Chapter 9

Futurology
9. FUTUROLOGY

While the present study has generated considerable data on the epidemiological and diagnostic aspects of genital chlamydial infections, future research programmes in the following lines would be of importance to benefit prevention and control of these sexually transmitted infections.

1. To evaluate the impact of STD intervention programmes undertaken presently in Tamil Nadu on the incidence of sexually transmitted infections due to *C. trachomatis*.

2. To work out cost effective strategies for community-based screening programmes using molecular tests.

3. To develop cost effective, simple, and rapid indigenous test systems that are sensitive and specific for *C. trachomatis* and suitable for routine diagnostic use in STD referral centers.

4. To study the recurrence/persistence of CT infections in a prospective design.

5. Molecular epidemiology of genital chlamydial infections in asymptomatic as well as in symptomatic populations of South India by genotyping and sequencing studies.

6. Prospective studies to provide information on the incidence, risk, recurrence and transmission pattern of *C. trachomatis* infection in relation to HIV infection status.