

Better Immunology for today and tomorrow

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Abstract

Immunology is the science that deals with the processes that defend the Body against a variety of Assaults. We live amongst a variety of infections, but do not become victim to it unless our immune system is paralysed or non functional against a given infection. To combat such eventualities, Vaccines were invented, which seek to boost the immunity of the recipient against a given epidemic. I have had the privilege of developing a Vaccine against Leprosy, a disease caused by a Mycobacteria discovered initially in Norway. It renders the incumbent ugly and full of scars. Luckily only a few, about 1 to 2 percent of individuals in India are deficient in resisting this infection. We developed a Vaccine based on a cultivable non pathogenic mycobacteria, whose gene sequence is now known, and it has been named as Mycobacterium indicus pranii (MIP), earlier investigated under the code name Mw. After going through extensive Clinical trials, it received approval of the Drugs Controller General of India and also of USFDA. It has been passed on to a Company for availability to Public. Interestingly MIP or Mw has also therapeutic benefit in Tuberculosis, specially Category II Difficult to Treat Tuberculosis, in treatment of ugly anogenital warts and several cancers. It is a potent invigorator of immune responses, and has also been included as adjuvant in our Birth Control Vaccine against hCG, currently under clinical trials.

Biography:

Prof. GP Talwar is Director Research at the Talwar Research Foundation, a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) recognized by DSIR, Govt of India. He was Professor & Head Biochemistry, AIIMS 1965-83, Jawaharlal Nehru Fellow 1979-81, Scholar-in-Residence National Institutes of Health Bethesda 1982-86, Founder Director, National Institute of Immunology 1983-94, Wellcome Professor Johns Hopkins Baltimore 95, Prof. of Eminence International Centre of Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology 1994-99, Director Research Talwar Research Foundation 2000 onwards.

Amongst many he received the National Award in BioMedicine, Basanti Devi Amirchand Prize of ICMR, National Lecturer UGC, JC Bose Award Life Sciences, FICCI

Award, Sunderlal Hora and Golden Jubilee Commemoration Medals of INSA, Jalma Trust Prize in Leprosy, Rameshwardas Birla National Award, Glaxo oration NAMS, Ranbaxy Research Award, MastrionniSegal Award, Friedrich von Siemens Lecture. Life Time Achievement Award of AIIMS for Outstanding

Contribution in Medical Sciences and Humanity. He has been the President of the Indian Immunology Society, Endocrine Society of India, Indian College of Allergy & Applied Immunology, Association of Clinical Biochemists of India & Indian Academy of Vaccinology. Elected as the President of International Society of Immunology of Reproduction and first President of the

Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia-Oceania. Prof. Talwar was conferred Padma Bhushan by

President of India & Officier de la Legion d'Honneur by President of France. He has published over 600 publications in reputed Journals. He is editor & author of 10 books & Monographs. His notable research contributions are Immunotherapeutic.

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