

Dr. SWAPNA HELEN JOHN, MBBS, MD.
Specialist in Medical Microbiology



PROFILE

A versatile, dynamic and diligent Clinical Microbiologist with a clear headed approach to the practise of evidence based medicine, passionate and self -driven to strive for excellence. Expertise in vast array of microbiology diagnostic procedures and deep involvement in various infection control activities. An enthusiastic team player with excellent communication skills.

Professional Strengths and Skill Sets

- Expertise in analysis, interpretation and reporting of laboratory results relating to Bacteriology, Serology, Mycology and Parasitology.
- Adept at independently overseeing and managing routine laboratory activities and skilled in problem solving and troubleshooting.
- Proficient in assessing and evaluating antibiogram of various clinical isolates and able to offer clinical advice to the treating physician regarding Empiric, first line and second line choice of antibiotics, based on the microbiology report.
- In depth knowledge on various aspects of infection control and antibiotic stewardship with constant updation and renewal, based on current CDC and IDSA guidelines.
- Competent at Preparation of Standard Operating Procedure manuals.
- Able to spearhead, organize and handle educational sessions and seminars for health personnels on Standard precautions, Effective Handhygiene Practices Occupational health, Prevention of Hospital acquired infections and optimal prescription of antibiotics.
- Can conduct an outbreak investigation and give assessment reports aimed at devising strategies and algorithms for handling of the situation.
- Widely exposed to various research projects and well versed at writing at research papers and proposals.
- Safe hands in dealing with the following microbiology instruments:
 - Real Time PCR
 - Qualitative PCR with Gel documentation
 - Line probe assay

- BACTEC and BacTAlert for bacteria and mycobacteria
 - VITEK 2 Compact Systems
 - MGIT assay for Mycobacterium tuberculosis
 - VITROS Assays
 - ELISA for various viral and bacterial diseases
 - Fluorescence and Dark field microscopy
- Familiar with Microsoft windows, WHONET and SPSS software for statistical analysis.
 - Medical Council of India approved teacher of Microbiology for undergraduate MBBS and Nursing students.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (3 years)

1. Specialist Microbiologist and Assistant Professor



Department of Microbiology, MOSC Medical College and Hospital, a 1000 bedded multi-speciality teaching hospital at Kolenchery, Kerala, India, from: 10-03-2014 to 01-10-2017.

Major Responsibilities Handled:

- Supervision of day to day running of various sections of clinical microbiology laboratory on rotation basis.
- In charge of Mycology laboratory.
- In charge of Environmental sampling and reporting section.
- Preparation and revision of SOPs,
- Regular rounds to Medical and Surgical ICUs, labour room, Neonatal ICU, CSSR for routine surveillance and management of lapses in infection control.
- Engaging in case discussions with clinicians and answering their queries regarding microbiology culture reports and antibiotic resistance.
- Preparing monthly reports on the incidence of multi drug resistant organisms especially MRSA, ESBLs and Carbapenamase producing organisms and issuing alert to ward in charges and infection control team regarding the same.
- Taking part in internal audits and external quality assurance programs.
- Handle educational sessions for doctors and nurses on infection control.
- Mentoring and training of newly appointed technical staff.
- Take practical and theory classes for MBBS and Nursing students.

Achievements:

- Achieved the confidence to independently manage the clinical microbiology laboratory.
- Pioneered and established a new mycology laboratory and initiated the maintenance of fungal stock cultures.
- Revised some of the bacteriology culture methods and antibiotic susceptibility tests
- Reduced the report turn over time of environmental samples and played a role in the renovation of wards based on culture reports.
- Prepared the manual for specimen collection and transport.
- Prepared an algorithm and working strategy for containment of infection during an outbreak of KPC producing organism in the ICU.
- Succeeded in establishing a good rapport with clinicians and nursing staff.

