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Dr. C.N. Paramasivan, a Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology, and D.Sc. from Madras University is an elected Fellow of National academy of Medical Sciences (FAMS) and a Fellow of National academy of Sciences (FNASc), and served his career of thirty years as Head of Microbiology Division at Tuberculosis Research Institute, Chennai.

From 1990 to 2004, Param served as Head of the WHO Supra National Reference Laboratory for SEAR, and in 2001, the WHO nominated him as Member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Tuberculosis. In 2004, the IUATLD elected him to the Chair of the Bacteriology and Immunology section for their Global Meetings and later as Secretary of TB section and he currently serves as its Programme Secretary. In April 2006, Dr. Paramasivan ("Param") joined FIND from his position as Head of the Bacteriology Division of the Tuberculosis Research Centre of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in Chennai, India.

Dr. Paramasivan has made several important contributions to Tuberculosis research from the Tuberculosis Research Centre, and is responsible for establishing state-of-the-art laboratory facilities for tuberculosis research. His seminal contributions included identification of environmental mycobacteria and their role in the protective response offered by BCG, in vitro and in vivo simulation studies with newer anti tubercular drugs and regimens, drug resistance surveillance and simplifying and standardizing Laboratory Quality Assurance in tuberculosis diagnosis. He served as mentor in training laboratory personnel, establishing and streamlining TB laboratory services in SEAR and SAARC countries.

Dr. Paramasivan is a pioneer in the introducing newer TB diagnostic technologies in resource poor, high endemic countries: This paved the way for the implementation of the UNITAID-funded EXPAND TB Project in 27 countries, development of 43-state level TB diagnostic laboratories in India and establishing a state of the art training facility in Bangalore the "International Centre for Excellence in Laboratory Training".