



Dr. Suniti Solomon is the founder-director of the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education (YRG CARE). She documented the first evidence of HIV infection in India in 1986, when she was with Madras Medical College and the Government General Hospital, Chennai, as Professor of Microbiology. The findings prompted her to set up the first voluntary testing and counselling centre and an AIDS Resource Group in Chennai.

She holds an M.D in microbiology from Madras University and is trained in pathology in the United Kingdom and the United States. She currently serves as the President of the AIDS Society of India and is a member of:

- The National Technical Team on women and AIDS
- The Advisory Board of International AIDS Vaccine Initiative -India
- The Scientific Committee of the National AIDS Research Institute, Pune
- The Microbicide Committee of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- The Board of AVAHAN, the India HIV/AIDS Initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

- The Asia Data Safety Monitoring Board of the Division of AIDS, National Institute of Health, USA
- Planning Commission, Government of Tamilnadu

She is a Trustee At-Large of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care

Dr. Suniti is the Indian Principal Investigator of several pioneering HIV research studies, such as:

- The US National Institute of Mental Health's multi-country HIV/STD Prevention Trial
- The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' HIV Prevention Trial Networks
- Phase III study of 6% CS GEL, a candidate microbicide of CONRAD

She is also the director of the Southern India program of the Brown-Tufts Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program.

Dr Suniti's experience covers a wide range of aspects related to HIV infection, from biomedical to socio-economic. Having deep interest in community education and mobilization, she leads an effort that supports a Phase I HIV vaccine trial at Chennai with community education and volunteer enrollment. She has published extensively on HIV epidemiology, prevention, care and support, biomedical research, research ethics and gender issues.

Dr. Suniti received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work on HIV/ AIDS from the Tamil Nadu State Government's Medical University in December 2001 and from the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society in 2005.



## Shaping India's Response to HIV/AIDS

With an estimated 5.2 million HIV infections, India is home to the second largest population of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA). The prevention, care and support needs of this pandemic are enormous.



### Vision:

That people with HIV and AIDS, and their families live with dignity, and there are no new infections.

### Mission:

To respond to the needs of people who are not receiving care and support education/information or about HIV.



Counselling on leading a healthy life to a couple that are HIV+, by a friendly and understanding Counsellor



### Who are we?

YRG CARE is a premier HIV/AIDS service organisation offering:

- Adolescent sexuality education
- HIV intervention at workplaces and communities
- Voluntary counselling and testing for HIV
- Treatment for sexually transmitted diseases
- Comprehensive and quality medical care with support services to over 9500 People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA)
- Prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV
- Training for physicians, laboratory scientists, health educators, counsellors and nurses
- Services for marginalized population including injecting drug users and men having sex with men
- Microbicide and vaccine literacy
- Training to enhance the practice of standard precautions at medical establishments
- Education and advocacy aimed at violence against women

YRG CARE is currently involved in HIV



research in the fields of epidemiology, laboratory, prevention, natural history and treatment outcomes. Ongoing studies include the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN), the Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group (AACTG), the NIMH STD/HIV multi-site prevention trial (CPOL) and the CONRAD Phase III Microbicide trials. YRG CARE partners with the Indian Council of Medical Research and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative in a phase I HIV vaccine trial.

Facilities:

- A 20-bed ward with ICU
- Out-patient clinic
- Injecting Drug Users' clinic
- Laboratory with state-of-the-art- facilities
- Pharmacy, offering antiretroviral drugs for HIV on a sliding scale

YRG CARE is among the few institutions in Asia monitoring the emerging drug resistance.

**YRGCARE's philosophy is to receive and serve all patients, irrespective of their economic status.** As the cost of antiretroviral treatment is out of reach for most Indians, YRG CARE has deployed a 'Graduated Cost Recovery' (GCR) tool by which, PLHA with the ability to pay subsidise and sponsor those PLHA who are partially or totally unable to do so. As the demand for support at the lower socio - economic of the strata is on the rise, YRG CARE constantly reaches out for community support.

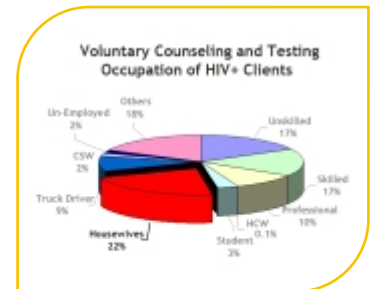
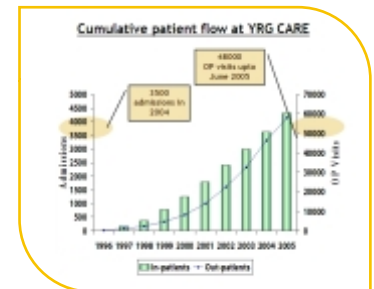
At Nellore, in southern Andhra Pradesh, YRG CARE has established a community clinic in association with the Indian Red Cross Society to deliver services to the people in the region

### The future needs

By the year 2007, YRG CARE expects that its patient load will double and the annual demand for in-patient care will far exceed the modest 600 patient bed-days per month that it is currently providing. Hence, the expansion of all its programmes has become inevitable, calling for far greater infrastructure and facilities.

YRG CARE aims to manage the emerging needs by

- Adding additional space for patient-care, testing and training
- Training to build skills and shape attitudes among healthcare providers
- Meeting the challenge of drug resistance
- Validation and implementation of low cost assays



### iCARE

iCARE is a YRG CARE initiative to strengthen its service efforts.

We welcome financial, material and human resources from well-wishers.

Our aim is to build a world wide volunteer force and a network of organizations, whose goodwill and assistance will help us to serve our clients better.

For more information visit <http://www.yrgcare.org/icare>