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Gut motility disorders, also called gastrointestinal neuromuscular disease comprising of a clinically heterogeneous group of disorders affecting predominantly children, results in impaired motility/motor activity. One of the commonest of these is Hirschsprung's disease, the diagnosis of which requires expertise and techniques such as enzyme histochemistry and immunohistochemistry with standards for histopathological work-up and reporting. What started as a small research project in 1997-98, it has evolved into a multifaceted venture in diagnosis, teaching and research over the last 20 years to develop into a Translational Research Laboratory for Gut Motility Disorders which is now established as the National Referral Centre for Hirschsprung's disease and its related disorders. The virtuous translational research by my group in this laboratory on this rare disease group mandates emphasizing on intestinal neuromuscular pathology, rapid diagnostic modalities, molecular & genetic mechanism of Enteric Nervous System-its development and its functional integrity, to improve patient treatment and management.

Besides many accolades that have come our way, several research grants for the projects have been funded namely ICMR from Govt. of India, Wellcome DBT- India Alliance, Vision Group of Science and Technology and Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences from Government of Karnataka and support and encouragement from collaborators such as National Centre for Biological Sciences-Bangalore and IIT-Bombay. The joint work has taken the good work forward in the evaluation of constipation in children and in the management of Hirschsprung's disease in the Indian context. Indeed the best rewards have been the smiles on our little patients and their families!

With the motto of 'See one, Do some and Teach many others' of this Centre, over 300 pathologists, paediatric surgeons and PhD students have been trained in this laboratory and is networked to over 54 major national health centres to offer research turned translational services to the community. We propose to connect with a wider population of pathologists and basic scientists through telepathology supported by IIT-Mumbai and collaboration with Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, USA and NCBS, Bangalore for diagnostic modalities and step forward towards molecular biology.