SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- A total of 72 strains of different *Candida* species recovered from blood stream infections were confirmed on the basis of morphology, microscopic examination and biochemical tests.

- They were studied for their susceptibility to fluconazole. Fifteen fluconazole resistant and six SDD strains were detected.

- All the fluconazole resistant and SDD strains, selective sensitive strains were studied for their virulence traits. The resistant strains appeared more virulent in most instances as revealed by their enzymatic activities, agar invasion, adherence, hypha and biofilm formation.

- Besides fluconazole other ergosterol pathway inhibitors were also examined for their *in vitro* efficacy against selective resistant and sensitive strains of *Candida* species alone and or in combination with fluconazole.

- The results of the ergosterol pathway inhibitors alone or in combination were synergistic and antagonistic in some cases only. But indifferent results were mostly observed. Further studies are required.

- The amplicons of ERG11 gene of six resistant and sensitive strains revealed variation in the nucleotide sequences which was reflected in amino acid substitutions.

- It may be concluded that the non *Candida albicans* group is emerging in clinical settings and development of resistance to antifungal agents in these strains present difficulty in treating Candidasis. More combinations are therefore, required to be studied for management of these conditions.

Constant surveillance of the field strains is essentially required. Rapid diagnostic molecular tools along with conventional methods may be adopted for this purpose