

DOTS TB Pharmacist Project-Public-private Initiative in Mumbai

India is the country with highest Tuberculosis (TB) burden, accounting for one fifth of the global incidence of TB and is adding 1.8 million new TB cases annually. TB is one of the leading causes of death in India killing 2 persons every three minutes, 1000 per day. Social and economic burden of TB in India is very high and indirect cost to the society is estimated to be \$3 billion. Community (Retail) Pharmacists, being first port of call health professional, are in unique position to fight against TB but their involvement for the said purpose had been rare. One of the first attempts of involving pharmacists for community TB awareness was TB Fact Card project (Year 2005-06) in Mumbai, a collaborative project of Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) with Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) and International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF). After its successful completion, IPA developed an innovative public-private partnership by involving retail pharmacists in DOTS services. Participation of retail pharmacists in the national health programme i.e. Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) had been quite uncommon till then. This public-private mix activity is now scaled up in Mumbai by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), SEARPharm Forum along with IPA. This project is being funded by Lilly MDR TB partnership & is well supported by the Maharashtra State Chemists & Druggists Association & City/District TB Control Societies.

Total 120 Pharmacists in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Kalyan-Dombivli areas are trained with the help of City TB authorities. Pharmacists have been trained for DOTS protocols by the Corporation City TB officers. These trained pharmacists will help in detection and referral of chest symptomatic (lung TB) cases, will create awareness about TB and DOTS in the society, and will act as DOTS medicine providers. TB information leaflet for consumers have been made in English, Hindi and Marathi. These leaflets will be distributed by the participating pharmacists to create awareness about causes of TB, its prevention, precautions, treatment, DOTS facility etc. The project is of 2 years duration.

The project launch programme was organized on 10th May evening at the ACE Auditorium, Bombay College of Pharmacy, Kalina, Mumbai. The programme officially launched the project in all 3 areas & brought together all project partners on this occasion. Present for the programme on the dais were Mr. Prafull Sheth, Vice-President, FIP &



Professional Secretary of SEARPharm Forum, Dr. C. Gopalakrishna Murty, President, IPA, Mr Anurag Khara, Director, Corporate Affairs, Lilly MDR TB partnership & Ms Sunita Prasad, Consultant, Lilly MDR TB partnership. Mr. S D Joag, Hon Gen. Secretary of IPA welcomed all. Mrs. Manjiri Gharat, Hon. Sec, IPA CPD and Project Chairperson, gave a brief background of the project & gave details of the current project plan. All the dignitaries appreciated and appreciated the social-professional work approach of the pharmacists. Mr. Jagannath Shinde, President, All India Organization of Chemist & Druggists (AIOCD) and Dr. Arun Bamane, Member Secretary, Mumbai District TB Control Society (MDTCS) could not attend the function but conveyed their support and best wishes. An English version of the TB Consumer Information Leaflet was released on this occasion.

The project working group comprises of Mrs. Manjiri, CPD Chairman Mr. Raj Vaidya, CPD Executive members Mr Nitin Maniar, Mr. Ramraj Halwai and Mr. Satish Shah. There is excellent cooperation from City TB Officers and WHO RNTCP consultants for the project, and also, there is enthusiastic response from the participant pharmacists.

The ultimate goal of the project partners is to advocate and scale up this pharmacist-centric model for nationwide implementation which will greatly help to strengthen the RNTCP. This will widen the DOTS network, will increase access to the medicines and will contribute to reduce the chances of MDR TB cases.

For any more information regarding the project, please write to ipacentre@ipapharma.org or symghar@yahoo.com.

IPA Peenya Branch

The IPA Peenya local branch organized a get together and a felicitation function for the newly elected President of IPA-(Central) Mumbai-Dr. C. Gopalakrishna Murty and IPA -Karnataka State President (Elect) Dr B. R. Jagashetty, in association with IPA-Channapatna branch, IPA- Karnataka State branch, IPA- Education Division and Acharya & BM Reddy College of Pharmacy on Monday, 26th April 2010 at Acharya & BM Reddy College of Pharmacy, Bangalore.

