

YRGCARE



## YRG CARE AT A GLANCE

2002-2004

### Legal Information

<b>Name of the Organization</b>	.....	Y.R. Gaitonde Medical, Educational and Research Foundation
<b>Status</b>	.....	Non-Profit. Registered as a Deed of Trust. Incomes exempt from taxes u/s 12 of the Indian Income Tax Act. Donations are eligible deductions for donors u/s 80G of the same act. Registered with the Foreign Contributions Regulations Act, Ministry of Home Affairs, Union Government (FCRA #0759 00 530).
<b>Programme Name</b>	.....	YRGCARE (Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education)
<b>Registered Office</b>	.....	15, East Street, Kilpauk Garden Colony, Kilpauk, Chennai 600010
<b>Address for Communication</b>	.....	YRG CARE, Voluntary Health Services Taramani, Chennai 600113, India. Tel: (91 44) 22542929 Fax: 91 44 22542939 Email: info@yrgcare.org

### Trustees

<b>Mr. KY Gaitonde</b> <i>Plot No. 3495 80, Block J Anna Nagar Chennai 600 102 Tel: 91 44 6262988 Occupation: Business</i>	<b>Mr. DY Gaitonde</b> <i>1091/B-3 Hare Krishna Mandir Road Model Colony Road Pune - 411 016 Tel: 91 20 5653895 Occupation: Management Consultant</i>
<b>Mr. VY Gaitonde</b> <i>33/B Josier Street Nungambakkam Chennai 600 034 Tel: 91 44 8253982 Retired Company Executive</i>	<b>Dr. Suniti Solomon</b> <i>F-51 A First Main Road Anna Nagar Chennai 600 102 Tel: 91 44 6263106 Occupation: Physician</i>

**Founder-Director :** Dr Suniti Solomon. [suniti@yrgcare.org](mailto:suniti@yrgcare.org)

Bankers	Internal Auditors	Statutory Auditor	Legal Advisor
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## YRG CARE has Two Committees that serve to review the Research Projects

### Institutional Review Board

Since 1999, YRG CARE has evolved and established the Institutional Review Board (IRB), an ethical committee which currently has empowered a 15-member Institutional Review Board, made up of physicians, lawyers, social scientists, social workers, academicians, health care consumers and providers and members of the community served by YRG CARE. The task of the IRB is to ensure that all research conducted by YRG CARE and its collaborators is in compliance with the highest ethical standards as set by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the National Institutes of Health. The YRG CARE IRB has authority to review and approve, comment, and/or disapprove any research activity occurring at YRG CARE. This is done through a careful review of protocols, informed consent documents, case report forms, other research documents and research department practices as well as maintains its cultural acceptability. Ethical principles strengthen the quality of the research process while it protects the research participants from any risks and harm and provides the participants with adequate benefit for their participation in the research program.

<b>Members of the YRG CARE Institutional Review Board (YRG CARE IRB)</b>	
<p><b>Dr SP Thyagarajan MSc, PhD, DSc.</b>  <b>IRB Chairman</b>                      Vice Chancellor-University of Madras</p>	
<p><b>Dr Jayakar Paul MD</b>                      General Physician                      Chennai</p>	<p><b>Ms Sarah Chanda MA</b>                      Social Worker                      YWCA                      Chennai</p>
<p><b>Dr Suresh Kumar MD MPH</b>                      Psychiatrist- Institute of Mental Health                      Chennai</p>	<p><b>Dr. T. Rajkumar MD, DM, PhD</b>                      Director of Research                      Cancer Institute, Chennai</p>
<p><b>Dr. Jyotirmay Biswas, MD</b>                      Ophthalmic Pathologist                      Medical Research Foundation                      Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai</p>	<p><b>Dr. CN Paramasivam PhD, DSc, FAMS</b>                      Deputy Director                      Tuberculosis Research Center                      ICMR, Chennai</p>
<p><b>Dr. Jayapaul Azariah PhD</b>                      Retd. Prof. Of Zoology                      University of Madras, Chennai</p>	<p><b>Dr. Vishwas Gaitonde MBBS MA</b>                      Clinical Research Consultant                      YRG CARE, Chennai</p>
<p><b>Dr. Malathy Duraisamy PhD</b>                      Prof. of Economics,                      Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai</p>	<p><b>Dr. M. Ganapathy MD</b>                      Dean - Government General Hospital (Retd)                      Chennai</p>
<p><b>Mr. Arvind Subramaniam BL</b>                      Advocate                      Chennai</p>	<p><b>Mr. Benjamin Franklin MA</b>                      Development Consultant                      Chennai</p>
<p><b>Mr. K. K. Abraham HSSC</b>                      President                      Indian Network of People Living with                      HIV/AIDS, Chennai</p>	<p><b>Ms. Geetha Ramaseshan BL</b>                      Advocate                      Chennai</p>

### Community Advisory Board (as on May 2004)

The YRG CARE Community Advisory Board (CAB) was set up in 2000 and currently consists of more than 20 members. The members are both direct and indirect stakeholders. Direct stakeholders include people living with HIV and those at high risk of infection. Indirect stakeholders are those individuals involved in a variety of occupations with a genuine interest in community growth, HIV/AIDS issues and research and include doctors, lawyers, and Rotarians. The mission of the CAB is to foster partnership between researchers and the local study communities impacted by HIV/AIDS. The members participate in bi-monthly meetings and discuss medical, legal, ethical and religious issues surrounding the research within the communities. The members voice their concerns based upon their involvement in their respective communities and provide feedback on issues under discussion.

<b>Fr. Xavier Alphonse SJ</b> CAB Chair Director-MCRDCE Chennai	<b>Mrs. Malini Balakrishnan</b> CAB Co-Chair Administrative Office (Society) Voluntary Health Services, Chennai
<b>Dr. Sheila Shyam Prasad</b> Gurukul Clinic Chennai	<b>Dr. Shakuntala Suresh Kumar</b> Psychiatrist Chennai
<b>Ms. Nithya Balaji</b> Executive Director Nalamdana, Chennai	<b>Mr. Sunil Menon</b> Sahodaran Chennai
<b>Ms. Thangam Menon</b> Social Activist Chennai	<b>Ms. Romola James</b> Counselor YRG CARE, Chennai
<b>Ms. Sheila Jayaprakash</b> Advocate, Chennai	<b>Rtn. R.N. Prasad</b> Chennai
<b>Mr. Patrick David</b> Director – Human Resources Ford India Ltd., Chengalpattu	<b>Ms. Anitha Sumanth</b> Social Activist Chennai
<b>Ms. Usha</b> Social Activist Chennai	<b>Ms. Amulu</b> Social Activist Chennai
<b>Ms. Alamelu</b> Social Activist Chennai	<b>Ms. Pushpa</b> Social Activist Chennai
<b>Mr. Sasi</b> Social Activist Chennai	<b>Jeeva</b> Social Activist Chennai
<b>Mr. Shokenraj</b> Social Activist Chennai	<b>Ms. Dhanalakshmi</b> Social Activist Chennai
<b>Ms. Sasikala</b> Social Activist Chennai	<b>Ms. Mary Margaret</b> Social Activist Chennai

## Consortium of Consultants

*A network of HIV friendly specialists who have contributed much to increase the quality of life of our patients over the years*

