

CURRICULUM VITAE OF Dr. R. HEMALATHA



Name : Dr. R. HEMALATHA

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Academic Qualifications :

SI.No	EXAMINATION/ DEGREE	UNIVERSITY/INSTI TUTE	YEAR	SUBJECT	DIVISION / PERCENTAGE OF MARKS
1	MBBS (including internship)	Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad	1981- 86	Medicine, surgery, gynaecology, obstetrics	2 nd Division
2	MD	Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad	1993- 96	Microbiology	1 st Division. Gold Medalist, Ponduri Venkata Ramana Rao Gold Medal

Professional experience

SI.No	NAME OF THE ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	FROM	TO	DUTY PERFORMED
1	National Institute Of Nutrition	Assistant Research Officer	1988	1991	Research
2	National Institute Of Nutrition	Research Officer	1991	1997	Research & Teaching
3	National Institute Of Nutrition	Sr. Research Officer	1997	2002	Research & Teaching
4	National Institute Of Nutrition	Assistant Director	2002	2007	Research, Administration & Teaching
5	National Institute Of Nutrition	Scientist E/ Deputy Director	2007	Till Date	Research, Administration & Teaching

Awards and Fellowships:

She received the NSI Young Scientist Award in Experimental Nutrition in the year 1990 and was awarded Ponduri Venkata Ramana Rao Gold Medal for her outstanding performance in M.D. Some of her basic science work on Immunomodulatory activity of *triticum aestivum* (6th Indo-Australian Biotechnology Conference 2009), hepatitis B vaccine in obese rats (International conference on Environment, Occupational and lifestyle concerns- “transdisciplinary approach” 2009) and cytokines and Bacterial Vaginosis (NSI Prize, 2009) were given best paper awards.

Current areas of research:

Her research focuses on effect of infections on nutritional status and growth in children, wherein she is evaluating the magnitude of under nutrition associated with mild infections and the effect of probiotics to prevent infections and improve nutritional status of children.

Her research on reproductive tract infections in women showed that nearly 30% of the pregnant women in Hyderabad, India, suffer from silent subclinical chorioamnionitis, which was associated with poor foetal growth. She also found that more than 30% of nonpregnant women have subclinical lower reproductive tract infections associated with impaired local immunity and inflammation. Currently she is working on Effect of probiotics in reducing BV and low birth weight.

Clinical trials with probiotics: The clinical trials include “Effect of Probiotics on Reproductive Tract Infections, immunity, HIV infectivity” in women of reproductive age group, which will be completed this year; the other on “ Role of probiotics on growth and morbidity in children”, just has been cleared by HMSC ICMR, latterly initiated. This study tests the prophylactic ability of selective probiotics preparation on diarrhoea, respiratory infections, immunity and growth.

Publications Related to Probiotics

Review

1. Hemalatha R. **2007**. The possible beneficial role of probiotics in sexually transmitted infections. Nutrition in Disease Management. Update Series 33 January.
2. Hemalatha R. **2009**. Role of Probiotics In Nutrition. Nutrition in Disease Management. Update Series 44, October.

Abstracts:

1. Hemalatha R. **2007**. Use of Lactobacilli as Potential Microbicide for HIV infection. Proceedings of International Conference on Molecular and Cellular Biology and Therapeutics of HIV & Associated Viral Infections. Pp.38-43.
2. Hemalatha R and Sesikeran B. **2007**. Probiotics as a Nutritional Tool. Proceedings of the First India Probiotic Symposium organized by ICMR.
3. Sesikeran B, Hemalatha R and P mastromarino. **2011**. Probiotics and Bacterial Vaginosis. In, Health Impact of Probiotics- Vision and Opportunities. Proceedings of the Yakult India Microbiota and Probiotic Science Foundation

Book Chapter

1. Sesikeran B, Hemalatha R. **2010**. Probiotics – Guidelines. Regulations and health claims. In “ Probiotic foods in health and disease “, Ed. By G. Balkrish Nair and Yoshifumi Takeda, New Delhi, Oxford & IBH,15-19pp.

Policy Document. ICMR-DBT:

Ganguly NK, Bhattacharya SK, Sesikeran B, Nair GB, Ramakrishna BS, Sachdev HPS, Batish VK, Kanagasabapathy AS, Vasantha Muthuswamy, Kathuria SC, Katoch VM, Satyanarayana K, Toteja GS, Manju Rahi, Spriha Rao, Bhan MK, Rakesh Kapur, Hemalatha R. **2011**. Policy Document. ICMR-DBT guidelines for evaluation of probiotics in food. Indian Journal of Medical Researc, 134:22-25+.