

MMM, MedGenome join hands, open lab

To take up research on cardiac diseases 'Cardio-Vascular Diseases deaths in India accounts for 25% of total population'

NT Bureau

Chennai, July 18:

The Madras Medical Mission (MMM) and MedGenome, a genomics based diagnostics and research company, have collaborated for research on cardiac diseases and inaugurated the second phase of the state-of-the-art Genomic laboratory.

Addressing mediapersons here on Monday, MMM director, Cardiology, Dr Mullasari Ajit S said, 'We are happy to associate with Glasgow University to realise our mission of providing world-class healthcare and engaging state-of-the-art technologies. We are at an advantage to have the most updated NGS tech-



Madras Medical Mission director, Cardiology, Dr Mullasari Ajit, Glasgow University, Cardiology and Imaging professor Dr Colin Berry and MedGenome COO Dr V L Ramprasad addressing the media at MMM campus, Mugappair in Chennai on Monday.

nologies required for this research, in vicinity through MedGenome. Therefore, we are keen to bring the best of the evidence based medicine through collaborative research for the benefit of masses here in India,' said, MMM, Cardiology director Dr Mullasari Ajit S.

'We MedGenome and MMM have collaborated for research on cardiac diseases such as Coronary Artery Diseases including myocardial infarction (heart attack), pulmonary arterial hypertension, cardiomyopathies and sudden cardiac deaths / arrhythmia. Last year, we both set up a state-of-the art genomic laboratory that will serve for all clinical and diagnostic

research purposes at the hospital premises. In the second phase II, we are taking this association one notch up by undertaking research projects,' said Glasgow University, Cardiology and Imaging professor Colin Berry.

Speaking on the occasion, MedGenome chief operating officer Dr V L Ramprasad said, 'Cardio-Vascular Diseases (CVD) deaths in India accounts for 25 per cent of the total, and in that ischemic heart disease and stroke are the predominant causes responsible for more than 80 per cent of CVD deaths. Addressing this significant burden requires an understanding of both the biological and social

determinants, and the complex dynamics underlying their interaction including the genetic factors.'

The research and diagnostic lab will offer Next-Generation Sequencing based genomic solutions to provide insights into complex diseases at the genetic and molecular level which will cover Exome Sequencing, RNA Sequencing, and Panel Sequencing.

The centre has a complete infrastructure for sample collection and initial processing. It provides productive and efficient environment for interaction between MedGenome and MMM staff which has led to the onset of many projects in cardiovascular research.