

Pediatricians are witnessing a resurgence of viral infections in the last few months after the quietening of the COVID pandemic all over the world including India.

*Reasons for this are postulated by medical researchers as follows:*

- Social distancing and masking have reduced exposure to viral respiratory infections and relaxation of curbs has helped other viruses to come back with vengeance.
- Antenatal mothers were unexposed to viruses less than before and are giving birth to offspring without much of IgG to young infants making them more prone to infections.
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is dominating as the number one viral respiratory infection across the world with more morbidity.
- RSV is seen more these days because of lack of exposure in young infants during the last 3 years so much so even older children are having RSV pneumonia.
- Routine immunization coverage particularly in countries like India has taken a beating due to COVID pandemic making children more susceptible to vaccine preventable diseases (VPD).

At this critical juncture, we should strengthen our efforts to promote routine vaccination coverage for VPD to ensure reduction in under-5 mortality.

The need for a good vaccine for RSV cannot be underemphasized though we are yet not close to having one for routine use.

Preparations and planning for NCPID at Vellore are going on smoothly and the scientific program is nearly finalized. We are going to witness a galaxy of ID experts deliberating crucial developments in PID with concurrent sessions in 2 halls—one for basics and the other for advanced PID. A special feature of NCPID–2022 will be the opportunities being given to young PID specialists particularly those trained for fellowship of IAP-IDC.

We request members of our Chapter to register and attend and make the NCPID a huge success science-wise.

The Vellore team led by Dr Narmada and with support from IAP-IDC office-bearers and Tamil Nadu IAP & IDC Team is making all efforts to provide excellent hospitality and academics and we request your full support.

Dr S Balasubramanian  
Chairperson  
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