

## **Priority areas for submission of concept proposals in the area of leprosy under the online extramural system for adhoc proposals**

India achieved leprosy elimination as a public health problem in December 2005, however there are pockets of endemicity where the number of new case detection is still high and the community is at higher risk of being infected with *M. leprae*. Therefore, to address these issues, ICMR has taken steps to and has identified the research priorities as per the current need for eradication of leprosy.

### **PRIORITY AREAS**

1. Studies for detection of all new cases of leprosy at the earliest with active survey in high and low endemic areas.
2. Methods for better and early diagnosis of leprosy covering the entire leprosy spectrum (from LL to BT) with feasible methods. Studies to find out the causes of relapse (either persists or re-infection).
3. Studies focused on reducing the transmission, identifying markers of transmission, to identify the source and who transmitted the disease to whom are required.
4. Studies to identify early markers of reaction/ nerve damage for early detection of cases.
5. Studies for new effective treatment regime (2<sup>nd</sup> line therapy preferably with shorter duration) for leprosy to cut down the transmission and also for management of reactions. Universal MDT for treatment of all types of leprosy cases can be considered as this will also enhance compliance.
6. Treatment of co-infections.
7. Deformity prevention and socioeconomic rehabilitation in collaboration with other Ministries like Ministry of Social Welfare etc.
8. Studies for reducing stigma especially in urban settings.
9. Initiate research cum intervention project using immunoprophylaxis with Mw (MIP) vaccine for leprosy cases and their household contacts in high endemic areas.
10. To carry out operational research for defaulter management in high endemic areas. Methods to help the migratory population to complete the treatment are required. Strategies for improving adherence to treatment and completing the course.
11. IEC methods for community awareness (patients, family members and community) regarding the disease (in all popular channels) for and also self care of the deformities by patients.
12. Study to know the reasons (social/monetary) for persistence of leprosy colonies, issue of dismantling them and rehabilitation of people affected with leprosy (PALs).
13. Coordination with other organization like Armed forces to find out innovative methods to tackle the above mentioned issues.
14. Capacity building with increase focus on Training of the staff (MO ,PMWs and ASHA's)
15. Strategies for sustenance of elimination and in build methods to sustain the achievements for every goal.