

Profile : Dr Manjula Singh

Dr. Manjula Singh, is Scientist F (Deputy Director General), at (ICMR), New Delhi, India. She is a Medical Doctor with DNB training in DVD, and Ph.D in 'Immunology'. She has a vast experience of over 18 years in the areas of Tuberculosis, leprosy & HIV research and has successfully steered several research programmes including Indo-US collaboration on tuberculosis research and clinical trials.

Dr Manjula Singh is the co-ordinator of leading clinical and implementation research studies on TB. Dr Singh is the key person involved in the establishment and co-ordination of activities under '**India TB Research consortium**' (ITRC), a flagship programme of ICMR focussed on identifying gaps, develop strategies and build program through consortium approach. ITRC has an aim to advance technology and product development by harnessing interdisciplinary expertise, through building within the country and global partnerships. Under her diligent ITRC has strengthened scientific capabilities and undertook development of new tools and strategies in four thematic areas (diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, and implementation research) of TB research to tackle TB in a mission mode which has won the prestigious International 'KOCHON Prize' 2017 for accelerating TB R&D in the country. She is co-ordinating several studies on newer drug regimen, newer diagnostics, and implementation strategies under ITRC. Her research under ITRC has led to building high quality research infrastructure and human capacity for biomedical research. It has led to successful development and validation of many new screening and diagnostic tools, Drug regimen, novel Implementation strategies for supporting TB Mukh Bharat. She has conceptualized and is leading the development of an AI tool for identification of TB and Non-TB conditions in Chest X-rays jointly with Institute of Plasma research which has been recently approved as screening tool and has been incorporated in the NTEP.

She was the PI and co-ordinator of one of the largest Phase III TB multi-centric vaccine trial with two TB vaccines for prevention of TB in healthy household contacts of TB cases which was successfully completed recently despite Covid-19 pandemic. She has successfully led various studies like validation of Handheld X-rays which was used in one of her field studies on demonstrating TB elimination in a high TB prevalence districts in India, new models for active case findings for use at peripheral health system for effective coverage in most remote areas including tribal areas.

She and her team have been recognised for her contributions to research through international and national awards like 'BMJ infectious disease initiative of the year in 2018' and National e-Governance award, 2019 by Ministry of Public Reforms & Public Grievances, Government of India for 'Outstanding research on citizen centric services' by research Institutions for undertaking the multicentric research of mobile TB diagnostics and intervention in tribal areas in 5 states of India through ICMR Institutes. She has served as a member of National Technical Resource Group of National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), Central TB Division, MoHFW and member of WHO's Global Task Force on TB Research. She has been the coordinator of TB research activities of the 'BRICS TB research network' from ICMR and was actively involved in planning and executing multi-country research activities among BRICS countries.

Currently, Dr Singh is the Programme Officer in Division of Delivery Research at ICMR Hqrs leading and coordinating various studies under ITRC.