

Prof. Ramesh S. Paranjape



Distinguished Professor and I/c Director,

Dr. Prabhakar Kore Basic Science

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Qualification:

B Sc (Zoology)	Pune University, Pune	1972
M.Sc. (Medical Microbiology)	AIIMS, New Delhi	1975
Ph.D. (Medical Microbiology)	Madras University, Chennai	1982

Experience: 44 years

- 38 years of Research Experience at the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai (1976 to 1993) and ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute (Now Known as National Institute for Translational Virology and AIDS Research, Pune. (1993 to 2014)
- Six years (2019 to 2026) at KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research, Deemed to be University, Belagavi, Karnataka.

Research Focus:

My primary research focus has been immunology of infectious diseases, specifically Filariasis, tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS. Diagnostics, quality control, public health and immunological responses have been key areas. Currently as the in charge Director of basic sciences I am engaged in mentoring scientists and providing guidance for research.

Participation in WHO Meetings/Workshops as Temporary Advisor

- “Asian regional training workshop on HIV/AIDS Vaccine Research Ethics” organized by WHO and UNAIDS at New Delhi (June 28 to 30, 2000).
- Meeting of the Principal Investigators of WHO-UNAIDS Network for HIV Isolation and Characterization, Geneva, Switzerland, (December 17 – 18, 2000)
- World Health Organization SEAR-EMR Bi-regional meeting on Health Research Systems Development, at Male, Maldives (August 13-14, 2003)
- A Meeting on “Anti-retroviral resistance prevention, surveillance and Monitoring in Asia” organized by National Institute of Hygiene and

Epidemiology, Vietnam, PEPFAR Vietnam, CDC/GAP Asia Regional Office and World Health Organization (WPRO/SEARO) at Hanoi, Vietnam. (March 27- April 1, 2006).

- WHO Intercountry workshop on “CD4 T Lymphocyte Enumeration” held at Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand. Attended as WHO temporary advisor. (June 6 – 10, 2006)
- WHO Bi-regional Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance Data Management at South East Asian Regional Office at New Delhi, India. (October 11-13, 2006)
- WHO-TDR meeting, New Delhi, (April 15-16, 2010)
- Bi-Regional Asia and Pacific Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance Genotyping, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, (May 25-28, 2010)
- WHO Regional Meeting of Centers of Expertise in Tropical Diseases, Faridabad, (November 26-28, 2011)
- WHO Regional workshop on improving HIV treatment, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; (July 23-25, 2013)

Major Achievements:

1. I gave leadership to the ICMR-NARI from 1998 to 2014, 16 of the 21 years of existence of the Institute. I have played central role in giving the Institute global recognition through a team of multi-disciplinary scientists. The Institute has been able to raise over 15 million USD of extra-mural funds for research on HIV-AIDS from National and International funding agencies. Institute also boasts of collaborative studies with the world-renowned research organizations such as National Institutes of Health, USA , Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, WHO, Yale University and Vanderbilt University. Findings of HPTN052 study in which NARI participated have resulted in the change of Anti-retroviral treatment guidelines of WHO.
2. During the formative years of the Institute, I played key role in developing infra-structure and human resources at the Institute. A BSL-3 facility, Drug Resistance laboratory, Vaccine immunogenicity laboratory, clinical infra-structure, DNA sequencing facility, 11 colour flow cytometer and state of the art molecular biology lab was established.
3. Provided leadership for establishing a centre of excellence for clinical trials for HIV vaccines. Phase I clinical trials were conducted at NARI for Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) based vaccine and prime and boost regimen of Modified Vaccinia Ankara based priming and DNA vaccine (ADVAX) boost. The trials were conducted as per international standards.
4. Established HIV drug resistance laboratory. This was the first laboratory to get WHO accreditation in South and South-East Asia. The laboratory was also accredited by National Institutes of Health, USA.
5. National AIDS Research Institute is designated as the “WHO Collaborating Centre for HIV diagnosis and monitoring of anti-retroviral treatment” as result of the contribution made by the Institute to the National programme as well as support given to South and South East Asian countries.
6. *Enhancing Quality Practices in NARI laboratories and National AIDS Control Programme:* One of the major achievements has been establishment of Quality regime at the laboratories at NARI. NARI was one of the first laboratories to receive NABL accreditation among Government

