

Foreword

This special issue of the *International Journal of Human Genetics*, focusing on 'Genetic Counselling', is a comprehensive collection of scientific findings and case studies on genetic counselling in India. Recent advances in genomic technology and the development of large-scale knowledge bases have transformed health care services in the country. Genetic Counselling has played a key role in this development, where a Genetic Counsellor plays an integral part in assisting patients and clinicians in aspects of decision making, interpretation of genetic test results, and identification of appropriate clinical management services. Although genetic counselling services are in infancy in India, they are gradually gaining recognition among diverse medical professionals. They have the potential to provide valuable information in effective clinical decision-making and in improving patient care.

VIT University was one of the first institutions in India to introduce genetic counselling as a specialization. Our alumni, who specialized in Genetic Counselling, are successful professionals and leaders in the field across India and abroad. Ms. Sawona Biswas, M.Sc., M.S., C.G.C. an alumnus of VIT, a certified Senior Genetic

Counselor and Program Manager, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Division of Human Genetics has edited this issue along with her mentor and teacher, Dr. Radha Saraswathy, M.Sc. (Honours); M.Phil.; PhD; FIMSA, Senior Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences, School of Biosciences and Technology, VIT University, Vellore.

Although the principles of genetic counselling are universal, the practice of genetic counselling varies nationally and internationally. The 14 papers in this issue highlight the Indian perspective on various aspects of the genetic counselling process. This issue aims to serve as a comprehensive reference for students, teachers, researchers, health care professionals or individuals interested in genetic counselling. The case studies provide authentic information on research findings in the field of study.

I appreciate the efforts of Dr. Radha Saraswathy and Ms. Sawona Biswas for editing this issue to meet the exacting demands of high quality scientific research. I wish them all the best, and hope they continue to engage in such academic and research pursuits on a continuous basis.

With best wishes

Vellore 632 014
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