

Preface

This Special Issue of *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology* is devoted to the First International Conference on Infectious Diseases and Nanomedicine (ICIDN) which was innovatively conceptualized by the Nepalese Association of Medical Microbiology (NAMM) and the Nepal Polymer Institute (NPI) in association with Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, Nepal to promote interdisciplinary scientific study for systemic understanding of connections between major human diseases and their treatment regime by applying the tools and techniques of nanotechnology. The conference organized in Park Village Hotel and Resort, Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu from December 15 to 18, 2012, was accompanied by a one-day Short Course on *Recent Trends in Nanomedicine and Infectious Diseases* and had the motto: *Interdisciplinary Collaborative Education for Research & Innovation in Biomedical Sciences*. The ICIDN-2012 was attended by approximately 180 scientists from 21 countries including dozens of eminent scientists from throughout the globe.

One of the aims of this congress was to get researchers from the fields of nanomedicine (including physics, chemistry, and engineering) and various fields of infectious diseases (including pathology, microbiology, and clinical sciences) together at the same congress to explore common ground. The conference focused on themes on nanomedicine with special attention to anticancer therapy, antibiotic resistance, and virology.

The Inauguration Ceremony was attended by Rt. Hon'ble President of Nepal, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav as Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, President Yadav stressed on the role of young scientists and students in developing the nation through science, technology, and innovations. He praised the efforts of the ICIDN organizers to arrange such a global scientific meeting of enormous scientific and practical significance in Nepal. The inauguration ceremony was also addressed by Prof. Geoffrey L. Smith (President of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS); Head of the Department of Pathology, University of Cambridge, England), Prof. Jamboor K. Vishwanatha (Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, University of North Texas Health Science Center, USA), Prof. Surendra Raj Kafle (Vice Chancellor of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)), Prof. Ishwar Chandra Dutta (Chairman of Tribhuvan University Service

Commission), and Dr. Rajendra Koju (CEO, School of Medical Sciences, Kathmandu University, the representative of Vice Chancellor of the University). The congress was opened formally through the video lecture on *Helicobacter pylori* by Nobel Laureate Prof. Barry J. Marshall from The University of Western Australia.

The conference served as a meeting point for young researchers and students with their peers and well-known scientists for making scientific contacts and exchanging their experiences. The enthusiastic participation of numerous young scientists and students from all over the world led to vivid scientific discussions during the breaks, poster sessions, as well as after the sessions. Ms. Pramila Adhikari, Ms. Manisha Pradhan, and Mr. Eak Dev Khanal were bestowed best Poster Presentation Awards (selected from total 44 presentations) during the closing ceremony. Prof. Geoffrey L. Smith (President of the IUMS) and Prof. Chirika Shova Tamrakar (Dean, Institute of Science and Technology, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu) expressed their positive impression about the content, quality, and performance of the conference in their closing remarks.

We are thankful to the IUMS delegates including President Prof. Geoffrey L. Smith (Department of Pathology, University of Cambridge, England); President Elect Prof. Yuan Kun Lee (Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore); Vice Presidents Prof. Stephen A. Lerner (Wayne State University School of Medicine, Michigan, USA) and Prof. Pierre J. Talbot (University of Quebec, Canada and organizing President of IUMS 2014 congress), and IUMS Ambassador to Asia Prof. Fusao Tomita (Hokkaido University, Japan) for their cordial support.

We would like to extend our special thanks to Prof. Suresh Raj Sharma (then Vice Chancellor of Kathmandu University) for the kind patronage of the conference. Particular thanks go to Mr. Dhurba Acharya, Mr. Radium Adhikari, Mr. Santosh Adhikari, Mr. Netra Lal Bhandari (Conference Secretary), Ms. Sulakshana Bista, Mr. Kedar Nath Dhakal, Dr. Surendra Kumar Gautam, Ms. Jyoti Giri, Mr. Khagendra Prakash K. C., Mr. Eak Raj Kadariya, Mr. Suresh Raj Kandel, Mr. Santosh Khanal, Mr. Bhuvan Khatri, Mr. Prayag Raj Kuinkel, Mr. Surendra Kumar Madhup, Mr. Rajesh Pandit (Treasurer), Mr. Tarini Prasad Paneru, Mr. Chakravarty Paudel, Ms. Sharmila Pradhan, Mr. Krishna Kumar Raut, Mr. Din Dayal Regmi, and many other students and researchers affiliated to Kathmandu University, NPI as well as NAMM, and Nanochemistry and Polymer Research Group at Tribhuvan University for their untiring efforts to make ICIDN-2012 a grand success. Thanks are due to the members of National and International Advisory Boards for their valuable feedback and support.

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This conference has definitely sensitized the young scientists and students from Nepal toward strengthening Research and Education in various avenues of

nanomedicine, infectious diseases, virology, and antibiotic resistance. The congress is hoped to be a milestone in promoting education and researches in the field of microbiology, drug delivery, and biomedical sciences in particular fostering our endeavors in sustainable applied Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in Nepal.

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