FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I mentioned in an earlier editorial (IJCB, 1995, 10, 1) that this journal would be starting a new venture of bringing out special supplements on various topics. Now we are happy to publish the first special issue of IJCB on the Proceedings of the Symposium on "Tropical Disease Research" held on 5-6 September, 1997, at Sevagram, (Wardha). The special issue is the outcome of the efforts of Prof. B.C. Harinath, the Organizing Secretary of the symposium and Guest Editor of this Special issue, and all his able colleagues especially Associate editors Dr. M.V.R. Reddy and Dr. D.N. Rao. It covers a broad spectrum of tropical diseases like filariasis, malaria, leprosy, tuberculosis, leishmaniasis, aspergillosis and water borne diseases. The papers give a glimpse of the magnitude of the problem of the tropical diseases in many countries of the world with emphasis on India. The aspects covered range from epidemiology, control measures or attempts at eradication by various agencies, their successes and failures, scientific achievements on diagnosis, treatment, immunological aspects, developments made so far on diagnosis, treatment, immunological aspects, development of new drugs including medicinal plants, basic aspects on the understanding of the virulence of pathogenic strains, Panel Discussions to take stock of the existing situation and suggestions for future course of action and research regarding the unfulfilled goals.

A word about Sevagram, the venue of the present symposium is useful to those readers of IJCB who have not visited this place so far. Unlike most of the other medical institutions, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Jannalal Bajaj Tropical Disease Research Center, Sevagram is in a true rural setting of India and away from noise, crowds and pollution. Gandhian Bhajans (prayer), moto of service and peace of mind provide the rejuvenating air at Sevagram. The director of this institution, Dr. Sushila Nayar, a disciple of Gandhiji maintains with zeal and dedication Gandhian ideals of bringing the best of medicine and medical education to the doorsteps of the needy villagers of India. Truly it is the Village of Service, as the Sanskrit name Sevagram means.

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