Studies on HCV in India are limited to a few research Institutions only. Eventhough the present study, conducted in Southern India, has clearly proved HCV infection as a major problem, next to HBV, also in this part of the country, there is an urgent need to continue research programmes on the following lines in order to facilitate routine HCV screening in all hospitals and blood banks on one hand and to focus the HCV biology in India to the international scientific community:

i) to bring out indigenous, cost-effective, quality-controlled HCV diagnostic systems for routine use in India.

ii) to conduct molecular epidemiology of HCV infection in different parts of India to bring out a nationwide baseline data.

iii) to conduct a prospective study on Post-transfusion hepatitis due to HCV, in order to strengthen the screening methods for HCV and to prevent PTH-C.

iv) to analyse decisively the modes of HCV transmission in India.

v) to analyse the HCV genotypes in India and their correlation with HCV disease pattern.

vi) to work on the efficacy of anti-viral treatment strategies in HCV.

vii) to evaluate possible anti-HCV properties of indigenous systems of medicinal preparations.

9. FUTUROLOGY