

The World Health Organization's "World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2021" was observed by the Department of Microbiology & Hospital Infection Control Unit from 18th-24th November 2021 and the following activities were conducted. The theme was "Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance" with the slogan "Antimicrobials; Handle with care"

On 18th November 2021, banners and posters were installed along with the badge distribution for the hospital staffs as part of the awareness spread.

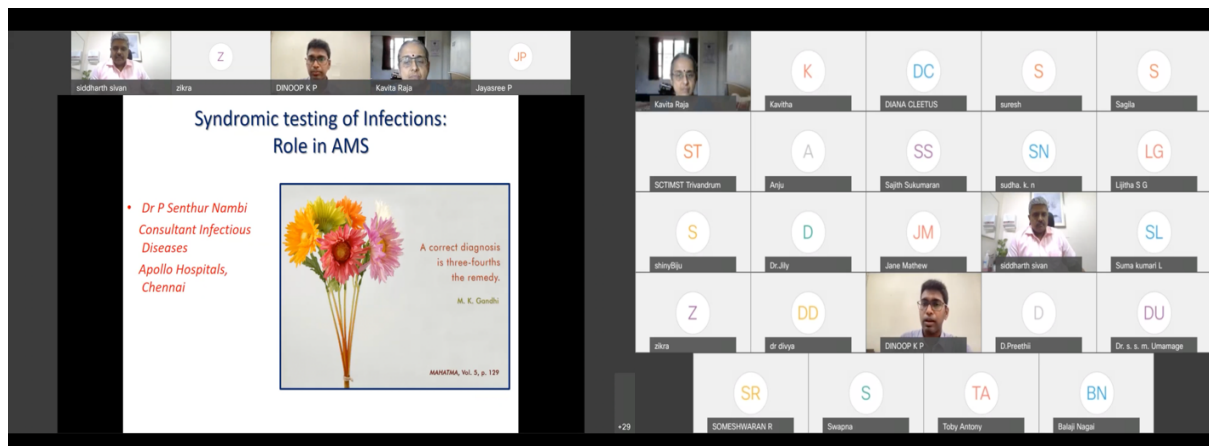
An outreach programme was conducted for the clinicians and nurses at the Apex Trauma and Emergency Learning Centre of General Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. Kavita Raja, Senior Professor & Head - Microbiology delivered a lecture on the topic "Antimicrobials: Appropriate use". Around 50 clinicians and nursing staffs had attended the awareness programme. Dr. Dinoop KP, Assistant Professor - Microbiology and Ms. Anasooya, Assistant Nursing Superintendent also delivered subsequently talks on the "Role of microbiology laboratory in antimicrobial stewardship" and "Health-care associated infections and care-bundle approach" respectively.



On 19th November 2021, Dr. Kavita Raja delivered as guest lecture on “ Interpretation of culture and sensitivity reports” during a webinar organised by National Health Mission (NHM), Kerala for clinicians and nursing staffs. Around 170 participants across Kerala had participated in the online webinar series.

