

Biography



Prof. RM. Pitchappan, FASc, FAMS,
Professor Immunology (Rtd),
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Prof. RM.Pitchappan b 1946, is a pioneer in the field of Immunogenetics and infectious diseases in India: he has applied an interdisciplinary approach, and employed state of the art DNA technology to study infectious diseases and human population genetics. His seminal findings include genome predisposing for leprosy, tuberculosis susceptibility and first out of Africa emigration of modern man through India. His recent papers deciphered the pre-Aryan origin of Brokpa, a Dardic speaking tribes from Dah-Hanu, Leh, Ladak, and the origin of Caste system in India. Different male mediated migrations, far and wide, converging at a meeting point amalgamated as clans of a caste. To his credit he has published 100+ research articles in refereed journals and delivered key note address and symposium talks in UNESCO, various world Congresses on HLA and immunology and also World Tamil Conferences. Under the banner of The Genographic, USA, he studied the peopling of India – the preamble to these studies appearing in documentaries 'Journey of Man', 2002 NGS/PBS channel and Story of India 2007, BBC world. Prof. Pitchappan also served as the Director, Educational Medical Research Centre and Science Education Centre- MKU, Director-Research, Chettinad University, Chennai, and Adjunct Professor, ICMR Andaman Nicobar Islands. Presently he is the Vice-President of Nilgiri Adivasi Welfare Association, Kotagiri, Nilgiris and also advisor aDNA programme of Madurai Kamaraj University and Tamil Nadu Govt.