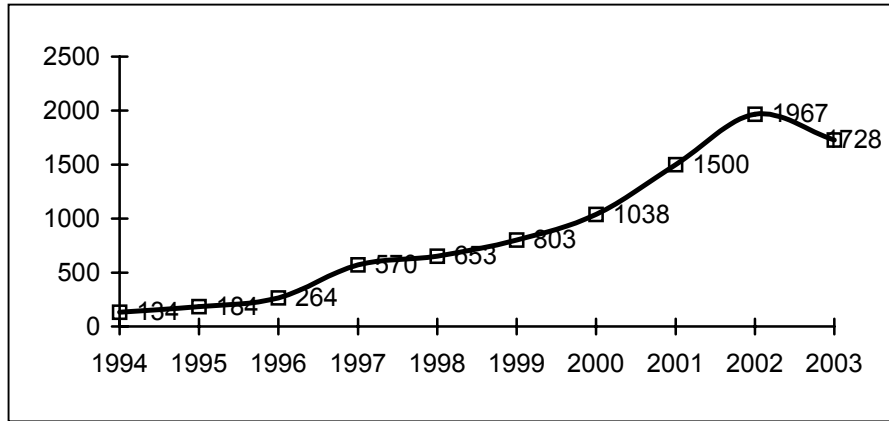
<b>Ophthalmology</b>	Dr J Biswas, Sankara Nethralaya Hospital Dr T Pravin, Adithya Eye Clinic
<b>Obstetrics and Gynecology</b>	Dr Janaki and Dr Cecy Josy Manjila Voluntary Health Services
<b>Internal Medicine</b>	Prof. Jayakar Paul
<b>Pediatrics</b>	Dr SN Mothi Asha Kirana, Mysore
<b>Surgery</b>	Dr NS Murali, Voluntary Health Services Dr Rajakumar, RIGID Hospital.
<b>General Surgery and Laparoscopy</b>	Dr AP Prem, Apollo Hospital.
<b>Dermatology</b>	Prof. Patrick Yesudian Dr Murugunsundaram Dr Anand, Sri Krishna Clinic
<b>Oral and Dental Care</b>	Dr Ranganathan Raagas Dental College
<b>Laboratory Medicine</b>	Prof. SP Thyagarajan
<b>Psychiatry</b>	Dr Suresh Kumar Dr Shakuntala Suresh Kumar
<b>Nephrology</b>	Dr Bhasker Voluntary Health Services
<b>Orthopedics</b>	Dr Ramani and Dr Ravindran Voluntary Health Services
<b>Neurology</b>	Dept of Neurology and Neurosurgery Voluntary Health Services
<b>Diabetology</b>	Dr CV Krishnaswamy and team RIGID Hospital
<b>Gastroenterology</b>	Dr Rajakumar and team RIGID Hospital
<b>ENT</b>	Dr KK Ramalingam KKR ENT Hospital

## Milestones of YRG CARE

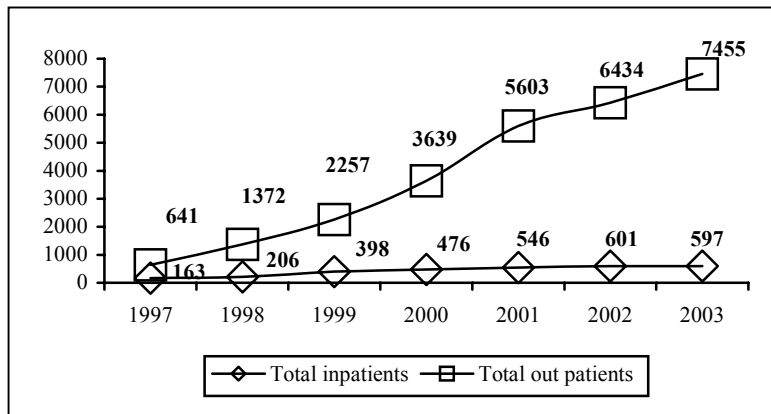
<b>1993</b>	Prevention education to schools and colleges; management, teachers and students
<b>Nov 1993</b>	Voluntary testing for HIV antibodies offered together with Counseling
<b>Nov 1993</b>	YRG CARE begins to function as the confirmation center (Western Blot) for several hospitals and laboratories in Tamil Nadu
<b>Feb 1994</b>	Twice a week evening HIV/STD clinic inaugurated with voluntary services provided by physicians
<b>Jun 1994</b>	HIV/STD clinic strengthened – Functions Monday – Saturday evenings
<b>Dec 1994</b>	Day care for PHA (Saturday afternoons) dedicated; home visits undertaken on call
<b>Nov 1995</b>	Full time physician and nurse recruited; HIV/STD clinic and day care for PHA extended to other working days of the week 10:00 – 18:00 hours
<b>Dec 1995</b>	Peripheral hospital for convalescing patients dedicated at Kottivakkam, Madras; second physician joins; home care strengthened
<b>Dec 1995</b>	Consortium of Consultants formed
<b>Feb 1996</b>	Dr.Suniti Solomon joins Voluntary Health Service Society as their Honorary Consultant for HIV medicine
<b>Feb 1996</b>	VHS – YRG CARE begins to admit and manage patients
<b>Dec 1996</b>	Established the “VHS – YRG CARE Medical Center” with a 16-bed inpatient facility
<b>Dec 1997</b>	Inpatient facility expanded to include a fully furnished day care; functional diet centre and drug and diagnostic support program
<b>1997</b>	Networking with other hospitals and non governmental organisations
<b>1998</b>	Advocacy for the rights of PLHA, women in sex work through referral services to legal organisations and programs for police authorities respectively.
<b>Apr 1998</b>	Women and children’s ward established with 8 beds and a Women’s Reproductive Tract Infection clinic
<b>Oct 1998</b>	Special pediatric outpatient (once a month) initiated
<b>1999</b>	Initiation of Community based behavioural research and expansion of clinical research
<b>Aug 1999</b>	Family Counseling Centre established
<b>1999-2002</b>	Scale-up project for prevention (10 partners in S India) and care and support (4 partner sites in South India)
<b>Dec 2000</b>	VHS-YRG CARE Infectious Diseases Laboratory established
<b>Sept 2001</b>	VHS-YRG CARE Drug Center established
<b>Dec 2002</b>	Tele-Counseling services launched and Learning Resources Unit established
<b>Jan 2003</b>	First exclusive Intensive Care Unit inaugurated
<b>Jul 2003</b>	Inauguration of the extension of the VHS-YRG CARE Infectious Diseases Laboratory by US Ambassador, Dr Jack C Chow (Separate divisions for Serology, sample processing, biochemistry and bio-specimen banking).
<b>Aug 2003</b>	Dedication of the Community Research facility by Dr David D Celentano, Director, Dept. of Epidemiology, John Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA.
<b>2003</b>	Accreditation to University of Madras for doctoral program in Microbiology.
<b>2003-2004</b>	Coordination with UNICEF and the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society for the School AIDS Education Program in Tamil Nadu.
<b>Feb 2004</b>	World Health Organization selected YRG CARE as a training site for the South-east Asian Region countries on counseling and laboratory procedures.
<b>Mar 2004</b>	Further expansion of the lab to include Olympus AU 400 (precision biochemistry), Sysmex KX 21 for 18 parameter hematology, development of HIV resistance assay, successful deployment of the BED-EISA for measuring incidence, evaluation of a cost effective CD4 test; Guava Technology)
<b>2004</b>	First set of doctoral students (5) enrolled into the program for PhD in Microbiology.

