

**INDO-US Workshop on
“Challenges of Emerging Infections and Global Health Safety”
INSA, New Delhi, November 18-20, 2014**

A three day INDO-US Workshop on “*Challenges of Emerging Infections and Global Health Safety*” is being organized jointly by Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and US National Academy of Sciences (US NAS) during November 18-20, 2014 at INSA premises, New Delhi to strengthen the cooperation and to open future possibilities of collaboration between the two Academies. This workshop is coordinated by Professor Indira Nath, FNA on behalf of INSA. About 60-70 participants (both from India and USA) will attend in the above event.

Scientists from India and the United States would examine global issues related to emerging infections and global health safety in the United States and India. In particular, the workshop would address challenges posed by infectious diseases, both within the countries and across national borders. Zoonotic infections have shown that the borderline between animal and human health are merging as exemplified by avian flu, anthrax and others. Thus, not only the current status of human and animal health issues would be discussed; surveillance in real time for impending infections and foresight to predict emerging epidemics would also be viewed. How to achieve prompt communication of suspected new infections and methods for transportation of infected material would be discussed in the context of the safe use, management, and operation of high containment (BSL 3-4) laboratories in India and the United States. In addition, new and exciting developments in technologies, such as the biotech revolution and synthetic biology as well as the need if any to have a code of ethics for avoiding improper use of pathogens would be explored. Regulatory issues in both countries as well as multilateral agreements on these issues would be visited. Finally, sustainability issues in maintaining surveillance, laboratory facilities and modeling for predicting epidemics would also be discussed

The ultimate goal is to jointly share challenges and lessons learned regarding biological safety, laboratory management, and the general efficient and sustainable operation of laboratories for public health, animal, and plant health research and clinical applications for improving global health safety. A secondary goal is to encourage collaborative partnerships between Indian and American scientists in areas identified by both groups during the workshop keeping in mind the existing multilateral agreements between the two countries
