

## **A Symposium organised by SJMCH, Puri on the occasion of World AIDS Day**

An estimated 40 million people worldwide have died of AIDS since 1981, and an estimated 37 million are currently living with HIV (the virus that causes AIDS), making it one of the most significant global public health issues in recorded history. First recognized in 1988, World AIDS Day is dedicated to spreading awareness of the AIDS pandemic, uniting in the fight against HIV infections and to mourning those who have died of the disease.

On Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, SJMCH Puri organised a CME to highlight and discuss on the impact of the HIV/AIDS from a medical, research and awareness building perspective. This day-long symposium was organised under the aegis of Staff Academic Society, SJMCH – Puri in collaboration with District AIDS Prevention & Control Society, Puri.

Prof. (Dr.) Maya Padhi, Dean & Principal, SJMCH, Puri formally inaugurated the CME. Other prominent dignitaries included Prof. (Dr.) Kaushik Mishra, Superintendent, SJMCH; Dr. Lalatendu Mishra, ADPHO (TB)-cum-District Nodal Officer – AIDS and Dr. Deepak Kumar Sahoo, BBO, DHH – Puri. Besides, there are about 90 delegates attended the event.

Dr. Dukhishyam Pattanaik, District Supervisor, HIV/AIDS shared the objective of the CME and explained the current context of HIV/AIDS in the state and different measures taken up by the Government and Hospitals to prevent control the spread of HIV/AIDS in the state. On the other hand Dr. Lalatendu Mishra highlighted the steps of Programme Management undertaken by NACP-V.

Sharing his views, Dr. Kaushik Mishra expressed that our efforts should go in the right direction to have more control on the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Whereas, Dr. Maya Padhi stressed for an active participation and holistic effort of all stakeholders to combat the spread of the disease and spread more awareness on its prevention.

As part of the CME, SJMCH had kept in place Scientific Sessions to enlighten the delegates about the prevalence of the disease and current status. In Scientific Session – I, Dr. Debasish Pandit, Tutor – Community Medicine and Dr. Amrit Pritam Swain, Asst. Professor, Department of Community Medicine – SJMCH, presented the chronological events that led to the identification of the 1st case of HIV/AIDS and deliberated on the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS. Dr. Bipsa Singh, Associate Professor, Dept. of Paediatrics talked about the clinical manifestation of HIV/AIDS in paediatric age group. While expressing his share of thoughts, Dr. Dharitri Mohapatra, Associate Professor, Dept. of Microbiology, shed light on the current system of laboratory diagnosis of HIV/AIDS and its related transmission.

In the next Scientific Session – II, Dr. Santosh Kumar Swain, Associate Professor, Dept. of Medicine explained the effective management of complications that may arise due to the infection or transmission of HIV/AIDS. In the subsequent address, Dr. Sagarika Samal, Senior Resident, O & G, shared the critical nature of impact of HIV/AIDS during pregnancy.

An open house discussion was organised at the concluding session of the CME, where Dr. Manoj Kumar Sethy, Professor – Surgery moderated the session and Dr. Satyajit Sundar Ray, Associate Professor – Community Medicine; Dr. Soumya Nanda, Associate Professor – O & G, along with the participating delegates engaged in a debate on the recent advances by the medical science on the prevention control HIV/AIDS.

The CME concluded with a vote of thanks from the Chair.