

Note from the President and Director of the Institute

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) is a research and technology development institute under the Ministry of Science and Technology. In 2005, the Ministry set apart a corpus of Rs 600 crores for enhancing capital assets for research and technology development. This is not a onetime corpus but annual instalments, given under the budget. SCTIMST has already used up Rs 370 crores on just meeting operational expenditure. If the same rate continues, it will exhaust the corpus in 6 years. In the previous financial year, the excess of expenditure over income amounted to 72 crores in the hospital wing and 11 crores in the biomedical technology wing. Considering the very strained financial position, we have to simultaneously look at raising revenue, seek one time assistance from the ministry to clear our backlog accumulated over several years, tighten spending whenever possible and seek funding from trusts and foundations. Tata Trust sanctioned Rs 3 crores a few days ago for purchase of cardiac equipment. The institute has to find ways of supporting development of new programs, renovating the Institute, providing high tech equipment, improving research labs, operation theatres and ICUs. In order to reduce the long waiting list of patients registered with the institute, it has to provide telemedicine links to feeder districts in Kerala and Tamil Nadu to increase the outreach. Strong financial control and management systems have to be put in place urgently and careful planning done for the next 5 years, keeping in mind the income likely to be garnered. There is a mammoth task ahead and it is necessary that we work as a team towards this goal. Ministry of Science and Technology has been understanding of the needs of the Institute and they have helped with sanction of funds for a new technology research centre at the Biomedical technology wing as well as a Rs 10 crore increase in the annual budget, compared to the previous year. The finance officers from DST visited the institute to examine its financial matters and they are trying to help within the constraints of the DST budget. They expect the institute to pitch in with more efforts to raise revenue and cut down expenditure whenever possible.

In order to urgently raise finances to meet running expenditure, the out-patient charges (that were initially planned to be raised to Rs750 for new registrations and Rs 500 for review patients), have been revised to Rs 500 and Rs 300 respectively. After 3 years, a 15% increase has been applied to inpatient services. Hospital charges that were lower than CGHS packages for ten in-patient procedures were enhanced to cover the difference. All revisions were made in consultation with the finance division of the DST and without affecting the percentage of concession given to deserving, economically weaker sections of the patients seeking treatment from the Institute.

All employees are requested to support these efforts for sustaining the Institute and its services and research activities.

Place:Thiruvananthapuram

Date: 2-1-16