

# Major Achievements 2024

**I. NABL Accreditation to CDC Clinical Research Lab (Genetic & Metabolic Lab) CDC**  
– Genetic and Metabolic Laboratory has certified as NABL Accredited Laboratory.  
**This lab is the first clinical lab in Government sector in Kerala to obtain NABL Accreditation.**



## **II. UNICEF Project**

As part of the UNICEF initiative of 'Creating Awareness and Strengthening Systems for Screening, Surveillance and Management of Developmental delays or disorders in Kerala' done in collaboration with NHM, CDC has been recommended as a "Centre of Excellence in Neurodevelopmental Disability in collaboration with UNICEF" and awaiting for an order from the Government of Kerala. As part of this various research and training programmes has been envisaged. The first one is the "GAP analysis of the District Early Intervention Centres in Kerala". Aim of this study is to assess whether DEICs are functioning as envisaged in the national guidelines for RBSK, identify potential gaps in early detection and early intervention for developmental delay/disability and obtain suggestions to improve the overall functioning of DEICs in Kerala.

## **III. ICMR project- CDC and SCTIMST**

Child Development Centre (CDC) and Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and technology (SCTIMST) are jointly working on project titled "Early life nutrition in the first thousand days of life and its association with early adiposity rebound, cardiometabolic risk and cardiac function at Low-Birth-Weight (LBW) children at 2 years in Kerala" funded by Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR). The main

purpose of the project is to understand the cardiometabolic risk among low-birth-weight children at 2 years, who are registered at CDC. CDC and SCTIMST has signed a bipartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as part of this project. The project is planned as a birth cohort study of 1400 LBW children attending CDC. Once completed, this will establish a well-defined birth cohort from Kerala—the first of its kind in the state—enabling further follow-up and research.

- IV. **As part of the CDC National Conference – DISHA 2024, held on 21st and 22nd October 2024 at Child Development Centre, the Hon'ble Health Minister announced that CDC would be upgraded as a Centre of Excellence in Neurodevelopmental Disability in collaboration with UNICEF.**
- V. **IAP Fellowship programme in Development and Behavioural Pediatrics Course:** In the 2023-24 academic year, **the two pediatricians from our Centre achieved 1<sup>st</sup> (Dr.Nagee) and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranks (Dr.Indu Viswanathan), respectively.**
- VI. **Foetal Medicine Department :** The Fetal Medicine Department has been established at SAT Hospital by Government in association with the CDC Foetal Medicine Unit. The anomaly scans, amniocentesis, and provides training for doctors in fetal medicine unit at CDC. This initiative aims to offer antenatal diagnostic services and aneuploidy screening to pregnant women across the state. It will serve as a benchmark public service and play a crucial role in further reducing the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the state.

#### **V. New Clinics started**

**CVI Clinic :** The CVI Clinic commenced operations at CDC in January 2024. Infants at risk of CVI undergo screening and receive interventions at this facility, which operates on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.

**“KUDE”-Palliative Care Clinic:** The Kude Clinic began operating at the CDC in January 2024, overseen by a palliative care team led by Prof. Dr. Kusuma Kumari. The clinic offers counseling services for parents of children with NDD and operates on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

**Teenage Club for children with Type I Diabetes :** The Teenage Club began operating at the CDC in November 2023. Awareness classes, life skill education, fun activities for the adolescents including various art performances by the children are part of the club activities.

## **Other Relevant Data**

Child Development Centre, the Centre of Excellence under Health and Family Welfare Dept. Govt. of Kerala is undertaking Clinical activities, Research and Community Extension services in the area of early child and adolescent development. Apart from the routine continuing projects and activities during the current financial year the centre will be starting the following new initiatives.

- I. The **National Conclave on Early Detection and Early Intervention of Neurodevelopmental Disorders** has been conducted at CDC on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, at CDC. This two-day event is aimed at pediatricians, postgraduate students, and faculty from various medical colleges and hospitals. This two day National Conference has been inaugurated by the Hon'ble Health Minister, Kerala of the program, followed by a plenary session featuring leading experts in neurodevelopment.
- II. Child Development Centre has also organized a **zonal conference titled "Redefining Communication Intervention in Autism Spectrum Disorders: Current Trends and Future Prospects"**, on November 16-17, 2024. The main highlight of the conference is the current trends in assessment and management of Autism Spectrum Disorders with special focus on building effective communication.
- III. **Short term courses**: CDC is planning to start two short term courses in association with Centre for Adult Continuing Education & Extension (CACEE), University of Kerala. The programmes are i) Certificate programme in autism early interventionist and 2) Reconnect- certification course for speech language pathologists in autism intervention. The certificate programme in autism early interventionist aims to impart multi-disciplinary skill training in conducting autism intervention, screening and diagnosis of ASD and to understand the guidelines in organizing autism – parent centered and school centered. The Minimum qualification for admission to the course shall be BA Psychology/Sociology, MSW/ MSc. Child Development / Home Science / Nutrition, or any other Master's Degree / B.Sc Nursing/ PGDCCD or DCCD with graduation training and family training.

The latter is planned BASLP degree holders or equivalent with a valid RCI registration. At the end of this course, the learner is expected to demonstrate an understanding of the diagnosis of autism, the heterogeneity of presentation, sensory-motor and cognitive processing differences, monotropism, autistic communication, autistic play, gestalt processing, non-stereotypical presentations of autism, autism in females and lifespan changes in autism. The course will also address the concept of neurodiversity and the need for trauma informed therapy. The total duration of these two courses is four months. Instructional Program will include predominantly practical based instruction. Seminars, lecturers, group discussions for novel topics. Assignments, projects, research and community based activities would also be included during this period. During internship, the

learners will be required to independently evaluate, plan and carry out interventions for children with ASD.

IV. **Start courses in Genetics and Foetal Medicine** :- Genetic and Foetal care courses are of significant importance in the field of health care and medical science. They will provide essential knowledge and skills that contribute to the well-being of both expectant mothers and their unborn babies. The courses shall be developed by CDC with the support and guidance of experienced doctors and experts in the field of Genetics and Foetal care. The courses will be developed by adhering to the NQSF standards laid out by NCVET, New Delhi. The courses will provide promising careers to the students joining the courses as this is an emerging field in Medical Sciences.

V. **RCI recognized courses:** CDC is planning to commence RCI recognized courses for the academic year 2024-25. The courses planned to be conducted include Advance Diploma in Child Guidance and Counselling, P.G. Diploma. in Developmental Therapy and P.G.Diploma in Early Intervention. The objective is to create a cadre of professionals qualified to intervene in the highly specialised field of early intervention, developmental therapy, and child counselling catering particularly to differently abled children. Also, a new P.G. Diploma course on Early intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorders is planned to be formulated and applied for recognition by RCI.

