

**Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratory**  
**Dept. of Microbiology**

The VRDL (Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratory) was set up in the Department of Microbiology in 2016, under the central government scheme '*Setting Up Of Nation-Wide Network Of Laboratories For Managing Epidemics And National Calamities*', by the Department of Health & Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The scheme was envisaged to help coverage of the entire country for timely diagnosis/identification of viruses during outbreaks of epidemics, generation of data about viral diseases for facilitating quick deployment of resources & measures to save human lives. As of 31st March 2021, a network of 124 VRDLs (10 Regional Level, 25 State Level and 89 Medical College Level) has been established. Our VRDL is one of the 89 Medical College-level labs across the country.

At VRDL, Dept of Microbiology, lab testing of samples of dengue (ELISA NS1, IgM and IgG), chikungunya, hepatitis (A, B, C, D and E), TORCH ELISA, Japanese Encephalitis ELISA, COVID-19 RT-PCR, Influenza, RSV, HMPV, etc., are routinely done. Under the expert guidance of the principal investigator, the lab is well-equipped with trained staff and state-of-the-art equipment. Along with the VRDL project, the following new projects have been added by the ICMR-DHR and are currently running at the lab.

1. PAN India Surveillance for respiratory virus through DHR-ICMR VRDL Network.
2. Antimicrobial resistance in hospital wastewater.

**Staff Of VRDL, Dept Of Microbiology**

*Principal Investigator:* **Dr Rajesh Kumar Verma** (Professor & Head, Dept of Microbiology, Nodal Officer, VRDL)

*Co-PI:* **Dr D.P. Singh** (Professor, Jr Grade, Dept of Microbiology)

**Co-PI: Dr Radhika Chaudhary** (Asst. Professor, Dept of Microbiology)

The following employees have been appointed under the ICMR-DHR and deployed at the VRDL, UPUMS.

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of employee</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Dr Atul	Scientist B (Non-medical)
2.	Dr Sana Fatima	Scientist B (Medical)
3.	Dr Prashant Sharma	Research Assistant
4.	Monika Singh	Lab Technician
5.	Man Singh	Lab Technician
6.	Rishi Yadav	Data Entry Operator
7.	Amarjeet Singh	Multi-tasking staff

The lab, apart from regular diagnostics, is also involved in research and publication. Over the years, several research papers have been published in indexed journals, many national and international conferences have been attended by the employees for skill development, and they are trained regularly according to the government of India guidelines. The lab also provides training to graduate and post-graduate medical students, including junior residents from several departments like Biochemistry, Physiology, dentistry, etc. The lab also trains students of [M.Sc](#), B.M.L.T, and D.M.L.T in molecular diagnostics like RNA extraction, DNA extraction, PCR, ELISA testing, etc