

# CITATION

## INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

### DR. M. O. T. IYENGAR MEMORIAL AWARD 2017

### DR PRADEEP KUMAR N.

The Dr M. O. T. Iyengar Memorial Award was instituted in 1983 by Smt. Rukmani Iyengar to honour a scientist for carrying out research in the field of malaria, filariasis, plague or medical entomology. The award for the year 2017 is being presented to Dr Pradeep Kumar N., ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC)- Field Station, Kottayam (Kerala) for the research work on “Medical entomology- bringing in a novel and innovative dimension to the taxonomy of medically important insects”.

The scientist developed and adopted DNA barcoding methodology for taxonomic identification of medically important insects, bringing in a novel and innovative dimension to the field of taxonomy. He developed molecular methods for surveillance of arbo-viral infections. He characterized the parasite species causing cutaneous leishmaniasis in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve forest, Kerala to be *Leishmania donovani*, a strain different from the one causing visceral leishmaniasis in northern India. His studies on genetic characterization of dengue viruses brought in dengue 4 serotype perhaps for the first time in Kerala.