Organizations and first among ICMR laboratories. The laboratories were also accredited to provide support to NIH, USA sponsored clinical trials. The laboratory also got accreditation as the regional laboratory for neutralizing antibody testing under Global AIDS Vaccine Initiative. I also spearheaded efforts to establish EQAS for CD4 estimation laboratories under NACO. I was also involved in establishing EQAS for HIV serology for laboratories under National AIDS Control Programme since its initiation. I was also responsible for establishing Consortium for evaluation of HIV antibody kits for national Programme.

7. As a PI, provided leadership for Integrated Behavioural and Biological Assessment survey, a large scale intervention programme in six high HIV prevalence states in India. This study is the fore-runner of the National IBBS survey implemented by NACO. Also this study resulted in over 50 peer reviewed scientific publications. Provided support to National AIDS Control programme for its activities
8. Establishment of centre of excellence for HIV treatment where a number of phase III clinical trials for ARV were conducted.
9. Establishing a state of the art facility for screening of new entities for anti-HIV activity. A novel effective Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor (NRTI) molecule has been patented by the Institute.
10. Contributed to the development of WHO and National Guidelines for HIV diagnosis and CD4 count estimation.

Publications and Patents:

- Over 240 Research Publications in National and International scientific journals
- 3 patents.

Membership of Committees:

- National Advisory Board for HIV vaccines
- Technical Resource Groups on Research and Development in HIV and AIDS under NACO.
- Chairman, Technical Resource Group on Laboratory services division, NACO.
- Member of Armed Forces Medical Research Committee
- Scientific Advisory Committees (National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, National Institute of Medical Statistics, New Delhi, Regional Medical Research Centre- North East, Dibrugarh, Pathway Project, ICMR Advanced Centre for Pediatric Primary Immune Disorder of PGIMER, Chandigarh, National Institute of Biological, NOIDA.)
- Task force on Infectious diseases of DBT,
- ICMR-DBT expert committee on Microbicides
- Chairman, Ethics Committee, National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune.
- Member, Country Coordinating Mechanism (India) for Global Fund for fight against HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- Member of the Conference Coordinating Committee for International AIDS Conference, Melbourne 2014.
- Member, Indo-US Joint Working Group on HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

- Planning Committee, Maharashtra University of Health Science, Nasik, Maharashtra.
- Chairman of Institutional Ethics Committees of Bharati Vidyapeeth, Deemed University, Pune, DBT-National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune and Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Deemed to be University, Karad, Maharashtra.
- Chairman, Project Monitoring Committee, Center for Biopharma Analysis at Venture Center under National Biopharma Mission.

Academic Achievements, Honours, Awards, Orations:

1. Recipient of the Certificate of Merit and the recipient of National Science Talent Scholarship from year 1969 to 1975.
2. Post-Doctoral research award at Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases, NIAID, National Institutes of Health, USA (July 1983 – August 1984) and John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA (July 1994 – June 1995).
3. WHO Fellowship: to strengthen Human Resource development in thrust areas of Medical Research under ICMR relevant to India (April 1990 - July 1990) at Department of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, U.S.A
4. “Dr. Sahib Singh Sokhey Memorial Oration Award” instituted by Haffkine Institute, Mumbai on 13th January 2012
5. Distinguished Lecturer award by Signature Interdisciplinary Programme in Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, University of South Florida, Tampa, USA.
6. 13th “Fieldhouse-Myers (FM) Oration” in Virology at Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, 16th December 2019.
7. Honorary Fellow of the Society of Applied Biotechnology.
8. Temporary Advisor for World Health Organization.
9. Guided 7 Ph.D. students
10. Chief Editor of “Journal of Global Infectious Diseases” and member of reviewer panel for a number of Journals.
11. Fellow of the Maharashtra Academy of Sciences.
12. Honorary Consultant/Expert for a number of WHO workshops.
13. Consultant for Global Health Strategies Emerging Economies Pvt' Ltd' for a project “Creating a Safe Injection Environment in India”.

Total Grants Received: 32.36 Crores