A brief report on the activities for the year 2009-10 of IPA-Peenya local Branch was presented by President of IPA-Peenya

branch, Prof. Divakar Goli and the report of activities of IPA-Channapatna branch was presented by Mr. Sachin Marihal.

Others dignitaries felicitated were: Prof. T. V. Narayana-Vice-President and Chairman-IPA-Education division, Mr. Kaushik Desai-Vice-Presedint and Chairman-IPA-Industrial Pharmacy Division, Prof. M. D. Karvekar- Vice-Presedint (Elect) IPA-Karnataka State Branch, Mr. Veeranarayana Gowda- Secretary (Elect) IPA-Karnataka State Branch, Prof. V. B. Desai-Former Drug Controller-Karnataka, Mr. D. A. Gundu Rao-President-Karnataka State Pharmacy Council, Dr. S. Shashidhara, Principal- Government college of pharmacy, Bangalore and Prof. Divakar Goli, Secretary-IPA-Education Division & Principal-Acharya and B. M. Reddy College of Pharmacy, Bangalore.

Annual Meet of IPA Jharkhand State Branch

The meet was organised on 27 March' 10 at BIT auditorium. Dr P.K.Barhai Vice Chancellor BIT, Mesra, Ranchi was the Chief Guest of Function. Dr B.N.Sinha Secretary of Branch presented activities of State branches, he also informed about presentation of Special Recognition Award to IPA Jharkhnad state branch during IPA Convention. Prof. S.P.Bhatnagar, President of branch presided over the function. He congratulated all IPA members of state branch for their active role enabling them to get prestigious award. He requested the Chief Guest Dr P.K.Barhai Vice Chancellor BIT, Mesra to display the award among the audience. Dr D. Sasmal Council Member State branch and HOD Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences BIT, Mesra also spoke on occasion. He suggested students participate in activities. Dr. R.N.Gupta was felicitated on being elected as Vice President & Chairman, Hospital Pharmacy Division IPA for 2010-12 session, He was presented memento by Chief Guest Dr. P.K.Barhai Vice Chancellor BIT, Mesra. Prizes were also distributed to IPA members for various activities of branches. Dr P.K.Barhai Vice Chancellor BIT, Mesra in his address congratulated Prof Bhatnagar and his team members of Jharkhand state branch for award and informed about the importance of Professional association and benefits to students in their involvement. IPA members and faculty members of different dept. of BIT, Mesra and Pharmacists of different organisations were present.

President, Indian Pharmacological Society and Principal, R. G. Kar Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata were Guests of Honour in the function. Dr D.Sasmal, HOD Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences BIT, the convenor welcomed the participants.

Dr. B.N.Sinha, Scientific Convenor informed the scientific programme and proposed the Vote of thanks. 75 scientific papers were presented Dr. S.K.Raychowdhury, Director Drugs Control, WB, spoke on Biopharmaceuticals and their standards Dr S. K.Tripathi, School of Tropical Medicine spoke on Ethics of Clinical Research. Dr R.N.Gupta and Mr M.M.Prasad had the presided over scientific session.

IPA Vadodara Branch

Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE)

Like previous years IPA Vadodara branch recently organized 2 interactive programs of 4 speakers on current subjects in the month of March 2010 jointly with MSU Pharmacy Alumni Association. Dr. Niranjana Singh of Divinne International spoke on SOPs for QC lab and non-compliance in

laboratory during audit; Dr. A. Prasad of SPARC, Vadodara dwelt on Analytical Method Development and Validation; Dr. Rajesh Sunder of Zydus Research Center, Ahmedabad highlighted on Preclinical Requirements for filing IND and NDA whereas Mr.K.T.Gandhi of Alembic Research Centre discussed about Chemistry Manufacturing and Pharmacy Requirements
