

## **IIIM, JAMMU MAKES HISTORY IN DRUG DEVELOPMENT**

Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu and M/s Cadila Labs have finally been able to obtain permission for commercial production of two drug formulations for the treatment of adult patients with pulmonary tuberculosis. This technology was transferred to M/s Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ahmadabad under a consultancy agreement by this institute. Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in association with IIIM, Jammu (erstwhile RRL) jointly conducted all phased clinical trials at different hospitals on the drug formulations, which is a mandatory requirement for commercial manufacture before seeking the approval of Drugs Controller General of India. In these trials on human patients, it was proved beyond doubt that the two drug formulations developed by IIIM, Jammu are working excellently on the adult patients requiring the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. The data was presented to Directorate General of Health services for its permission/approval for the manufacture and marketing of these two new drug formulations by M/s Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. These two drug formulations are the first in the line of allopathic drugs developed by this institute. With the permission from DCGI vide permission order no. MF-1294/08 for the manufacture of two new drug formulations, IIIM, Jammu has joined a few selected group of institutes in the world who have been able to produce the marketable drug for neglected diseases most prevalent in Asian countries such as pulmonary tuberculosis.

It is important to mention here that a new concept of bioavailability enhancers discovered by a distinguished team of scientists of this institute was successfully applied in the present case for developing these formulations. This new concept is now accepted all over the world for the development of other drugs. Taking lead from Trikatu, an Ayurvedic formulation, the mechanism of bioavailability enhancers was developed into a concept and proved in the laboratory. The two formulations are also patented by this institute in India, United States and Europe. The advantage of the new drug formulations is that by adding the component isolated from a herb and using lower doses of the drug, associated side effects will be reduced without affecting its bioavailability/efficacy.