2. Senior Resident



Department of Microbiology, Government medical college and Hospital, Kottayam, Kerala, India from 20-07-2013 to 19-01-2014

Achievements:

- In depth training in handling of clinical specimens and issue of optimal reports.
- Independently managed the Mycobacteriology lab, identified and reported cases of pulmonary and extra pulmonary tuberculosis.
- Prepared the SOP for Serology section, including the various tests performed, laboratory and chemical safety.
- Led a team which conducted hands on training program for interns regarding different aspects of infection control.
- Introduced a module for future training of newly induced house surgeons with respect to specimen collection, spill management, occupational exposure and hand hygiene.
- Wrote out the proposal on “The clinical significance of Non fermenting pathogens and methods for laboratory identification “, a project which was accepted and funded by a government agency.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

1. **Swapna Helen John**, Radhakutty Amma, Chithra Jayaprakash, Shareen George. *Streptococcus intermedius* causing brain abscess in a child with acyanotic congenital heart defect. *Journal of Academy of Clinical Microbiologists* 2015; 17: 124-6.
2. **Swapna Helen John**, Sarada Devi Karunakaran Lelitha, Remadevi Surendran. Clinico-microbiological study of community acquired and health care associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* from skin and soft tissue. *International Journal of Research in Medical Science* 2016; 4(8): 3255-3261

PRESENTATIONS

1. A case of "Phaeoacremonium parasiticum infection in an immunocompromised patient" presented during the *Fifth Triennial Conference of ACME held at Medical college, Trivandrum, Kerala, 16-10-2011*
2. Novel detection methods of MRSA- session for Microbiology technicians and students, held at *MIMS, Calicut, Kerala, 2012*

CONFERENCES AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ATTENDED

1. Basic course workshop in Medical Education Technologies, MOSC Medical College, Kolenchery, Kerala, 04-02-2015 to 06-02-2015.
2. Recent trends in Microbiology, Preconference CME, 6th Triennial Conference of Academy of Clinical Microbiologists, Trissur, Kerala, 16-08-2014 to 17-08-2014.
3. From Laboratory to Patients: Practising Clinical Microbiology, Preconference workshop, 6th Triennial Conference of Academy of Clinical Microbiologists, Trissur, Kerala, 15-08-2014.
4. CME on Bioethics, MOSC Medical College, Kolenchery, Kerala, 09-05-2014.
5. Emerging Infectious Diseases: A Clinical Challenge, Jubilee Mission Medical College, Trissur, Kerala, 13-07-2012.
6. National workshop on Infection control, Antibiotic therapy and Hospital Epidemiology, Amrita Institute of medical sciences, Kochi, Kerala, 28-01-2011 to 29-01-2011.
7. Microbes and Antimicrobials - An Update, CME and Workshop, MIMS, Calicut, Kerala, 10-07-2011.
8. Workshop on Research Methodology in Health Sciences, Govt. Medical College, Calicut, Kerala, 30-09-2010 to 02-10-2010.

9. Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases, Govt. T D Medical College, Alappuzha, Kerala, 10-03-2012.
10. Mycobacterium tuberculosis – An update, Jubilee Mission Medical College, Trissur, Kerala 12-11-2013.
11. Workshop on Developing a Module for Induction Training of House Surgeons, Directorate of Medical Education, Kerala, 17-10-2013.
12. Training in Virology at Manipal centre for Virus Research, Manipal University, Karnataka, 25-02-2013 to 28-02-2013.
13. One month of hands on training in various molecular diagnostic techniques at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology ,Trivandrum ,Kerala, as a part of post graduate thesis work

ACADEMIC RECORD

Level	College/University	Year of Passing
M.D Microbiology	Government Medical College, Calicut, Kerala	2010
<i>Major subjects:</i> General Bacteriology, Immunology, Systemic Bacteriology, Virology, Mycology, Parasitology		
MBBS	Government Medical College, Trivandrum, Kerala	2005
Intermediate of Science	St. Mary's college, Trissur, Kerala	1998
Grade Tenth	Our Own English High School, Al Ain, U.A.E	1996

Medium throughout the study: *English*

PERSONAL DETAILS:

Date of Birth : 22-02-1980
Nationality : Indian
Gender : Female
Marital status : Married
Religion : Christian
Contact No. : +91 9605795432
Languages known : English, Hindi, Malayalam
Email : swapnahjohn@gmail.com
Passport No. : P6746869
Expiry date : 07-02-2027

REFERENCES

- 1. Dr. Chithra Jayaprakash, MBBS, MD**
Professor and Head
Department of Microbiology
MOSC Medical College
Kolenchery
Kerala
- 2. Dr. Shareen George, MBBS, MD**
Professor
Dept. of Microbiology,
MOSC Medical College
Kolenchery
Kerala
- 3. Dr. Sarada Devi KL, MBBS, MD**
Professor and Head
Dept. of Microbiology,
Government Medical College
Trivandrum
Kerala

DECLARATION

I am confident of my ability to work in a team and I hereby declare that the information furnished above is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dr. Swapna Helen John