



**Date and duration of the Conference** : September, 2013; 4 days

The ISOPOL (International Symposium on Problems of Listeriosis) meeting occurs every three to four years. The first meeting took place in 1957 in Giessen, Germany and since then sixteen ISOPOLs have been held in different parts of the world.

The ISOPOL meeting has focused its interest on scientific research in several areas, i.e., the clinical, veterinary, and public health areas as well as the food industry. The ISOPOL meeting attracts scientists of all ages from different parts of the world and with different interests. This provides for a very warm and congenial atmosphere and leads to an interactive exchange of ideas.

This premier international meeting on *Listeria monocytogenes* will include discussion topics on: Molecular Pathogenesis; Virulence; Genomics, Proteomics, Immunology; Epidemiology, Surveillance and Outbreak Investigations; Detection, Isolation, Identification and Subtyping Methods; Persistence and Control in Foods and the Environment; and Risk Assessment and Regulatory Policy.

### **The Topic**

Listeriosis is an important bacterial infection, which occurs in a variety of animals including humans, and arises mainly from the ingestion of contaminated food. The disease is caused by two members of the genus *Listeria* namely, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *L. ivanovii*.

Murray, Webb, and Swann first published a description of *Listeria monocytogenes* in 1926. *Listeria monocytogenes* is an opportunistic pathogen of human beings and various animal species and is the causative agent of serious epidemic and sporadic food-borne illness (listeriosis). *Listeria monocytogenes* is an intracellular organism that typically affects patients with decreased cell mediated immunity such as the elderly, transplant recipients, cancer patients, pregnant women, dialysis patients, patients with diabetes mellitus and those with HIV infection. The organism is ubiquitous, found in decaying vegetation, soil, and sewage, and it also has been implicated as a food-borne pathogen. The ubiquity of *L.monocytogenes* in food processing, distribution and retail environments, coupled with its inherent resistance to environmental stresses, especially cold, and ability to grow in many foods, including those stored refrigerated, makes this pathogen particularly difficult to both manage and regulate. All 12 recognized serovars of the pathogen are known to cause human listeriosis, but serovars 1/2a, 1/2b and 4b are associated with most of the cases. *L. ivanovii* mainly affects ruminants, causing abortion, only occasionally occurring in man.

In India, studies on molecular epidemiological aspects of *Listeria monocytogenes* are lacking. Therefore, we do not know the genetic variability of strains isolated and their epidemic potential. The comparative genomics of *Listeria* isolates from India should help to establish the characteristics of the *L. monocytogenes* strains responsible for epidemics, and allow the developing of new diagnostic tools and molecular typing. This would not only help in better understanding of the sources of infection and their risk assessment, routes of transmission of the infective agent, influencing factors, clinical forms and virulence characteristic of the pathogenic isolates of *Listeria* in order to diagnose the infection rapidly and reliably but also in instituting the effective control measures.

The symposium will give an impetus to the research on molecular biology of various pathogens. Young scientists will have an opportunity to interact with the researchers from leading laboratories across the world.

**For the first time ever, the ISOPOL meeting will take place in Asia.**

Tentative **list of Technical sessions:**

- a. Molecular Biology of *Listeria monocytogenes*
- b. *Listeria monocytogenes* as a human and animal pathogen
- c. Molecular Epidemiologic and clinical aspects of *Listeria monocytogenes* and listeriosis
- d. Strategies for prevention and control of *Listeria monocytogenes*
- e. Communication, risk perception and consumer practices - social sciences in *Listeria* control

**The Host:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Formerly known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was established on 16 July, 1929. The Council is the apex body for co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. With 97 ICAR institutes and 45 agricultural universities spread across the country this is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.

The ICAR has played a pioneering role in ushering Green Revolution and subsequent developments in agriculture in India through its research and technology development, thus making a visible impact on the national food and nutritional security. It has played a major role in promoting excellence in higher education in agriculture. It is engaged in cutting edge areas of science and technology development and its scientists are internationally acknowledged in their fields.

The ICAR has a particular interest in food safety and is a dominant organization in India in this area with, amongst other initiatives has established Referral Laboratories and a major presence in research and communication projects. Concerning bacterial food safety, *Listeria* has been a constant interest and our Institute has been represented in the last 3 ISOPOL conferences.

**Organizing agencies :** Indian Association for Veterinary Public Health Specialists.

National Association for Welfare of Animals and Research

**The venue:**

Goa is acclaimed international tourist destination with good conference facilities and hotels. Goa has carved a niche as an internationally renowned and most sought after tourist destination. Goa is served by a modern international airport, which is about 30 km from its capital city, Panaji and readily accessible by public transport and taxis. The City of Panaji is at the mouth of the *Mandovi* river. Goa is an attractive location and a preferred destination for conferences and congresses, in all the areas. As such has a range of facilities in all segments, including 5-star hotels.

**For further details please contact**

**Dr. S. B. Barbuddhe, Senior Scientist**

**ICAR Research Complex for Goa**

**Old Goa 403402 India**

**Tel. +91 832 2284678**

**Fax. +91 832 2285649**

**E.mail. [barbuddhesb@gmail.com](mailto:barbuddhesb@gmail.com)**

**[isopolxviii@gmail.com](mailto:isopolxviii@gmail.com)**