PRE-EVENT PRESS RELEASE

Indian and US scientists to discuss emerging diseases and global health

Venue: Indian National Science Academy (INSA) premises, New Delhi, India (Map)

Dates: November 18 – 20, 2014

With infections like ebola and influenza spreading around the world, what kind of research is necessary to tackle them? What are the impacts of infections on national development in India?

An Indo-US workshop on “Challenges of Emerging Infections and Global Health Safety” is the forum for these discussions and more. The three-day workshop will take place on the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) premises at New Delhi, India, from November 18 – 20, 2014.

The main mandate of the event is to “share challenges and lessons learned regarding biological safety, laboratory management and clinical applications for improving global health safety”. Another goal is to encourage partnerships between Indian and American scientists, in research areas identified during the meeting.

Better surveillance to detect emerging disease outbreaks, more robust methods to predict epidemics, and the best methods of communicating news about these emerging infections to the public will also be discussed. Another thrust area is that of “zoonotic infections”: those that can jump from animal reservoirs to humans with ease, like anthrax. Strategies to integrate human and animal public health systems will be discussed.

Along with these questions, cutting edge technology that can be applied to public health, laboratory safety protocols that are absolutely necessary while conducting research on diseases and handling disease outbreaks in the face of disasters will be discussed at length.

The workshop is chaired jointly by Prof Indira Nath, an Emeritus Professor at the National Institute of Pathology (ICMR), Safdarjung Hospital Campus, New Delhi and Dr James LeDuc, Director of the Galveston National Laboratory, University of Texas.
Medical Branch. Prof Raghavendra Gadagkar, President of the Indian National Science Academy will be delivering the welcome address, along with the immediate past president Prof Krishan Lal.

Prof Diane Griffin, the Vice President of the US National Academy of Sciences and Prof V. M. Katoch, Secretary of the Department of Health Research, Government of India and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, are expected to attend and address the gathering.

We will be circulating an up to date schedule and more details by 17th November (Monday).

Useful links
Map for INSA premises: https://goo.gl/maps/fxbel
Prof Indira Nath: http://www.insaindia.org/detail.php?id=N92-1095
Dr James LeDuc: http://www.utmb.edu/internalmedicine/divisions/infectious_diseases/faculty/bio_leDue.asp
Prof Raghavendra Gadagkar: http://ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/ragh/
Prof Diane Griffin: http://www.nasonline.org/member-directory/members/3007695.html
Prof V. M. Katoch: http://icmr.nic.in/000251/dg.htm

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