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Letter from HOD Desk

With a vision of providing world class patient care service along with research and development, the Clinical Microbiology Department of LHMC is playing a crucial role in patient care using traditional and innovative diagnostics. The department manages a diverse range of challenges like emerging pathogens, rapidly evolving technologies, health care-acquired infections, antibiotic resistant organisms, and diverse patient populations in addition to the routine diagnostics, teaching programmes for MBBS, M.D, BSc Nursing and other paramedic courses as well as research.

The various laboratories of the department include Bacteriology Mycology, Mycobacteriology, Serology, Parasitology, Virology, HIV & Molecular laboratory.

The State Reference Laboratory for HIV testing at LHMC was the first laboratory among the SRLs from Delhi to be accredited as per ISO15189: 2012 norms by NABL .

The Mycology and Virology laboratories have been upgraded to Advanced mycology diagnostic and research facility & Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) respectively. Both the laboratories are giving service to the patients and played a crucial role during the COVID 19 pandemic. Recently the Virology laboratory has also started doing RT-PCR for Zika virus.

Automated culture by MIGIT as well as molecular diagnostics using Truenat and CBNAT has been standardized and started in the Mycobacteriology laboratory in addition to a separate Molecular diagnostic facility for viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens.

The Department has also recently procured MALDI-TOF for rapid identification of bacteria & fungi . This technique can identify the organism isolated from sample in less than an hour and therefore helps in reducing turnaround time resulting in early diagnosis and better patient outcomes.

Regular participation in External Quality Assessment programmes ensures quality of the laboratory results.

The HAI section has well trained staff and is a part of the CDC-AIIMS HAI Surveillance program. Training programs on Infection control are mandatory for new recruits at all levels and includes health care associated infection prevention, management of biomedical waste, proper collection of samples, antibiotic stewardship and occupational hazards.

The department also contributes to prevention and control of infectious diseases by partnering with and providing support to public health organisations. Faculty from the department are often deputed to be part of the Emergency medical relief teams sent by the Government of India to various epidemic hit areas.

The Department provides support to a wide range of clinical services from infectious disease diagnosis and treatment, to infection prevention and control as well as antimicrobial stewardship thus contributing directly to patient care, policy, and practice at individual, institutional, and community levels.

All efforts will be taken in the future to overcome any challenges and improve quality of services provided ensuring maximum support to the clinicians and patients.