**YRG CARE Service statistics**

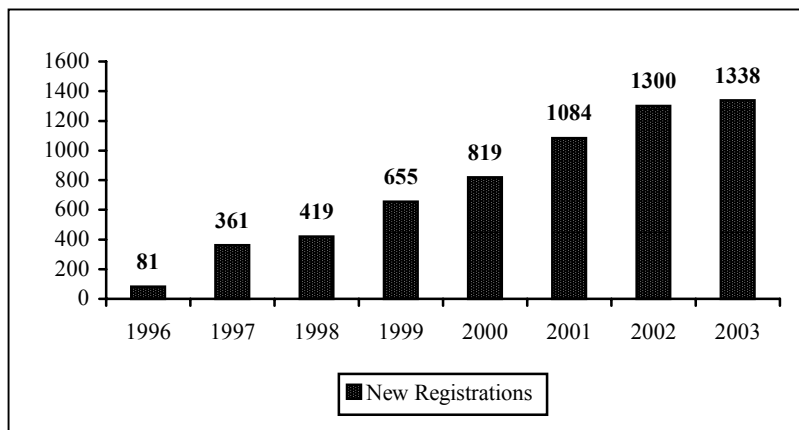
**Voluntary Counseling and Testing Services:** Number of clients since 1995



**In patient/Out Patient care services:** An average of five clients are registered each day.



**New registered patients over the years**



financial Highlights (depicted as Rupees/lakhs)

**BALANCE SHEET as at**

	03/04	03/05	03/06	03/07	03/08	03/09	03/09	03/01	03/02	03/03
<b>Source of Fund</b>										
General Fund	-0.89	1.90	6.59	9.92	13.41	18.09	29.25	49.93	93.40	167.41
Designated Fund	19.41	6.18	6.57	34.59	53.93	23.31	42.09	151.60	237.46	146.79
Endowment Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.13	262.56	282.24
Secured Loans	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.08
Current Liabilities & Provisions	0.03	0.03	0.03	12.60	2.25	3.51	3.97	3.76	24.86	36.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.55</b>	<b>8.11</b>	<b>13.29</b>	<b>57.11</b>	<b>69.59</b>	<b>44.91</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>448.43</b>	<b>618.27</b>	<b>680.62</b>
<b>Application of Fund</b>										
Fixed Assets – Designated	2.86	2.72	2.76	27.36	20.85	14.25	15.42	31.43	104.53	146.51
Fixed Assets - Non Designated	1.34	1.01	0.76	1.35	1.24	2.58	2.42	21.50	19.23	61.03
Investments - Endowment Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.13	262.49	281.72
Investments – Others	0.00	0.47	7.88	18.52	20.00	2.42	16.83	102.95	108.63	48.86
Advances & Deposits, Receivables	1.75	3.85	1.01	4.79	19.52	20.49	27.54	30.52	119.44	83.27
Cash & Bank	12.51	0.06	0.76	5.08	7.98	5.16	13.10	18.90	3.95	29.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.55</b>	<b>8.11</b>	<b>13.29</b>	<b>57.11</b>	<b>69.59</b>	<b>44.91</b>	<b>75.31</b>	<b>448.43</b>	<b>618.27</b>	<b>680.62</b>
<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE A/C</b>										
<b>Income</b>										
Foreign Contributions/Grants	25.63	19.41	21.95	77.08	81.37	31.41	90.43	312.55	392.45	417.76
Local Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.21	5.68	7.20	4.41	4.32	14.43
Donations, Reimbursements & Others	0.04	6.72	7.97	6.92	0.74	7.20	7.65	4.09	9.22	15.93
Lab Test Collections & Service Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.42	10.95	18.71	37.49	44.96
Medical Services revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.36	103.88
<b>Total(A)</b>	<b>25.67</b>	<b>26.13</b>	<b>29.92</b>	<b>84.00</b>	<b>90.31</b>	<b>49.71</b>	<b>116.24</b>	<b>335.77</b>	<b>479.84</b>	<b>596.96</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>										
FCRA Project Expenses	6.21	13.23	21.46	49.05	59.55	63.67	69.91	197.60	370.58	433.54
Local Project Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.25	4.04	7.32	1.41	0.34	1.62
Drugs and Medicines	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.54	83.63
Lab Test Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.85	7.05	10.06	8.20	0.57
Administrative & Other Expenses	0.93	3.93	3.28	3.58	4.96	3.45	0.43	3.72	2.87	4.96
<b>Total(B)</b>	<b>7.14</b>	<b>17.17</b>	<b>24.74</b>	<b>52.64</b>	<b>69.76</b>	<b>76.96</b>	<b>84.72</b>	<b>212.78</b>	<b>410.52</b>	<b>524.32</b>
Excess of income over expenditure (A-B)	18.53	8.97	5.08	31.35	20.56	-25.30	31.52	126.97	69.32	72.64

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We place on record our sincere appreciation for the dedicated work put forth by the staff and consultants of YRGCARE.

## Programme Information

The work of YRGCARE can be broadly categorized as follows:

**AREA 1:** HIV prevention, Community Education and Advocacy

**AREA 2:** HIV/AIDS Care and Support programme

**AREA 3:** Research

**AREA 4:** Training, Capacity Building and the Learning Resources Centre

## HIV PREVENTION COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

### Objectives –

1. to prevent new infections in the community
2. to build support for responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic

### Activities –

Description	Sources of Funding	Duration
Structured programs for small groups of youth, students, teachers and the general community on sexuality and basics of HIV/AIDS	General funds	2002-2004
Training of trainers programs for NGOs on HIV/AIDS, sex and sexuality.	Basic training fee.	2002-2003
YRG CARE as one of the five key NGO partners in The School AIDS Education Project. (DTER, TNSACS and UNICEF)	UNICEF	2003-2004
Developed a set of slides, “Let us Talk about HIV/AIDS” and an information booklet for use by the DTER as part of the SAEP program in partnership with UNICEF, TNSACS and APaC.	UNICEF	2003-2004
Sensitisation programs for industrial workers.	Industries	
Addressing domestic violence in 40 low income settings in Chennai. Through needs assessment focus groups and community meetings, self-help groups, street theater, performances and women’s empowerment events (including dance competitions, cultural programs, testimonials, etc)	Ford Foundation	2003–2006
Community education program	Community contributions	2003-2004

### Highlights:

- Forging of partnerships between the government and non governmental institutes for The School AIDS Education Program between the Department of Education, the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TNSACS), Directorate of Teachers Education Research Training (DTER) and other local NGOs from different districts in Tamil Nadu with financial support from UNICEF aimed at increasing the involvement of Dept. of Education in the HIV prevention efforts of the government.
- Involvement of the Department of Health Services in each of the seven districts in the training of teachers and students on HIV/AIDS, voluntary counseling and testing services, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
- Capacity building of the local NGOs within the districts to serve as resources on issues related to HIV and sexuality to provide further sustenance of the program.
- Provided technical assistance to UNICEF for the development of a module using questionnaire and slides for core trainers (DIET personnel and teachers).

- Continuous guidance and monitoring from the donor organization, UNICEF in the program helped in structured feedback and program evaluation.
- Reviewed the Tamil translated version of “Learning for Life”, a training resource manual by NACO for teachers and students.
- Involvement of HIV Positive Networks and Speakers in the prevention efforts for youth.
- Collection of a large question bank from students reflecting the present day queries on issues related to transmission of HIV and prevention, Basics of HIV, Sex and Sexuality, Treatment and Mother to child transmission. This is to be compiled shortly for training purposes and later translated into the local language.
- Awareness and sensitization programs for industrial personnel from ***Force 1 Security Services***, covering the armed securities personnel and with their assistance conducted another set of programs within the community at a petrol station along the highway which was attended by the petrol station personnel and mobile population like clients of the petrol station and construction workers.
- ***Basic HIV / AIDS Educational programs*** for school and college students; programs for the physically disabled and differently-abled youth, NGO staff, social entrepreneurs, teachers, taxi drivers and special programs for nurses and paramedics.
- Interventions focused on women exposed to domestic violence also inclusive of men in select 40 low-income communities. Intervention is currently in the planning stage.
- Educational and advocacy programs for women students and self help groups within the community.

