

Adding Dishes to the Academic Platter...

The Consensus Recommendation and the Immunization Time Table 2012 was released by the Indian Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Immunization (IAPCOI) in the July issue of *Indian Pediatrics* [1]. The process involved review of recent published literature including standard text books, vaccine trials, recommendations of reputed international bodies like ACIP of CDC, World Health Organization (WHO) etc, post-marketing surveillance reports from industry, cost-effective analysis, etc. More reliance was given to studies emanating from India, especially on disease epidemiology, and vaccine immunogenicity, efficacy, and safety. Expert opinion was sought to fill the gaps. The existing national immunization schedule and government policies were also taken in to account while drafting recommendations.

The recommendations of IAPCOI are primarily for pediatricians in office practice. IAPCOI has replaced the earlier categorization of vaccines from 4 to 2 categories: first, the vaccines recommended by IAP for routine use; and second, vaccines to be used in special circumstances only. The recommendations have also reviewed and issued recommendations on the recent contentious issues pertaining to rotavirus, Hib, and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines. We hope to revise immunization timetable every year rather than every two years as has been practiced so far. Also, in future, IAPCOI will adopt a new evidence based methodology, e.g. GRADE (Grades of Recommendation Assessment, Development and Evaluation), for issuing not only the future recommendations but to apply to existing recommendations also, especially on newer vaccines. A subcommittee has been constituted that will devise a new model based entirely on evidence to grade the available evidences and on its basis decide the strength of recommendations in 2-3 different categories. The main focus will be on scientific evidence and transparency so that the system can be reproducible and can also be reviewed by other experts.

IAPCOI also plans to prepare position papers on important vaccines and vaccine preventable diseases highlighting committee's stand on various issues. Hib diseases and vaccines have been chosen for the inaugural

papers. As another important step, the IAPCOI has taken a stand to generate systematic reviews on important issues; the first review on rotavirus vaccine is already underway.

It is thus appropriate that immunization related continuing education activities come to be in the forefront of IAP programs. The Academy is now gearing up to organize another meet on Vaccinology "National Vaccicon TOT" in the last week of August at Mumbai. The event is planned as a national TOT where 300 IAP members will be trained in the advances in the science of vaccinology. The trainees are expected to further percolate this science through their branches to other members. We are also planning to distribute the surplus from this national TOT to some 50 branches to conduct such activities further down the line. It also gives me immense pleasure to inform you that an advance vaccinology course on the lines of ADVAC of France is going to be held at Bangalore on 22nd – 23rd September. It will be a 40 hours online course and 16 hours in physical course. The applications were invited for this course and 40 candidates are being selected by the scrutinizing committee. I congratulate all the successful candidates. The program is going to be held with Dr Naveen Thacker as Program Director of this course. We are also contemplating to support a few community projects under the auspices of Golden Jubilee celebration in the year 2013.

A national TOT for "How do I manage?" is being scheduled at 12th August at New Delhi. Also a national TOT on IAP EXODIAM (CDMP – Improvised) is also to be scheduled on 2nd September at Gurgaon. More about these in the next issue! I keep my promise to march ahead with new vigor – *NayiUmang!!*

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REFERENCE

1. Indian Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Immunization (IAPCOI). Consensus Recommendations on Immunization and IAP Immunization Timetable 2012. *Indian Pediatrics*. 2012;49:549-64.