

### SENIOR FELLOW QUOTE



**Dr. Upendra Bhojani**

Senior Fellow, Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru

IPH Bengaluru has been bustling with activity! We've implemented HR transition, introducing new designations and pay structures that better aligns with our roles and provide fairer compensation. Excitingly, we bagged a couple of DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance fellowships (on political economy of oral health; participatory health governance for tribal health) and ICMR grants (enhancing oral healthcare and universal health coverage through primary healthcare). Additionally, we've launched a new multi-institutional research centre: SAMASTH – Systems Approach for Management of self-harm by integrating Surveillance with mental health Training in general Hospitals in South India. Stay updated with IPH Bengaluru's latest developments through IPH Connect newsletter!

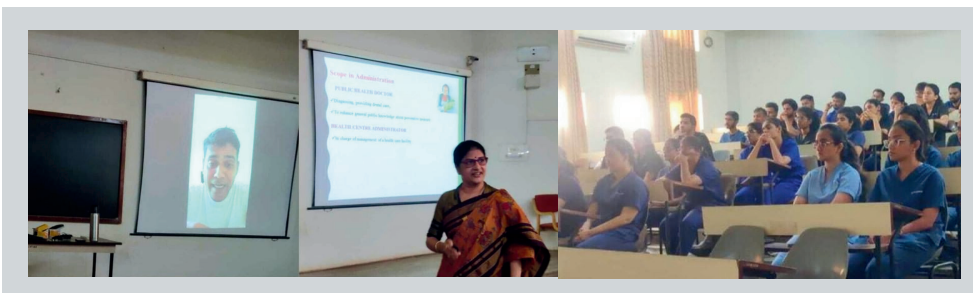
### KEY UPDATES

#### Workshop on Indian Constitution



A workshop on awareness on our Constitution titled, "Tiliyona Baa Namma Samvidhaanava", was held at BR Hills in Chamarajanagar for the staff members, collaborators and partners of the Institute of Public Health Bengaluru. The workshop used group work and dialogue to build awareness on rights and responsibilities and was inaugurated by collaborators from the Soliga Adivasi Sangha and partner NGOs.

#### Scope of Public Health Dentistry in India



Rajeev B R, an Early Career Fellow of DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance and faculty member, spoke on the "Scope of Public Health Dentistry in India" to the students and house surgeons of SDM Dental College and Hospital, Dharwad.

### STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Dr. Prashanth N S**

Dr Prashanth N S, director, IPH Bengaluru has been voted to become the Vice-Chair of the General Council (the overall body that provides oversight) of the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp (Belgium). ITM also happens to be Dr. Prashanth's alma mater and he recently completed a term as a member of the GC and was proposed as a Vice-Chair, which was ratified by a vote. The vice-chair will be a 4-year tenure and is an honorary position. Sharing the news, Dr Prashanth was also happy to share that the ITM recognises IPH as being an active hub of innovative research and learning.

He highlighted the broad scope of public health dentistry, which includes preventive, promotive, and curative aspects of oral health. Rajeev emphasized community-oriented approaches to address oral health disparities through education, disease prevention programs, and policy advocacy. He noted that public health dentists work in various settings like government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and community health centers, playing a crucial role in improving access to dental care and conducting epidemiological research.

## PhD Staff Focus



### Dr. Sabu K U

I am thrilled to share that our CTRITH WP1 paper, "Reimagining Innovation in Health Equity: Making a Case for a Community-embedded Participatory Learning Site for Adivasi Health Research," has been accepted for a poster presentation at the upcoming Health System Global Symposium 18-22 November 2024 in Nagasaki, Japan. This is an important milestone for our team (Prashanth N S, Anika Juneja, Tanya Seshadri, C Mahadeva, Muthaiah Venkategowda, C Made Gowda, Mathew Sunil George, Sumit Kane, Joris Michielsen, Sara Van Belle, and myself). This is also a testament to the innovative work we are doing at IPH Bengaluru. We look forward to representing our organization and sharing our learning with the global health community.

## Capacity building of health workers in tobacco control and cessation



Dr Pragati Hebbar and Mr. Alen Chandy Alexander from the Institute of Public Health Bengaluru delivered a talk on "Training and capacity building of health workers in tobacco control and cessation" ahead of World No Tobacco Day 2024 at the Oxford Dental College, Bengaluru. The audience included undergraduates and faculty members of the college. The crucial role that dentists can play in tobacco control and cessation was discussed, the various opportunities for collaborative action, research and easy to follow guidance on approaching tobacco cessation was explained.

## Virtual Roadshow ignites discussion on Public-Private TB Care

The TBPPM Learning Network India Chapter held a virtual roadshow on April 2nd, 2024, exploring Public-Private Mix (PPM) models for TB care in India. Experts presented innovative models like upfront GeneXpert testing for children (FIND), e-pharmacy delivery (PSI), and AI-powered private practitioner engagement (Stop TB REACH). A lively Q&A session followed each presentation.

## MOMENTS IN IPH



IPH staff members relaxing after the Anthropometry exams at Vivek Hospital in Mysuru. About six members from the bio-medical team and other staff members took the exam, and another six members participated in the exam.



## IMPACT NCD Project Activity

Under the IMPACT-NCD project—an implementation research initiative aimed at strengthening follow-up and multisectoral action for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) various health promotion, screening, database updates, and capacity-building activities were carried out. In the health and family welfare department, need assessment workshops took place in 5 Primary Health Centers (PHCs), involving 21 Community Health Officers and 5 Medical Officers. Field staff collaborated with the H&FW department to facilitate screening, rescreening, and outreach activities. Accredited Social Health Activists(ASHAs) in 5 PHCs underwent sensitization sessions and NCD screening. Additionally, a workshop on NCDs was organized in a Gram Panchayat, sensitizing 20 elected members and staff. Awareness programs about NCDs were conducted in 4 high schools, reaching 747 students, and 26 teaching and non-teaching staff were screened for NCDs. As part of the continuum of care, 7650 follow-up books were distributed to patients diagnosed with hypertension and diabetes.



*A screening camp was organized and follow up books were distributed to NCD patients by the field staff in Haradanahalli, Chamarajanagar*



*A workshop regarding NCDs was organized in Amachavadi Gram Panchayat, Chamarajanagar*