***Publications:***

1. Stopping HIV Before It Begins: Issues Faced by Women In India. Suniti Solomon, Jessica Buck, Sreekanth Chaguturu, AK Ganesh and N.Kumarasamy. Nature Immunology Vol 4, # 8, August 2003
2. When HIV-Prevention Messages and Gender Norms Clash: The Impact of Domestic Violence on Women’s HIV risk in Slums of Chennai, India. Vivian F. Go, C. Johnson Sethulakshmi, Margaret E.Bentley, Sudha Sivaram, AK Srikrishnan, Suniti Solomon, David D. Celantano. AIDS and Behaviour, Vol 7, No. 3, Sept 2003.
3. “High HIV Prevalence and Risk Behaviours in Men who have sex with men in Chennai, India”. Vivian F. Go, AK Srikrishnan, Sudha Sivaram, G Kailapuri Murugavel, Noya Galai, Sethulakshmi C Johnson, Teerada Sripaipan, Suniti Solomon and David D. Celantano. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr, Vol 35, # 3, March 1, 2004; (Epidemiology and Social Science).
4. HIV in couples in South India; Implications for prevention. M. Chatterjee Rogers, G. Gopalakrishnan, N.Kumarasamy, T.P. Flanigan, C.C.J. Carpenter, K. H. Mayer, S Solomon. Int J STD & AIDS (Under print)
5. Development of an opinion leader-led HIV prevention intervention among alcohol users in Chennai, India. Sudha Sivaram, Aylur K Srikrishnan, Carl A Latkin, Sethulakshmi C Johnson, Vivian F Go, Margaret E Bentley, Suniti Solomon, and David D Celentano. AIDS Education and Prevention, 16(2), 137-149, 2004.

**Abstracts:**

1. HIV/AIDS Counseling by Nurses and Health Care Workers – A YRG CARE Experience. SK Satish Kumar, Suniti Solomon, AK Ganesh, Latha Mani, Shirley A Thomas, Rochelle D’Souza Yephthomi, Kenneth H Mayer. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 24538.
2. How to sustain educational programmes within Industrial Communities. Latha Mani, AK Ganesh, SK Satish Kumar, Easter Thamburaj, Rochelle D’Souza Yephthomi, Sanjay Sathyapalan, Suniti Solomon. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 11375
3. Identifying Peer Opinion Leaders: Key partners in HIV prevention among urban slum communities in Chennai, India. A.K. Srikrishnan, Sudha Sivaram, Sethulakshmi Johnson, Vivian F. Go, Margaret E Bentley, Carl Latkin, Suniti Solomon, David D. Celentano XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 10083
4. Effective use of participatory tools in Sexuality Education. John Easter Thamburaj, A K Ganesh, Satish Kumar, Latha Mani, Rochelle D Souza, Suniti Solomon. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 24648.
5. How to sustain educational programmes within industrial communities. Latha Mani, A K Ganesh, Satish Kumar, Thamburaj, Rochelle D’Souza Yephthomi, Sanjay Sathyapalan, Suniti Solomon. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 11375
6. An innovative sustainable approach to HIV/AIDS awareness in an Industrial unit using Volunteers. Suri Mohan, Latha Mani, AK Ganesh, SK Satish Kumar, J.E. Thamburaj, Rochelle D’Souza Yephthomi, Suniti Solomon. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 26571.
7. Community Advisory Boards. AK Srikrishnan, Suniti Solomon, CK Vasudevan, Priscilla Kabeer, AK Ganesh, Roberta Singal, Kenneth H Mayer. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 24000.
8. “HIV Infection in Women”. S Solomon. 10<sup>th</sup> Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic infections. Boston, MA, USA, Feb 10-14, 2003. Oral Session 22 (Symposium); Abstract #114, pg. 97.
9. Telefilms as an effective tool in industrial HIV intervention programs. Vishwas Gaitonde, SK Satish Kumar, AK Ganesh, R Jeevanandham, A Kalamalini, S Solomon. Abs Ref. No. 14381. XV International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, Thailand, 11-16 July 2004 (Accepted for poster presentation).

## HIV/AIDS CARE and SUPPORT

### Objective –

1. to offer stigma-free voluntary, confidential and anonymous, HIV counseling and testing
2. to provide people living with HIV and their friends/families psychological and social support
3. to give continuum care for people living with HIV/AIDS in a user friendly atmosphere.
4. to provide patients with access to quality low cost technologies for testing and monitoring which are viable in resource-limited settings.

### Activities –

Description	Sources of Funding	Duration
Counseling Services: Pre and posttest counseling, follow-up counseling including nutritional counseling, family counseling, marital counseling, fertility counseling, drug adherence counseling, grief and terminal counseling.	General funds and community donations. We charge no fees for psychosocial support or counseling.	1993- Ongoing
Quality Assured, Quality Controlled Rapid, ELISA and Western Blot testing for HIV	Community Donations, User fees for testing and Research Funds	1993- Ongoing
<u>Clinic services for persons living with HIV</u> Out-patient or ambulatory care In-patient care facility (16 beds) Special rooms ( 2 beds) Intensive Care Unit (2 beds) Female Clinic Pediatric Clinic (once in 2 months) Special A Ward (1 room)	Voluntary Health Services – free use of their TB and Leprosy Block until then vacant	1996- Ongoing
Drug Centre	Initiated through support from Elton John Foundation (2000; Family Health International Rapid Funding program); is currently self-supported.	2000- Ongoing
Fully functional Laboratory with the following departments: <b>Biochemistry, hematology, virology, serology, microbiology, BACTEC for TB culture, mycology and immunology. Includes CD4 counts and Plasma Viral Loads.</b> Drug resistance testing, measuring of incidence and evaluation of low cost techniques for measuring CD4 and PVL.	Research Grants from the Tufts-Brown University Fogarty International AIDS Training Program  Research Grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (US) through the Johns Hopkins University  Research Grant from the National Institute of AIDS and Infectious Diseases (US) through the HPTN Mechanism  User Fees that partially cover the cost of kits, consumables, personnel and facility charges	1996- Ongoing  1999-2005  2001-2006  2000- Ongoing
Referral to affiliate and partner clinics and self-help groups – where patients receive free or subsidized care	Sankara Nethralaya – a renowned vision care centre in Chennai  RAAGAS – an institution of higher learning in oral health	1997- Ongoing  1998- Ongoing

	Voluntary Health Services Ob&Gyn Clinic for normal and C-Section deliveries Indian Network of People living with HIV/AIDS Positive Women's Network , South India	2003- Ongoing 1997- Ongoing 1999- Ongoing
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### Highlights:

- Early and meaningful emphasis on social support and counseling continues
- Counseling services successfully expanded between 1994 and 2004.
- Relevance and importance of follow-up counseling as a means for preventing secondary prevention of HIV being understood and offered
- A user friendly facility that offers anonymity for patients through the use of an alpha-numeric system of patient codes
- Very competent, committed and professional multidisciplinary team trained in the US and Scotland (since 1996)
- One among handful facilities in India that provides comprehensive and integrated services.
- As of March 2004, eight thousand eight hundred and thirteen [8813] clients have walked in for voluntary counseling and testing. Of these, 36.5 % are female.
- The medical clinic has registered and followed up with six thousand one hundred and thirty-two [6132] patients since 1996. Of these, there has been a gradual increase in the number of women; amounting to 31.7% currently. Only 39.2 % male patients and 23.7% female patients of the total numbers who require therapy are on HAART. Special emphasis is given to financial counseling to ensure use of HAART if affordable, or not at all.
- Significant symptom control at low cost and focus on OI treatment and prophylaxis.
- A successful Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV program. Since 1996, our clinical team has assisted with 190 births for HIV positive women using antiretroviral therapy protocols depending upon at which trimester they visit our center. Of the 190 babies who have been tested at 18 months, almost all turned negative with just 4 testing positive. Of these, 98 babies are male and 92 are female. Twelve are yet to test their babies after the window period of 18 months for infants. The clinic provides them with options to reduce the transmission from mother to child and guide and counsel them during this crucial period. Specific antiretroviral protocols, elective cesarean section of delivery and breast-feeding are recommended.
- A consortium of consultants to address special clinical and psychosocial problems.
- Further expansion of the lab to include Olympus AU 400 for biochemistry parameters, Sysmex KX 21 for 18 hematology parameters, development of HIV resistance assay, successful deployment of the BED-EISA for measuring incidence, evaluation of a cost effective CD4 test using GUAVA EasyCD4 Technology.
- Evaluation of low cost monitoring techniques for CD4 and Viral load testing (GUAVA EasyCD4) for implementation in the clinical setting shortly. Cost will reduce from \$27 to approx. \$6.
- “*Guidelines for HIV diagnosis and monitoring of antiretroviral therapy and Laboratory Standard Operating Procedures on CD4 enumeration*”, development of guidelines for WHO-SEARO to be published shortly.

