

PRESS RELEASE

Prof. (Dr.) Kameshwar Prasad to be on WHO Advisory Group on STAG-MNS; only Indian Neurologist from India to be in the group

Prof. (Dr.) Kameshwar Prasad, Director, Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Ranchi has been invited by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to join its Advisory Group on Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use (STAG-MNS).

Prof. Prasad is the only neurologist from India in the group. This is a matter of pride for Jharkhand and RIMS.



With mental, neurological and substance use (MNS) conditions on rise globally, WHO sought experts to serve as members of the STAG-MNS. These experts will advise WHO Director-General on issues related to mental health, neurological disorders, substance use and addictive behaviours. MNS disorders encompass a wide range of conditions of the brain from depression to epilepsy to alcohol abuse. It constitute for over 10% of the global burden of disease and about 30% of non-fatal disease burden. Despite this mental and brain health and substance use is given less priority in health agendas of most countries and not only this it languishes behind most other health concerns in the global health

funding arena as well.

During the 76th World Health Assembly in May 2021, the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 was decided to be extended till 2030 with updated implementation options and indicators. The STAG-MNS will support WHO's leading role in advancing SDG 2030 health-related targets mentioned in 3.4 and 3.5 which focuses on promoting mental health and wellbeing and also strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

The advisory group represented by members from broad range of disciplines and technical areas of expertise relevant to mental and brain health as well as substance use will work towards identifying current and future challenges, strategic directions to be prioritized, development of global strategic documents and propose other strategic interventions and activities for implementation by WHO. Each member will be appointed to serve for a period of two years.

Prof. Prasad with his vast experience in the field of neurology will be an asset for the group. He is known as an advocate of Evidence-based Healthcare (EBHC). He was awarded the fourth highest civilian honour the Padma Shri by the Government of India.