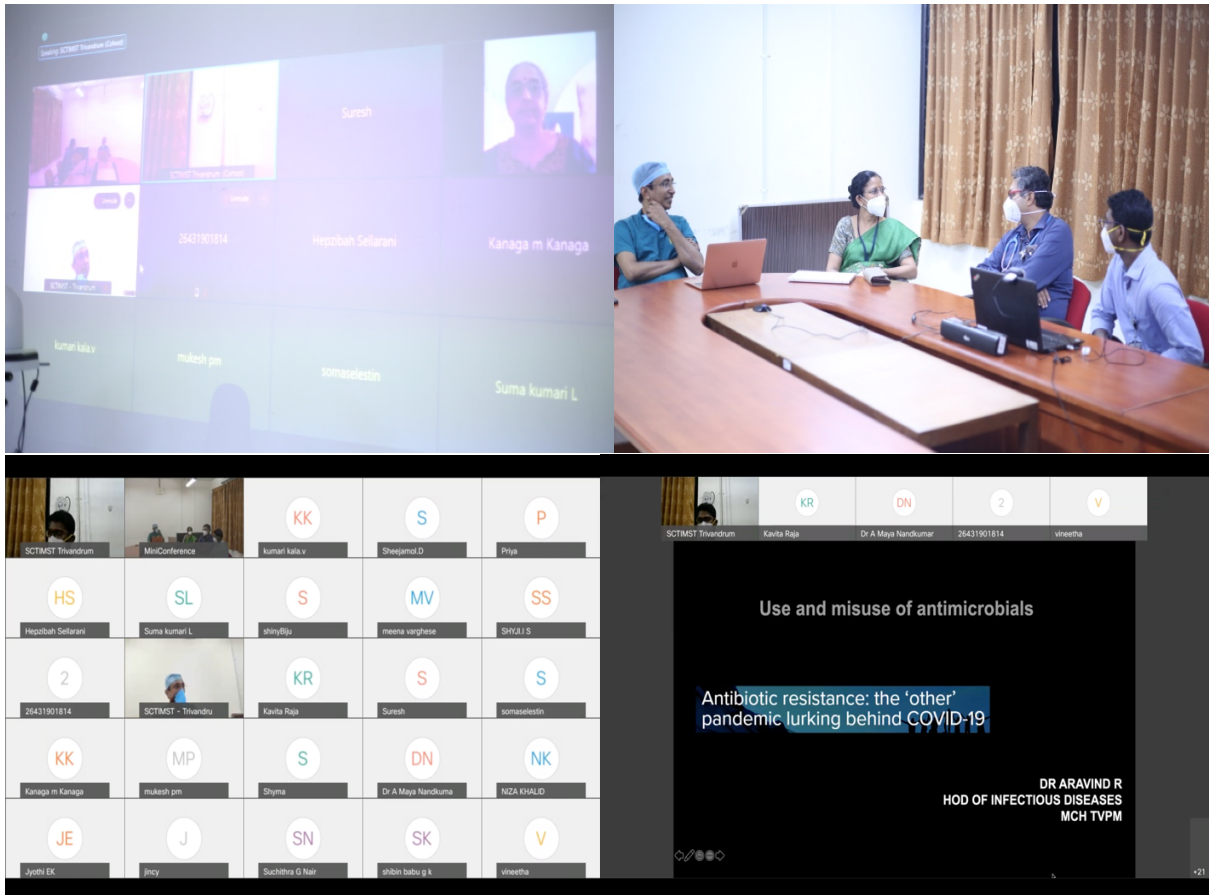


On 20th November 2021, an online webinar was organised. Dr. Senthur Nambi, Consultant – Infectious Diseases, Apollo Hospitals delivered a lecture on the “Role of syndromic testing for infections in antimicrobial stewardship”



On 22nd November 2021, a live telemedicine panel discussion was organised. The topic of discussion was “ Antimicrobials: Handle with care”

Dr. Kavita Raja gave the welcome and introductory speech followed by Dr. Easwer, Professor & Head - Neurosurgery and Dr. Sylaja, Professor & Head - Neurology sharing their experiences in the use of antimicrobials in their respective fields. Dr. Aravind, HOD – Infectious Diseases, MCH – Thiruvananthapuram spoke on the topic “Use and misuse of antimicrobials” with details on the various measures taken by Kerala Antimicrobial Resistance Strategic Action Plan (KARSAP) to curb antimicrobial resistance. Dr. Dinoop, Assistant Professor – Microbiology discussed the impact of a single antimicrobial stewardship intervention on the antibiogram of a surgical unit.



In view of this awareness programme, competitions under various categories were announced which included poster, slogan and short story writing in both English and Malayalam themes. Exuberant and enthusiastic participation was noted. All the posters and prize-winning slogans & short stories were displayed in the display boards set up in the patient waiting areas for spreading awareness among the public.



The Valedictory function was conducted on November 23rd 2021. The function was chaired by Prof. Rupa Sreedhar, Medical Superintendent and cochaired by Dr. Krishnakumar-AMS, Dr. Manju Nair – AMO and Ms. Hepzibah Sella Rani – DNS. Prizes for the various competitions conducted were distributed during the function.





On November 24th, 2021, an online webinar was organised. Dr. Anup Warriar, Senior Consultant – Infectious Diseases, Aster Medcity, Kochi and Dr. Navjeet Singh, Head - Medical Affairs, Biomerieux India Pvt. Ltd delivered lectures on “Role of Diagnostics solutions in implementing antimicrobial stewardship” and “Antimicrobial resistance: Challenges and Diagnostics solutions” respectively.

On December 1st 2021, a guest lecture was delivered by Dr. Dinoop KP for the residents and faculty of Department of Paediatrics, SAT Hospital-Trivandrum on “Diagnostic Stewardship – Recent updates” organised in view of WAAW-2021 by Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP)-Thiruvananthapuram and Department of Paediatrics, SAT Hospital, GMC – Thiruvananthapuram.