ON TARGETS

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Extending Networks under TARGETS: Collaboration between MAAS-CHRD and LEPRA Society in India

Towards the aim of developing partnerships and research networks under TARGETS, MAAS, a TARGETS partner based in Pune, India, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LEPRA Society, a non-governmental organization based in Secunderabad, a city in the South eastern state of Andhra Pradesh, India. LEPRA Society works on Leprosy, TB, HIV and Malaria in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. It aims to restore health, hope and dignity to the people affected by leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS and other allied diseases and conditions caused by them. MAAS and LEPRA Society are currently collaborating on a project examining coordination between the public and private sectors for effective management of HIV, TB and co-infection. Given LEPRA's presence in tribal areas, there are also plans to conduct studies and introduce interventions which will improve access to health care for tribal populations and reduce their vulnerability to communicable diseases. The MoU is a move towards formalizing this collaboration and will provide opportunities for researchers at MAAS-CHRD to conduct policy and intervention research in various settings. The MoU was formally signed by Professor R. K. Mutatkar, President, MAAS and Dr. P. V. Ranganadha Rao, Chief Executive, LEPRA Society, at the LEPRA head office on the 25th of August 2006. Dr. John Porter, Director of TARGETS from LSHTM was also present on this occasion.

MoU Signing Event: 25th August 2006
Dr. P. V. Ranganadha Rao, Chief Executive, LEPRA Society (Left) and Prof. R. K. Mutatkar, President, MAAS (Right)

Contributed by Abhay Kudale

DCVRN Meeting Report

Daniel Chandramohan from the TARGETs consortium took part in the 5th meeting of the Developing County Vaccine Regulators Network (DCVRN) organised by the World Health Organisation in Bali, 13-17 November 2006. The current membership of DCVRN includes Brazil, China, Cuba, Indonesia, India, South Africa, South Korea and Thailand. WHO took the initiative to organise the DCVRN in response to the increasing demand for regulating and enforcing good clinical practice (GCP) in clinical trials and good manufacturing practices (GMP) of vaccines in developing countries. Increasingly vaccines are developed, tested and produced in developing countries not only for use within the country of manufacturing but also for export. The DCVRN has embarked on building capacity in the member states and in other developing countries to monitor, regulate and enforce GCP and GMP standards. As a first step the DCVRN is developing a training manual for GCP inspectors. Daniel shared his experience in running clinical trials and conducting GCP monitoring in Africa with the DCVRN members in this meeting and he is now assisting this group in producing the GCP inspection manual.

For more information on TARGETS see www.lshtm.ac.uk/dfid/targets or email alexandra.coldham@lshtm.ac.uk

TARGETS receives funding from DFID and conducts research to generate effective tools and strategies for communicable disease control

Our Partners

MAAS-CHRD, Pune, India
Ifakara HRDC, Tanzania
INDEPTH Network, Accra, Ghana
KNCV, The Hague, Netherlands
Makerere Medical College, Uganda
ZAMBART, the Zambian AIDS-related Tuberculosis project, Lusaka, Zambia