



YRG.CARE

# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Science Symposium on HIV/AIDS September 22 - 23, 2008

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honour to invite you to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Science Symposium on HIV/AIDS. Ever since we identified the first case of HIV/AIDS in India, it has been a long-drawn effort, both to prevent HIV from spreading and to ensure quality of life to the patients. Significant strides have been made both by the government and several NGOs in this regard. Despite over two decades of research, HIV continues to remain a difficult target for a vaccine. Although current regimens confer substantial survival benefits; are compromised by the emergence of drug resistant viruses. As always, it is the spirit and practice of YRG CARE to ignite scientific interest among young scientists - who we know, will be pioneers of the future HIV era. At this annual science symposium on HIV/AIDS, eminent international and national scientists will speak on various scientific and technological developments in the field of HIV/AIDS.

On behalf of YRG CARE, I cordially invite you all to this important and exciting scientific symposium. We plan to make every effort to making this meeting a grand success.

Prof. Suniti Solomon, MD  
Organizing Chair

### Background

HIV disease identified over 25 years ago has become one of the deadliest epidemics in human history, killing more than 25 million people around the world, making HIV among the leading causes of death. With the recent estimate of 2 to 3.1 million infections, India has the third largest HIV infected population after South Africa and Nigeria. The fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic is currently facing major challenges in achieving goals of "prevention and cure". Hence, there is a need for young professionals and students to understand scientific aspects on HIV/AIDS and recent developments in this ever advancing field.

### Vision and Objectives

The purpose of this national science symposium is to provide knowledge on the biology and epidemiology of HIV disease. After this symposium, the participants will be able to identify key areas of research in HIV/AIDS and will be encouraged to initiate collective efforts in the fight against the HIV epidemic in India.

### Who Should Attend?

- Microbiologists/Biotechnologists/Other Life Science Specialists
- Scientists
- Researchers (basic and clinical scientists)
- Post-Graduate students from medical, paramedical, science colleges / universities / research institutions

### About the Symposium

The annual HIV symposium will bring together leading faculties, experts and scientists who will provide updates on HIV/AIDS research. The symposium will cover various topics encompassing HIV epidemiology, pathogenesis, host-virus interactions, immune responses to infection, disease progression, opportunistic infections, current treatment strategies, natural history of HIV disease in India, vaccines, sexually transmitted diseases, and co-infections with TB and hepatitis. This will provide a forum for young people to address key scientific issues and gaps in knowledge. This will also form an opportunity to identify priorities for future action. The variety of sessions planned for this symposium is to meet the needs of various participants.

### Registration

The registration for the symposium is open and the registration fee is Rs.750 (Rs.500 for students). The registration details and form will be available on our website, [www.yrgcare.org](http://www.yrgcare.org). The completed registration forms should be sent to the symposium secretariat along with the DD for registration fees before the deadline. This is a limited audience (about 300) symposium and the registration will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration does not cover accommodation, however, assistance will be provided for the arrangement of accommodation on request.

Scholarships will be provided to a limited number of selected students with good track records. The application for the scholarship will be available on the website ([www.yrgcare.org](http://www.yrgcare.org)).

## Venue

VIGYAN Auditorium, SERC, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Campus, Taramani, Chennai 600 113.

## Contact Us

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## Organizing Committee

### Organizing Chair

Prof. Suniti Solomon, MD.  
Director, YRG CARE

### Organizing Secretary

Dr. K. G. Murugavel, PhD.

### Joint Organizing Secretaries

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Dr. E. M. Shankar, PhD.

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Dr. N. Kumarasamy, MBBS, PhD.

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### Coordinator

Mr. Kosalaraman, MSc.

## About Us



Prof. Suniti Solomon, MD., Founder-Director of the YR Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education (YRG CARE) documented the first evidence of HIV infection in India in 1986, when she was a Professor of Microbiology at Madras Medical College and Government General Hospital. She subsequently established the institution, which currently provides medical and psychosocial care for more than 12,000 persons with HIV disease and is involved in conducting several international clinical trials and educational/training programmes.

YRG CARE is a non-profit medical and research institution, located at Voluntary Health Services, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Taramani, and Chennai and is one of the premiere institutions to provide comprehensive medical care for persons with HIV disease in Southern India. It is one of the first centres to provide antiretroviral medications in the country. YRG CARE conducts several biomedical research programmes especially in the field of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STD) with focus on psychosocial, clinical and laboratory sciences in collaboration with National Institute of Health (USA) and several national and international research institutes and Universities

YRG CARE is one of the international multi-sites of US-NIH multicentric clinical trials for International AIDS Clinical Trial Group (ACTG) and HIV Prevention Trial Network (HPTN) programmes. YRG CARE has contributed more than 100 original scientific research papers to HIV medicine literature and its scientists /experts have contributed to developing several treatment/laboratory guidelines of World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland, and World Health Organization-South East Asia Office (WHO-SEARO), New Delhi.

YRG CARE is also conducting academic and training programmes for clinicians, nurses and social workers with national and international faculties. The organization is affiliated to the University of Madras for conducting PhD programmes in Medical Microbiology.