### Publications:

1. Profile of HIV-infected pregnant women and the interventions used in the prevention of perinatal transmission of HIV at a tertiary HIV care center in South India. Purnima Madhivanan, Amudha Hari, N.Kumarasamy, A.Geetha, Kausalya, JS. Lambert, Suniti Solomon. The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of India, Vol 52, No. 2, Mar-Apr 2002, 43-47.

2. "Monitoring HIV treatment in the developing world", N Kumarasamy, Timothy P Flanigan, Anish P Mahajan, Charles C J Carpenter, Kenneth H Mayer, Suniti Solomon. *Lancet Infectious Diseases* Vol 2, November 2002, Reflection and Reaction section, <http://infection.thelancet.com>
3. Total Lymphocyte Count (TLC) is a useful tool for the timing of Opportunistic Infection Prophylaxis in India and other resource-constrained countries. N Kumarasamy, Anish P Mahajan, Timothy P Flanigan, R Hemalatha, Kenneth H Mayer, Charles C J Carpenter, S P Thyagarajan, Suniti Solomon. *JAIDS*, 31: 378-383, 2002.
4. Current approaches to diagnosis and management of ocular lesions in human immunodeficiency virus positive patients. Biswas J, Fogla R, Gopal L, Narayana KM, Banker AS, Kumarasamy N, Madhavan HN. *Indian J Ophthalmol.* 2002 Jun; 50(2): 83-96. Review.
5. Natural history of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Disease in Southern India. N Kumarasamy, Suniti Solomon, Timothy P Flanigan, R Hemalatha, S P Thyagarajan, Kenneth H Mayer. *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2003: 36.
6. Prevalence of cervical dysplasia among women attending an HIV care center in Chennai, South India. Purnima Madhivanan, Susan Cu-Uvin, Mira Govindarajan, Kenneth Mayer, Kate Wilson, Joseph Harwell, R Hemalatha, Suniti Solomon. *J Obstet Gynecol Ind*, Vol. 53, No. 4: July/August 2003.
7. Safety, Tolerability and Effectiveness of Generic Antiretroviral Drug Regimens for HIV-infected patients in South India. N.Kumarasamy, Suniti Solomon, Sreekanth Chaguturu, Anish Mahajan, Timothy Flanigan, P.Balakrishnan, Kenneth Mayer. *AIDS* 2003; 17: 2267-9.
8. Lipoatrophy is the Predominant Presentation of HIV-associated Lipodystrophy in Southern India. Suneeta Saghayam, Sreekanth K. Chaguturu, N. Kumarasamy, Suniti Solomon, Kenneth H. Mayer, Christine Wanke. *CID* 2004; 38 (1 June); 1646-7 (Correspondence)
9. Stevens-Johnson Syndrome following antiretroviral therapy with Nevirapine in persons with HIV.- Case reports from Chennai, India. N.Kumarasamy, Sheila Shyamprasad, Tokugha Yephthomi, Kenneth Mayer, Suniti Solomon. *J Assoc Phys Ind.* (In press).
10. Clinical manifestations of HIV infected children at an HIV care center in Chennai, India. Purnima Madhivanan, SN Mothi, N Kumarasamy, T Yephthomi, C Venkatesan, John S Lambert, Suniti Solomon. *Indian Journal of Pediatrics*, Vol 70 - August 2003; 615 – 620.
11. Physicians' Knowledge and Attitudes towards care of HIV/AIDS Patients in South India. S Solomon, AK Ganesh, O Humblet, P Madhivanan, G Macalino, R. D'Souza Yephthomi, KH Mayer. *Journal of The Association of Physicians of India.* (Under review).
12. Cytomegalovirus esophagitis with cytomegalovirus retinitis in AIDS. P Madhivanan, J Biswas, K Priya, T Yephthomi, H N Madhavan, N Kumarsamy, S Solomon. *JAPI*, 2003 (underprint)
13. The association of Hepatitis C virus infection with sexual exposures in southern India. Marx MA, Murugavel KG, Tarwater PM, SriKrishnan AK, Thomas DL, Solomon S and Celentano DD. *CID*, 2003; 37:514-520.
14. Incidence of Immune Reconstitution Syndrome in HIV-TB co-infected patients after initiation of generic HAART in India. N.Kumarasamy, Sreekanth Chaguturu, Keeneth Mayer, Suniti Solomon, Tokugha Yephthomi, P.Balakrishnan, Timothy Flanigan. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* (in press)

15. Changes in Total Lymphocyte Count as a Surrogate for Changes in CD4 Count Following Initiation of HAART: Implications for Monitoring in Resource-Limited Settings. Mahajan AP, Hogan JW, Snyder B, Kumarasamy N, Mehta K, Solomon S, Carpenter CC, Mayer KH, Flanigan TP. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 2004 Apr 20; 36(1): 567-575.

**Abstracts:**

1. Survival of persons with HIV disease following antiretroviral therapy in Southern India. N Kumarasamy, K Mayer, T. Flanigan, R Hemalatha, C Carpenter, SP Thyagarajan, S Solomon. 9th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Feb 24-28, 2002, Seattle, USA. Abs # G61e
2. Natural history of HIV disease in Southern India. N Kumarasamy, S Solomon, T. Flanigan, R Hemalatha, SP Thyagarajan, K Mayer. 10th International Congress on Infectious Diseases, March 11-14, 2002, Singapore. Abs # 01499
3. AZT, 3TC, NVP & Caesarean Section in prevention of vertical transmission in Chennai, India. S Shyamprasad, P Madhivanan, M Dhanraj, Geetha D, S Solomon, S Cu-Uvin, K Mayer. XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona, July 2002. ThPpD2145.
4. HIV/AIDS Counselling by Nurses and Health Care Workers - A YRG CARE Experience. SK Satish Kumar, Suniti Solomon, AK Ganesh, Latha Mani, Shirley A Thomas, Rochelle D'Souza Yephthomi, Kenneth H Mayer. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 24538
5. HIV VCT services in Chennai, India: Expeditor or Hurdle. Suniti Solomon, A K Srikrishnan, A K Ganesh, Maya Rogers, Kenneth H Mayer. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 10046
6. "Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime": an approach for scaling up HIV/AIDS care and support. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 7227
7. How people living with HIV/AIDS in South India cope with the costs of treatment. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 7266
8. The cost and sustainability of care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in South India. XIV INTERNATIONAL AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 7175
9. "Safety, Tolerability and Effectiveness of Generic HAART Regimens in South India", N. Kumarasamy, Sreekanth K. Chaguturu, Anish P Mahajan, Tokugha Yephthomi, P Balakrishnan, A Kalamalini, Timothy P Flanigan, S Solomon, Kenneth H Mayer. 6th International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV infections, Glasgow, UK, 2002. Poster presentation.
10. "Safety, Tolerability and Effectiveness of Generic HAART Regimens in South India." N Kumarasamy, S Chaguturu, A Mahajan, T Yephthomi, P Balakrishnan, A Kalamalini, T Flanigan, S Solomon, K Mayer. 10th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic infections. Boston, MA, USA, Feb 10-14, 2003. Oral Session 33, Abstract #174, Pg. 121.
11. Frequency of immune reconstitution syndrome among HIV-TB co-infected individuals after initiation of Generic antiretroviral therapy in India. N. Kumarasamy, Sreekanth Chaguturu, Timothy Flanigan, P. Balakrishnan, Kenneth Mayer, Suniti Solomon. 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment July 13-16, 2003, Paris, France. Abstract No: 427

12. Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections among individuals at high risk for HIV in Chennai, India- Implications for HIV Prevention. N.Kumarasamy, P.Balakrishnan, Sreekanth Chaguturu, AK Srikrishan, Suniti Solomon, Kenneth Mayer. ISSTD Congress, July 27-30, 2003. Ottawa, Canada. Abstract no: 355.
13. Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Co-Infection in Chennai, India. Maya Chatterjee Rogers, N. Kumarasamy, Sreekanth K. Chaguturu, Timothy P. Flanigan, Kenneth H. Mayer, P. Balakrishnan, and Suniti Solomon. 11th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Feb 8-11th, 2004, San Francisco USA. Abstract no:V –60
14. Weight and Body Shape Changes Associated with Antiretroviral Therapy in South India - Initial Prospective Analysis. S Saghayam, N. Kumarasamy, S. Solomon, J. Anitha, S. Chaguturu, K. Mayer, T. Flanigan, and C. Wanke. CROI, Feb 2004. San Francisco, USA.
15. Impact of HAART on opportunistic infections and on survival of persons with HIV disease in Southern India. N.Kumarasamy, Suniti Solomon, Anitha Cecelia, Sreekanth Chauguturu, Tokugha Yepthomi, Timothy Flanigan, P.Balakrishnan, A.Kalamalini, Kenneth Mayer. 11th international Congress on Infectious Diseases, March 4th-7th, 2004. Cancun, Mexico. Abstract no: 61.024.
16. Clade C HIV-1 ART drug resistance mutations in treatment naïve southern Indian patients. P Balakrishnan, N Kumarasamy, S Solomon, KH Mayer, S Vidya, D Boden, D Katzenstein, B Ramratnam. Abs Ref No 9458

## RESEARCH

### Objective -

- To advance the understanding, diagnosis, management and prevention of HIV infection and related diseases
- To improve the social and psychological well-being and quality of life of a person living with or affected by the infection in a resource poor setting
- To understand the psychosocial factors and behaviour of the community that enhance risks and contribute to increased transmission.
- To develop and evaluate low cost technologies for monitoring HIV disease in resource-limited settings.

### Activities –

Description*	Sources of Funding and collaboration	Duration
Natural history and clinical characterization of HIV disease in southern India	Ragas Dental college, Sankara Nethralaya Eye hospital, Dermatologic clinic, SCIEH/University of Madras, AIRTP-Fogarty Program of Brown University.	1996-ongoing
TREATASIA HIV Observational Database	AmFAR TREAT ASIA.	2003-ongoing
Usage of antiretroviral therapy in Indian setting	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	1999-ongoing
Co-prevalence of HIV and Filiariasis	National Institutes of Health, USA	2000-ongoing
Seroprevalence/risk factor analysis of co-infection with HBV, HCV and HIV-1 in Chennai, India.	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA and Johns Hopkins University, USA.	2001-2002
Prevalence and risk factors of HBV and HCV in persons attending Voluntary Counseling and Testing center.	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2002-2004
Neuro-psychosocial manifestations among HIV seropositive patients in Chennai, South India.	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2002- 2004
HIV Medication Adherence in India	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2002-2004
HIV Prevention Preparedness Study –HIV Prevention Trial Network (HPTN 033)	Division of AIDS – US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/National Institutes of Health.	2002–2004
Prevalence and incidence of STIs and HIV in persons with high risk for HIV infection in Southern India. ( <i>HPTN033 substudy</i> )	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2002–2004
Prevalence and pattern of drug resistance strains in ART- naïve HIV positive population in southern India.	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2002-ongoing
NIMH Collaborative HIV/STD Prevention Trial - The Community Popular Opinion Leaders (CPOL), a multi-site STD/HIV Prevention Trial	US National Institutes of Mental Health. Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.	2000-2005 (ongoing)

A randomized controlled clinical trial to compare the effects of Structured Intermittent Therapy (SIT) versus continuous therapy in HIV-positive patients in South India	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2001-ongoing.
A Longitudinal study on HAART associated body composition, metabolic and quality of life changes. (substudy of SIT)	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA. Tufts University, Boston, USA.	2002-on-going
A Longitudinal study on the bone composition changes in HIV individuals on HAART and controls. (substudy of SIT)	YRG CARE	2003-ongoing
Reproductive history, attitudes and decision making of women living with HIV in Chennai, South India.	YRG CARE and AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2004-2005
Religion and health beliefs and practices among Indian men and women with HIV.	Yale University, School of Medicine, Yale New Haven Hospital, CT 06511. USA. Fogarty International Center, NIH.	2003-2004
Comparative Research Study of the Reality® Female Condom and Version 4 Modified Reddy Female Condom? #D01 –071	Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, CONRAD, Virginia, USA and National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune.	2002–2004
Evaluation of cost effective laboratory markers to monitor HIV-infected persons in South India	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2002-Ongoing
Prevalence of STDs in general population and in high risk sub-population groups in Tamil Nadu	VHS-APaC (USAID)	2003-2004
Innovative approaches to HIV prevention in community settings. [Domestic Violence]	YRG CARE and Ford Foundation, New Delhi	2003-2006
Evaluation of low cost methodologies for HIV monitoring	Australia-India Council	2002-2004

***Research Projects in preparedness phase:***

<b>Description</b>	<b>Sources of Funding</b>	<b>Duration</b>
A randomized trial to evaluate the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy plus HIV primary care versus HIV primary care alone to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV-1 in serodiscordant couples – HIV Prevention Trial Network (HPTN 052)	HIV Prevention Trials Network [HPTN], National Institutes of Health, USA.	2003-2010
A Phase III, randomized, open-label evaluation of the efficacy of once-daily protease inhibitor and once-daily non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor-containing combinations for initial treatment of HIV-1 infected subjects from diverse areas of the world (AACTG 5175)	Adult AIDS Clinical Trial Group [AACTG], National Institutes of Health, USA.	2003-2008

Socio-Anthropological approach to HIV transmission from mother to child in India: The case of breast-feeding	French Institute of Pondicherry, India.	2003-2005
Evaluation of immune correlates (cellular) that impact heterosexual mucosal HIV transmission in Indian women – a pilot study.	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2004-2006
Molecular typing of cryptosporidial infections in HIV infected individuals – A pilot study.	AIRTP-Fogarty program of Brown University, Providence, RI, USA	2004-2006
Behavioral Secondary HIV Prevention in Chennai.	Centers for AIDS Research.	2004-2006

***External projects associated with YRG CARE***

<b>Description</b>	<b>Investigator and Institute</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Superficial Fungal Infection in HIV/AIDS patient	Dr KS Sridharan, SRMC/RI	2003-2004
Impact of Highly Active Antiretroviral therapy on oral lesions in persons with HIV disease in Southern India	Dr Pavithra Srivatsan, Raagas Dental College	2003-2004
Slum women and vulnerability to HIV	Sr. J Jeny Maila, Stella Maris College	2003; 2 weeks
Renal Disease in HIV	Dr Hari Janakiraman, SRMC/RI	2003-2005
Cognitive Impairment among HIV infected patients	Dr N Karthik/Dr. Arvind Patil Voluntary Health Services	2004-2005
Trends in Inpatient admissions among people living with HIV/AIDS among people living in South India.	Dr Sunil Suhas Solomon, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.	2003-2004

***Highlights:***

- YRGCARE adopts highest ethical standards in research. It discourages needless procedures and investigations.
- First set of doctoral students (5) have been by YRG CARE, affiliated to the University of Madras for PhD in Microbiology; 2004.
- A random pre-baseline study in adults (age 18-40) from 30 slums in Chennai indicated low prevalence of HIV (0.6%) evidence in the general population whereas prevalence of STD was 16.2%. A further study targeting high risk venues (wine shops), the prevalence of HIV was 2.3% in men and 8.1 % in female sex workers. STD rates in this study sample were also elevated; 18.8% in men and 82.5% in the female sex workers.
- ***Intervention activities:*** 12 intervention sites (out of 24 sites) are undergoing Intensive intervention training. The CPOLS of about 60 opinion leaders per site receive training based on a five-hour module covering “Basic facts and prevention messages on HIV/AIDS, safe sex, condom usage and moderate drinking.”

