrc_wda@sancharnet.in Ph: 07152 - 284341 Ext: 262, 303 Telfax: 284038