

Dr Narendra Arora named new INCLEN Trust Executive Director

INCLEN is pleased to announce the selection of Dr Narendra Arora as its new Executive Director effective December 1, 2004. Dr Arora, professor of pediatrics at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, has led many health and research programs throughout his career, and has successfully contributed to the advancement of global and national agendas for health policy and systems research. He serves as member coordinator of India's National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication (NCCPE). He is the team leader of the IndiaCLEN Program Evaluation Network (IPEN), a network of more than 80 Indian centers and six Clinical Epidemiology Units that have been involved in conducting evaluations of public health programs in India. Most recently, Dr Arora and IPEN completed a nationwide assessment of injection practices in India. His research in the area of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition has led to the standardization of improved methods for the management of infants with intractable diarrhea and characterization of infection due to hepatitis E virus in childhood. He is also a member of the Indian working group for Review of National Nutrition Policy and National Plan of Action on Nutrition.

As Executive Director, Dr Arora plans to implement the new INCLEN Strategic Plan for 2003-2007 with renewed vigor and to further strengthen the regional Clinical Epidemiology Networks.. "We have to perform and demonstrate our capability to influence global, regional and national health policies and programs through evidence generated by us," he said. When discussing the urgency of finding answers on a global scale for the world's most pressing health issues, Dr Arora stated, "INCLEN, with more than 700 trained professionals from 70 academic medical institutions located in 7 regions, is potentially one of the most powerful institutions present to respond to global health challenges." To do this, he said, "It is critical that the capacities built over the last two decades are brought together in a manner that leverages these capabilities, and INCLEN as an organization moves to the vanguard of efforts to provide simple, feasible, and efficient answers to seemingly complex public health issues."

From a personal perspective, Dr Arora reflected that "INCLEN has contributed significantly in shaping my life as a research investigator, teacher and a clinician over the past 10 years. I am ready to take up the challenge that the position of Executive Director offers and am confident that I should be able to make a difference."