### ***Publications***

1. Dried blood spots (DBS): a valuable tool for HIV surveillance in developing/tropical countries. Sunil Solomon, Suniti Solomon, Irma I Rodriguez, Stephen T McGarvey, AK Ganesh, SP Thyagarajan, Anish Mahajan, Kenneth Mayer. *Int'l Journal of STD & AIDS* 2002; 13:25-28.
2. "Dried Blood Spots are an Acceptable and Useful HIV Surveillance Tool in a Remote Developing World Setting. Sunil S Solomon, Sandeep Pulimi, Irma I Rodriguez, Sreekanth K Chaguturu, S K Satish Kumar, Kenneth H Mayer, Suniti Solomon. *Int'l Journal of STD & AIDS* 2004. (In press).
3. Ethical issues in the epidemiological assessment of HIV risk in Chennai, India. Sudha Sivaram, AK Srikrishnan, KG Murugavel, Kenneth H Mayer, S Anand, David D Celentano, Suniti Solomon. (Submitted Feb 2004).
4. A simple monitoring of antiretroviral therapy with a signal amplification-boosted HIV-1 p24 antigen assay with heat-denatured plasma - An inexpensive marker alternative to tests for viral RNA PCR. P.Balakrishnan, N.Kumarasamy, S.Vidhya, Sreekanth Chaguturu, KG. Murugavel, J.Anitha Cecelia, Timothy Flanigan, Keeneth Mayer, SP.Thyagarajan, Suniti Solomon. (submitted).
5. An inexpensive, simple and manual method of CD4 T- cell quantitation in HIV infected individuals for use in developing countries. Balakrishnan P, Mandy Dunne, N.Kumarasamy, Suzanne Crowe, Subbulakshmi G, Ganesh AK, Cecelia AJ, Patricia Roth, Kenneth H. Mayer, Thyagarajan SP, Suniti Solomon. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr - Basic Science*. (in press)
6. Development of an opinion leader-led HIV prevention intervention among alcohol users in Chennai, India. Sudha Sivaram, Aylur K Srikrishnan, Carl A Latkin, Sethulakshmi C Johnson, Vivian F Go, Margaret E Bentley, Suniti Solomon, and David D Celentano. *AIDS Education and Prevention*, 16(2), 137-149, 2004.

### ***Abstracts***

YRG CARE has submitted and presented abstracts at several national and international conferences (see list below for those presented during 2002-2004).

1. Survival of persons with HIV disease following antiretroviral therapy in Southern India. N Kumarasamy, K Mayer, T.Flanigan, R Hemalatha, C Carpenter, SP Thyagarajan, S Solomon. 9th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Feb 24-28, 2002, Seattle, USA. Abs # G61e
2. Total lymphocyte count as a surrogate for CD4 count to initiate and monitor HAART in resource limited countries. T.Flanigan, A Mahajan, N Kumarasamy, R Hemalatha, C Carpenter, K Mayer, S Solomon. 9th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, Feb 24-28, 2002, Seattle, USA. Abs # G160e
3. Natural history of HIV disease in Southern India. N Kumarasamy, S Solomon, T.Flanigan, R Hemalatha, SP Thyagarajan, K Mayer. 10th International Congress on Infectious Diseases, March 11-14, 2002, Singapore. Abs # 01499
4. AZT, 3TC, NVP & Caesarean Section in prevention of vertical transmission in Chennai, India. S Shyamprasad, P Madhivanan, M Dhanraj, Geetha D, S Solomon, S Cu-Uvin, K Mayer. XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona, July 2002. ThPpD2145.
5. Building an Institutional Review Board in an NGO in India. Priscilla Kabeer, AK Ganesh, Suniti Solomon, Rochelle D'Souza Yepthomi, SP Thyagarajan. XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002Abs. Ref # 23914

6. HIV/AIDS Counselling by Nurses and Health Care Workers - A YRG CARE Experience. SK Satish Kumar, Suniti Solomon, AK Ganesh, Latha Mani, Shirley A Thomas, Rochelle D'Souza Yephthomi, Kenneth H Mayer. XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 24538
7. Low HIV/STI infection and risks in Chennai (India) Slums. Suniti Solomon, KG Murugavel, David Celantano, P Balakrishnan, AK Srikrishnan, Vivian F. Go, Sudha Sivaram, Kenneth H. Mayer. XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 10128
8. HIV VCT services in Chennai, India: Expeditor or Hurdle. Suniti Solomon, A K Srikrishnan, A K Ganesh, Maya Rogers, Kenneth H Mayer. XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 10046
9. Utility of fingerstick dried blood spots as a tool for HIV epidemiology studies in resource constrained settings. Sandeep Pullimi, Sunil Solomon, Irma Rodriguez, Kenneth Mayer, KG Murugavel, SK Satishkumar, A K Ganesh, Suniti Solomon. XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 9994
10. "Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime": an approach for scaling up HIV/AIDS care and support. XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 7227
11. How people living with HIV/AIDS in South India cope with the costs of treatment. XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 7266
12. The cost and sustainability of care and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in South India. XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 7175
13. "How PLHAs rate importance of NGO care and support services" XIV International AIDS Conference 2002, Barcelona July 7-12, 2002. Abs. Ref # 7293
14. "Safety, Tolerability and Effectiveness of Generic HAART Regimens in South India", N. Kumarasamy, Sreekanth K. Chaguturu, Anish P Mahajan, Tokugha Yephthomi, P Balakrishnan, A Kalamalini, Timothy P Flanigan, S Solomon, Kenneth H Mayer. 6th International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV infections, Glasgow, UK, 2002. Poster presentation.
15. "Safety, Tolerability and Effectiveness of Generic HAART Regimens in South India." N Kumarasamy, S Chaguturu, A Mahajan, T Yephthomi, P Balakrishnan, A Kalamalini, T Flanigan, S Solomon, K Mayer. 10th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic infections. Boston, MA, USA, Feb 10-14, 2003. Oral Session 33, Abstract #174, Pg. 121.
16. Frequency of immune reconstitution syndrome among HIV-TB co-infected individuals after initiation of Generic antiretroviral therapy in India. N.Kumarasamy, Sreekanth Chaguturu, Timothy Flanigan, P.Balakrishnan, Kenneth Mayer, Suniti Solomon. 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment July 13-16, 2003, Paris, France. Abstract No: 427
17. Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections among individuals at high risk for HIV in Chennai, India- Implications for HIV Prevention. N.Kumarasamy, P.Balakrishnan, Sreekanth Chaguturu, AK Srikrishnan, Suniti Solomon, Kenneth Mayer. ISSTD Congress, July 27-30, 2003. Ottawa, Canada. Abstract no: 355.
18. Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Co-Infection in Chennai, India. Maya Chatterjee Rogers, N. Kumarasamy, Sreekanth K. Chaguturu, Timothy P. Flanigan, Kenneth H. Mayer, P. Balakrishnan, and Suniti Solomon. 11th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Feb 8-11th, 2004, San Francisco USA. Abstract no: V -60

