49th AMI conference: a unique opportunity for microbiologists

The Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI) is a scientific organization, with over 2500 members largely from India. It is a single largest life science professional organization in India and its members include those whose interests encompass basic and applied aspects of viruses, bacteria, fungi, algae and protozoans as well as other aspects of microbiology. The objectives of the Association are to promote the area of microbiology and to facilitate interaction between microbiologists and scientists from other allied disciplines. Another mission of the AMI is to advance the microbiological sciences as a vehicle for understanding life processes and to apply and communicate this knowledge for the improvement of health and environment. In continuation to these AMI is now forging ties with various microbiological societies like the *American Society for Microbiology* (ASM) and *International Society for Microbial Ecology* (ISME).

To achieve these goals, AMI gives several awards to scientists for their significant contribution in various disciplines of microbiology, at the AMI conference annually. Some of the prestigious awards include: AMI-Prof. S. R. Vyas Memorial Award (Biannual), AMI-Alembic award (Triennial), AMI-Dr. G. B. Manjrekar award (Biannual), AMI-Louis Pasteur Award (Triennial), AMI Young Scientist awards (Annual), AMI-Dr. Rana Memorial Best Poster Award (Annual), AMI-Prof. J. V. Bhat award for the Best paper published in IJM (Annual).

One of the major contributions of the AMI has been the publication of the quarterly journal, *Indian Journal of Microbiology* (IJM). IJM which is into its fifth decade publishes full-length papers, short communication reviews and mini reviews on all aspects of microbiological research. Areas of special interest include agricultural, food, environmental, industrial, medical, pharmaceutical, veterinary and molecular microbiology. Since 2007, it is being published in association with Springer India Ltd. IJM has been rapidly adapting to meet the changing requirements in commensurate with time. Special issues on current hot topics: *Bioremedia-*

tion and microbial diversity, Genomics and metagenomics have recently been brought out. By publishing peer reviewed original research findings and research reviews from researchers in India and abroad, IJM has acquired a respectable status among national and international scientific research periodicals in the world.

The AMI also holds a national convention annually at one of the well established centres of microbiology in the country. The AMI Annual Conference is among the largest gatherings of the scientific community in the discipline of microbiology in the country. This year 49th AMI Conference is being held on November 18–20, 2008, at the University of Delhi, India, to deliberate advances in microbiology especially in the area of microbial diversity, genomics and metagenomics. The special focus of this conference will be on several recent issues associated with human health and environment. The program will also feature latest research based and highly informative plenary sessions and informal poster sessions. A special session on “Food and Water Borne Diseases” has been organized in collaboration with ASM which shall have talks from renowned speakers including the current president of ASM. A highly committed organizing committee along with members of AMI is determined to bring forward a very stimulating and up-to-date knowledge-based meeting in Delhi. This conference will also provide an opportunity for microbiologists to meet and interact with the eminent scientists and microbiologists from India and abroad.

I invite you all to come, participate and experience an exciting rendezvous with renowned scientists and young researchers from all over the world. You will learn a great deal, not only from the speaker presentations, but also by interactive meetings and sessions afterwards. For more information you can visit the AMI visit www.amiindia.info. Looking forward to welcoming you in Delhi.

Editor-in-Chief
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