

- any form and in any way to any party outside the country must be prohibited.
- Human cloning for delivering replicas must be banned.
  - Stem-cell cloning and research on embryos (less than 15-days-old) need to be encouraged.
  - A child born through ART should be presumed to be the legitimate child of the couple, born within wedlock and all the attendant rights of parentage, support and inheritance.
  - Though there is no legal bar on an unmarried or single woman going for AI, however, it is universally recommended that AI should be performed only on a married woman and that too, with the written consent of her husband.

- There is an urgent need to have infertility treated like any other disease, the expense of dealing with authorized ART clinics should be reimbursable, e.g. by the government, employer or health insurance company, but for one child only.

The expert committee could not arrive at a consensus on the following points: (1) A HIV-positive woman shall not be refused ART, but appropriately counselled about the possibility of the mother-to-child transmission of the AIDS virus. (2) A HIV-negative woman should not be refused ART procedures even if the husband is seropositive for HIV, but she would be appropriately counselled about the state-of-the-art knowledge in this area.

Dissenting voices were heard at the venue, during the release of the draft guidelines. For instance, representatives from the Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction, Mumbai felt that although ART services in the country need to be standardized, they were skeptical about 'how views of infertility specialists on the Committee had not been adequately considered'. It is hoped that all concerned people of this country and those responsible for providing medical care to infertile couples would rise to the occasion and debate the guidelines before its final form is achieved.

**Nirupa Sen**

## ICMR Awards 2000

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Awards 2000 were presented to 25 biomedical scientists of the country on 30 September 2002 at the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. The podium remained empty well over twenty minutes after the scheduled start of the event. There was a brief appearance by O. P. Chautala, the Chief Minister of Haryana. The organizers removed most of the names from the podium's dignitary list, barring a few. Finally, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shatrughan Sinha graced the occasion. Sinha in his speech said that 'research or the lack of it in the 156 medical colleges is causing us a lot of concern'. He added that the ICMR is 'strengthening the nation's capability in strategic areas such as bioterrorism by setting up appropriate facilities in addition to upgradation of existing animal facilities'.

The awards were presented to: O. N. Nagi, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh: Development of arthroplasty, modifications in its techniques; Late S. R. Naik, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow: Gastroenterology (hepatitis); Ranju Ralhan, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi:

Molecular markers for oral precancer and cancer; M. R. Pillai, Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram: Cellular pathology of human papilloma virus associated tumorigenesis; P. Kar, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi: Viral liver diseases; P. Salotra, Institute of Pathology, New Delhi: Leishmaniasis—development of vaccine and diagnostic tests; Prabha Balaram, Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram: Biology of gestational trophoblastic diseases; C. S. Pandav, AIIMS, New Delhi: Sustaining elimination of iodine deficiency disorders in Southeast Asia; Anita Panda, AIIMS, New Delhi: Lamellar keratoplasty; A. K. Mandal, L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad: Integrated management of childhood glaucomas; P. Vijayachari, Regional Medical Research Centre, Port Blair: Diagnosis and characterization of leptospires; S. D. Shetty, Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai: Genetic diagnosis and preventive strategy for haemophiliacs; B. Ravindran, Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar: Immunological studies in filariasis; Namita Surolia, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore: Molecular basis of drug resistance in malaria; B. S. Ramakrishna, Christian Medical College, Vellore: Importance of colonic fluid absorption in

limited diarrhoeal illness; R. Renuka Nair, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram: Response of myocardial and cardiac interstitial cells to environmental and endogenous factors leading to cardiac injury; S. K. Jindal, PGIMER, Chandigarh: Smoking: Its relationship to asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases; Renu Agarwal, Indian Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow: Immunopathogenesis of dengue haemorrhagic fever; Neeloo Singh, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow: Visceral leishmaniasis; Ajay Wanchu, PGIMER, Chandigarh: Role of nitric oxide in inflammatory disorders; Shiladitya Sengupta, Delhi: Novel target for analgesic and anti-inflammatory therapy; Debasish Basu, PGIMER, Chandigarh: Psychiatric aspects of psychoactive substance abuse; K. Anand, AIIMS, New Delhi: Community medicine at all its levels; Rakesh Aggarwal, SGPGIMS, Lucknow: Studies on hepatitis E virus; Sanjeev Gulati, SGPGIMS, Lucknow: Nephrotic syndrome in Indian children.

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