19. Weight and Body Shape Changes Associated with Antiretroviral Therapy in South India - Initial Prospective Analysis. S Saghayam, N. Kumarasamy, S. Solomon, J. Anitha, S. Chaguturu, K. Mayer, T. Flanigan, and C. Wanke. CROI, Feb 2004. San Francisco, USA.
20. Low cost strategies to monitor highly active antiretroviral therapy in resource-limited settings. N Kumarasamy, P Balakrishnan, J Anitha Cecelia, Suniti Solomon, Sreekanth Chaguturu, Kenneth H Mayer, Timothy P Flanigan. CROI, Feb 2004. San Francisco, USA.
21. Impact of HAART on opportunistic infections and on survival of persons with HIV disease in Southern India. N.Kumarasamy, Suniti Solomon, Anitha Cecelia, Sreekanth Chauguturu, Tokugha Yepthomi, Timothy Flanigan, P.Balakrishnan, A.Kalamalini, Kenneth Mayer. 11th international Congress on Infectious Diseases, March 4th-7th, 2004. Cancun, Mexico. Abstract no: 61.024.
22. Role of men in studies involving female-controlled preventive strategies. Rochelle D'Souza Yepthomi, Priscilla Kabeer, Marianne Callahan\*, A.K. Srikrishnan, A.K. Ganesh, Suniti Solomon. YRG CARE, Chennai, INDIA. \*CONRAD, USA. Microbicides 2004, London. March 28 – 31, 2004.

## TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING AND THE LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

### Objective -

- To be a resource for organizational and program development and skills building trainings in Sexuality and HIV/AIDS prevention, counseling, laboratory methods and clinical care.
- To build capacities to use the best public health practices for the prevention, diagnosis and management of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases and in prescribing antiretroviral therapies.
- To increase access to and scale-up services<sup>1</sup> that promote quality of life and well being of persons living with or affected by HIV.

YRG CARE provides the following training programs:

Training Course	Duration in days	Training Fee	Maximum pax	Medium of instruction
Basic Facts on STD/HIV/AIDS	1 day	Rs. 100 per head	100 persons	English/Tamil /Telugu
Human Sex and Sexuality	2 days	Rs. 200 per head	25 persons	English/Tamil /Telugu
Counseling and Communication	6 days	Rs. 5000 per head	10 persons	English/Tamil
Clinical Training	2 weeks	Rs. 20,000	10 clinicians	English
Laboratory training for diagnosis (ELISA and Western Blot)	6 days	Rs. 5000 *	5 lab technicians	English
Laboratory training for monitoring (CD4 only)	6 days	Rs. 5000 *	5 lab technicians	English
Laboratory training for monitoring (Viral L only)	6 days	Rs. 5,000 *	5 lab technicians	English
Nursing Training	6 days	Rs. 5000	10 nurses	English/Tamil
Training of Trainers – Peer Education and on field demonstration of Targeted interventions	3 days	Rs. 500 per head	25 persons	English/Tamil
Project proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation	2 days	Rs. 2000 per head	8 persons	English
<i>* Extra charges applicable for hands-on training, biosafety measures, biomaste disposal.</i>				
<i>Program schedule is usually tailor-made to suit the needs of individuals and organizations.</i>				

### Highlights:

#### <sup>1</sup> Proceedings:

- Care and support in India: Special Focus on YRG CARE. Horizons Report, HIV/AIDS Operations Research. Dec 2002. Horizons Program, Population Council.  
[www.popcouncil.org/horizons/newsletter/horizons\\_report.html](http://www.popcouncil.org/horizons/newsletter/horizons_report.html)
- Summary Report: Expanding Care and Support in South India: Scaling up YRG CARE's Patient-Centred Approach. YRG CARE, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Horizons Program.

- Clinical, counseling, preventive education and laboratory training programs.
- Availability of an in-house conference room for maximum 25 participants, audio visual equipment, training/ resource materials, and a cafeteria.
- In 2002 – 2004, YRG CARE personnel trained several clinicians and counselors on the care and management of HIV disease in India. Continuing medical education programs were conducted in Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu which also included hands-on training sessions at the YRG CARE clinic.
- The Learning Resource Center caters to the needs of YRG CARE personnel, associates and collaborators, researchers, clinicians, students of medicine, nursing, social work and theology.
- The centre receives local and international volunteers who render their service for a duration ranging from six weeks to nine months.
- The LRU houses books, newsletters, journals, reprints, CDs, slides, videotapes, newspaper clippings, etc. Much of the resource materials have been sourced at international conferences, while the research collaborators also contribute to the selection.
- Over the last couple of years, 2002-2004, YRG CARE has made a notch in the number of HIV related abstracts and presentations at national and international forums and publications in internationally acclaimed journals.

**Contributions from local resources:**

We would like to place on record a special thanks to all our local well wishers and companies for their contributions through cash, kind or special prices extended to us.

Acer India  
Base Corporation  
Bio-Radd Laboratories  
Aqua Minerals Ltd (Bisleri)  
Blue Star Ltd.  
BPL Soft Energy Systems Ltd.  
Cipla Ltd.  
CPC Pharmaceuticals Ltd.  
Cybernetics Software Ltf.  
Dax Networking Pvt Ltd.  
East West Publications  
Enmail Messaging Systems  
Epson India  
Ergomax Furnitures  
Eureka Forbes Ltd (Industrial Division)  
Finolex Cables  
Fresh and Honest Café  
Fusion Soft  
Godrej-Saralee Ltd  
Henkel Spic Ltd  
Hot Breads  
Iomega  
JK Copier (Paper Division)  
Johnson Elevators Ltd.  
Johnson and Johnson Ltd.  
Khivraj Automobiles  
Lab India  
Ladies Circle-10  
LG India  
Lupin Laboratories  
Navia Markets  
Numeric Power Systems  
Panasonic India  
Parryware Ltd.  
Philips India Ltd.  
Pithavadian & Partners  
Rediff Pro  
Madras Heritage Round Table 10  
Saint Gobain Glass Ltd.  
Siemens  
State Express  
Thermo Lab Systems Inc  
Ultra Tiles Ltd.  
Unilever India Ltd.  
Wheecon Instruments

*\*List reflects alphabetical order*

**Dr. Suniti Solomon** is the founder-director of the Y.R. Gaitonde Center for AIDS Research and Education (YRG CARE), a large scale HIV/AIDS care and support centre in Chennai. She and her colleagues documented the first evidence of the HIV infection in India in 1986. When she served, at the Madras Medical College and Government General Hospital, as a Professor of Microbiology, she set up the first voluntary testing and counseling centre and AIDS Research Group in Chennai.



YRG CARE, founded in 1993, is a non-profit organization which offers education in HIV and sexuality for adolescents and young adults, voluntary counseling and testing services, HIV out-patient clinic and inpatient service, and has an international reputation as a premier medical and behavioral research centre. This center now provides health care for nearly 7,000 persons living with HIV.

Dr. Solomon is a member of the National Technical Team on women and AIDS, a member of the advisory board of IAVI-India, member of the Scientific Committee of the National AIDS Research Institute of the Government of India, a permanent member on the Microbicides Committee of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and member of the Technical Review Panel of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Dr. Solomon is the India site-head of two Indo-US collaborative projects: (a) The US National Institute of Mental Health's multi-country HIV/STD Prevention Trial and (b) the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' HIV Prevention Trial Networks. She is the Principal Investigator of a new NIH award that will measure stigma in health care settings in India. She is the Director of the Southern India program of the Brown-Tufts Fogarty AIDS Training and Research Project through which she has done pioneering work, among other issues, in Microbicide acceptability studies.

Her experience covers a wide range of aspects related to HIV infection, from biomedical to socio-economic. She has deep interest in community education and mobilization as well as bioethics governing research. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with AIDS from the State Government's Medical University in December 2001.

Dr. Solomon holds an M.B.B.S and an M.D in microbiology from Madras University. She has trained in pathology in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Dr. Solomon currently serves as the President of the AIDS Society of India (an affiliate of the International AIDS Society).