



## Alumni Interview

**Dr Gurinder BIR SINGH**

ADVAC 2016

*“Resurgence of VPDs like Diphtheria, Pertussis has become a major challenge along with the development of vaccines against newly emerging diseases like Zika virus.”*

### **What did ADVAC bring to you on both a personal and professional level?**

Participation in ADVAC increased my understanding of different aspects of vaccination that I had probably never thought of earlier. Professionally, it strengthened my capacity as an Immunization Manager.

### **What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in vaccinology over the past 20 years?**

In the last 20 years, vaccination has been transformed with introduction of newer vaccines, changes in the quality of vaccines and much better understanding of functioning of vaccines and vaccination programs. Development of Malaria vaccine, HPV vaccine is important advances. Resurgence of VPDs like Diphtheria, Pertussis has become a major challenge along with the development of vaccines against newly emerging diseases like Zika virus.

### **Why does this field remain so important?**

Whereas, traditionally, childhood vaccination has been an important intervention in reducing infant and child mortality, introduction of vaccines against cancers, adult Pneumonia and other such diseases would further reduce the morbidity related to several vaccine preventable diseases and thus improve overall health status of the communities around the world.