

DR. VANJANA P. SHETTY LEPROSY RESEARCH (EMERITUS SENIOR SCIENTIST)



Dr Vanaja P. Shetty is currently Emeritus Senior Scientist of the Foundation for Medical Research. An applied biologist from the University of Bombay, Dr Shetty is specialized in transmission and scanning electron microscopy. Dr Shetty's work encompasses Neuropathology / immunopathology of leprosy and Development of experimental models for leprosy. Dr Shetty has vast experience in clinical leprosy and has a sustained interest in molecular mechanisms of nerve damage in leprosy and other neurological disorders. Her recent focus is on studying the role of cytoskeletal proteins in the induction of nerve damage and functional loss in leprosy, monitoring the efficacy of multidrug treatment, effect of corticosteroid usage on nerve function

impairments and disease activity, probing into development of persistence drug resistance in leprosy, developing means of reversal of nerve damage and probing in to the precipitating factors involved in the induction of reaction and nerve damage. Dr Shetty's recent work highlighting the hidden burden of leprosy and issues related to access to health care in the public health facility across Maharashtra, are instrumental in questioning the governments claim/ and rethinking over leprosy elimination in India.

Dr Shetty has over 95 publications in peer-reviewed Journals and is a co editor of Book on Peripheral Nerve in Leprosy. She has contributed a chapter on Leprosy neuropathy in the Books entitled a) 'Neurological Practice: An Indian Perspective and b) IAL textbook of leprosy. Dr Shetty has been principal investigator of 16 Major projects. Dr Shetty has travelled extensively and was trained in advanced biomedical and neurobiological techniques at the Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, Mayo clinic USA, NIH Bethesda and Institute of Neurology, London. She had the technical training for handling transmission and Scanning electron microscope and its biological application at Japan. Dr Shetty has held advisory positions at the academic institutes in Mumbai like CRI. She is one of the faculties for Neurobiology, University of Mumbai. She is a Guide for Post graduate degree for Applied Biology from University of Mumbai and has guided several students. Dr Shetty is the life member of several academic bodies such as Indian association of leprologists, Electron Microscopy Society of India, Neurological Society of India, Indian academy of Neuroscience. She was the Vice President of Neurological Society of India and was the Organizing Secretary for the 14th Annual conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences held in Mumbai in 1996. She is in the Advisory Committee of The Leprosy Mission Trust for the South East Asia for the past 2 years. She is a Central Council member for the Indian Association of Leprologists.

Dr. Shetty is the recipient of JALMA TRUST ORATION AWARD (Indian Council of Medical Research 1997) for sustained and outstanding contribution towards understanding the pathomechanisms of nerve damage in leprosy