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स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार

कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

ICMR-NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare, Government of India

Dr. Manoj Murhekar, M.D
Director



Date:20.08.2024

It is with great pleasure that I, Dr. Manoj Murhekar, Director of the ICMR National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), nominate Dr. P. Ganeshkumar, Scientist E and Head of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) division at ICMR NIE, for the Sun Pharma Research Fellowships Award. Dr. Ganeshkumar's extensive experience, remarkable contributions to public health, and unwavering dedication to advancing epidemiological research and practice make him an exceptional candidate for this prestigious recognition.

Experience and Expertise in Public Health and Epidemiology

Dr. Ganeshkumar has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership in the field of public health, particularly in the area of non-communicable diseases. He has successfully led several high-impact implementation research projects that address critical public health challenges in India, focusing on hypertension and diabetes control. His ongoing projects, including the India Hypertension Control Initiative (www.ihci.in) and Scaling up Community-based Interventions to Improve the Control of Hypertension and Diabetes in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, exemplify his commitment to leveraging India's National NCD Program to enhance health outcomes at the community level. The IHCI project has received the United Nations Interagency taskforce award 2022 for implementing the NCD control program at primary care in 2022. IHCI's information system initiative for tracking hypertension patients has received the National eGovernance Gold Award 2024.

Teaching and Training Excellence

Dr. Ganeshkumar is a course coordinator, faculty member, and mentor for the India Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETP). This program trains the public health officials of the national and state governments on key field epidemiological skill such as epidemiological analysis, outbreak investigation, public health surveillance and evaluation of program. This

played a pivotal role in strengthening the health system of the state. His contributions to the design and implementation of in-service Intermediate FETP programs, as well as his extensive experience with Learning Management Systems and e-learning platforms, have significantly advanced public health training in India.

Furthermore, Dr. Ganeshkumar's expertise in surveillance, pandemic preparedness, and emergency response has been instrumental during critical times. He has framed and implemented COVID-19 surveillance and response strategies and established robust hospital, field, and digital telehealth systems. His leadership in disaster response during the Kerala floods in 2018 and Chennai floods in 2015 further underscores his capacity to deliver impactful public health interventions during emergencies.

Research and Program Implementation

Dr. Ganeshkumar's research portfolio is both extensive and impactful. As Principal Investigator and Co-PI, he has successfully designed, conducted, and reported on 23 funded research projects, leading to over 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals with H-index of 18.

His notable research projects include:

- Estimating the Cascade of Care of Hypertension Patients at Community and its Improvement on Introducing WHO HEARTS Package under India Hypertension Control Initiative, funded by ICMR.
- Scaling up Community Interventions to Improve the Control of Hypertension and Diabetes in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, funded by the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD).
- National Noncommunicable Disease Monitoring Survey 2017-18, funded by ICMR.
- Strengthening Capacity in India to Prevent Avoidable Epidemics, Early Detection of Disease Threats, and Rapid and Effective Response, funded by the CDC, USA.

These projects reflect his profound understanding of epidemiological principles and his ability to translate research into actionable public health interventions.

Overall, Dr. P. Ganeshkumar is a distinguished scientist whose contributions to public health, particularly in the field of NCDs, have had a lasting impact on India's health landscape. His leadership, research excellence, and dedication to teaching and mentoring future public

health professionals make him an exemplary candidate for the Sun Pharma Research Fellowships Award. I strongly support his nomination and believe that his recognition will further inspire his continued contributions to public health in India and beyond.

Sincerely,



Dr. Manoj Murhekar
Director, ICMR National Institute of Epidemiology,
Chennai.