

Dr. Nita Bhandari

Chief Scientist and Chairman

Qualifications

MBBS, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

PhD, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Key areas of work: Maternal and child health and nutrition

Core strengths: Nutritional intervention trials to reduce childhood morbidity and mortality, nutrition-infection interactions, and vaccine trials to prevent childhood infectious diseases.

Work experience: Dr. Bhandari is a globally recognized public health researcher with over four decades of experience.

Seminal research contributions under her leadership include development of WHO Child Growth Standards used globally, establishing efficacy of zinc as a treatment for acute diarrhea leading to its addition in the management of diarrhea in the national program and demonstrating that home treatment of severe acute malnutrition is feasible using ready-to-use therapeutic foods. She coordinated the entire clinical development program of the first Indian rotavirus vaccine (ROTAVAC®) leading to its introduction in the national immunization program. The first and largest community trial showing conclusive evidence of the benefits of kangaroo mother care in reducing neonatal mortality, morbidities and severe acute malnutrition among low birth weight infants, is now a part of the WHO guidelines for management of low birth weight babies. The ground-breaking results of the Women and Infants Integrated Interventions for Growth Study (WINGS) revealed that a package of health, nutrition, psychosocial care, and water, sanitation and hygiene interventions delivered during preconception, pregnancy, and early childhood reduces risk of low birth weight and stunting.

She is one of the most experienced female medical researchers in the country who is well known for her passion for quality. She has consistently published in best international clinical journals and her contributions have found place in public health programs in India and other developing countries. She has published 215 research articles with an overall h-index of 69.

She is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy - New Delhi, Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences - Bengaluru, Member of the National Academy of Sciences - Allahabad and a Member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences - New Delhi.

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