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Challenges for TB Control in the 21st Century



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Dr. Soumya Swaminathan presently Director of the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai. She has had an outstanding academic record throughout, winning both the prestigious Kalinga trophy and the Presidents Gold medal for the best outgoing student (academic and overall). She has conceptualized, initiated and implemented several clinical trials investigating treatment and prevention regimens for TB among HIV-infected patients. She has also been involved in research leading to earlier diagnosis of HIV in infants and intervention strategies leading to decreased mortality and morbidity. Her other research contributions have been in pharmacokinetics and pharmacogenetics of anti-TB and anti-HIV drugs in the Indian population and many of these findings have had translational value to the national program. She has over 170 peer-reviewed publications and over 15 book chapters to her credit. Dr. Swaminathan served as Coordinator for Neglected Priorities Research at the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases at WHO, Geneva for two years. Her contributions to research were recognized by her receiving the ICMR Kshanika Oration award for excellence in biomedical sciences for the year 2008, being elected Fellow, Indian Academy of Pediatrics in 2011, Fellow, National Academy of Sciences, 2012, Fellow, Indian Academy of Sciences, 2013. She is currently Chair of the HIV section of the International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases and a member of the TB steering committee of the IMPAACT network (NIH). She also serves as Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University.
