

## National Center for Measles and Rubella



**Introduction:** The National Center for Measles and Rubella of the School of Public Health in the virology department was established in 1978. Prominent rubella and measles monitoring activities have been performed by this lab especially in the past when methods such as ELISA did not exist and diagnosing measles was performed by taking rhesus blood samples. Although there were many restrictions in this method, Iran has fortunately remained as the only country in the Eastern Mediterranean which has determined the genotypes of measles virus before measles-rubella vaccine. Based on the activities performed, this lab was approved by WHO as the National Center for Measles and Rubella in 2003.

### **Purpose:**

- 1) Monitoring seroepidemiology, molecular and phylogenetic epidemiology of measles and rubella
- 2) Isolating and determining the type of common viruses in Iran

### **Research Activities:**

- Monitoring and investigating seroepidemiology, molecular and phylogenetic epidemiology of measles and rubella viruses
  - Monitoring and investigating epidemics of viral rash diseases especially measles and rubella
  - Investigating the role of immune system in the pathogenesis of rash of viral diseases
  - Analyzing sensitivity and characteristics of serologic tests such as micro-neutralization and hem agglutination inhibition test
  - Studying and performing research on other respiratory viruses that cause skin rash
- Influenza, measles and rubella national labs are evaluated annually by WHO and have been approved at any of such investigations.