

Faculty Development Programme on Recent Technological Trends and Advancements

A five-day Faculty Development Programme on 'Recent Technological Trends and Advancements in Pharmaceutical Sciences' was organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) New Delhi in collaboration with Amity Institute of Pharmacy and Amity Academic Staff College, Amity University Haryana from October 09-13, 2023. About ninety-six participants registered across the country for the event and there was a galaxy of twelve speakers ranging from industry to academia.

The Inaugural Address was delivered by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. P B Sharma. Mr. Alok Mishra, Adjunct Professor, DUKE National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore delivered the address as a Guest of Honor. The inaugural session also witnessed the address of Dr Amarendra Pani, Joint Director and Director (I/C), Research Division, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Prof. Satish Sardana, Director, AIP and Dr. Sanjna Vij, Deputy Director, Amity Academic Staff College, AUH.

The Inaugural Address was delivered by Prof. P B Sharma Vice Chancellor, Amity University Haryana wherein he highlighted the seminal role that pharmaceutical sciences could play in the healthcare sector. Further, he highlighted the role of newer technologies and innovation in the growth and development of pharmaceutical sciences. He encouraged the pharma academician to adopt the habit of skill upgradation and innovation in their day-to-day life.

During the Technical Session, Dr. Aashish Sharma, Associate Professor, G D Goenka University, Haryana spoke on 'Innovations in Bio-adhesive: Nature's Inspiration for Biomedical Applications'. The theme of the first day was 'Technological Advancements in Topical Drug Delivery System'. The talk was very informative as he discussed the nitty gritty details of various polymers used in the topical drug delivery system.

Dr. Rakesh Singh, Head, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, NIPER, Raebareli, Lucknow on topic 'Protective Effects of Natural Compounds in Models of Neuroinflammation'. Subsequently, Prof. Sanju Nanda, Dean, DOPS, MDU Rohtak spoke on the topic 'Technological Advancements in Beauty Product: A Caveat Vendors Instead of Caveat Emptors'. The talk was informative and interactive.

The theme of the next session was 'Advancements in Remote Pedagogy in Pharmaceutical Sciences'. Where two lectures were scheduled. The first lecture was on the topic 'How Remote Skill Assessment is Revolutionising Pharmacy Education' delivered by Dr Suresh Shanmugam, Head, Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy, International Medical University,

Malaysia. In his talk, he discussed how remote pedagogy is being carried out in Malaysia and how it could be extrapolated in the Indian context. The second talk was delivered by Dr. Alok Mishra, Adjunct Associate Professor, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Duke NUS, Singapore on the topic 'Recent Advancements in MedTech Industry'. He gave a fair idea about the global MedTech industry vis-a-vis its Indian prospects.

The next session was on the topic 'Recent Trends in Drug Regulatory Affairs and Drug Discovery'. There were two talks delivered in this session. The first talk was delivered by Mr Amit Bansal, Global IPR, Mankind on 'Excipients Used in Ophthalmic Drug Delivery System' wherein he touched upon all the safer excipients that could be utilized in developing an ophthalmic drug delivery system. The second talk was delivered by Dr Pritesh Bhatt, Principal Application Scientist, Schrodinger India on 'Discovering Drug Molecules Using the Schrodinger Platform- Overview and Case Studies'. Dr. Pritesh discussed several case studies of small bioactive compounds in his talk.

The theme of the next session was 'Digital Pharmaceutical Interventions for Optimal Therapeutic Outcomes in Patients'. Prof. Harish Dureja, Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, MDU, Rohtak spoke on 'Digital Therapeutics and Pharmaceutical Regulatory Environment'. His talk summed up the role of digital infrastructure in the healthcare sector of the country and how it would shape the regulatory framework in the coming decades. Further, Dr Shrikant Bhagat, Scientist, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, NIPER Mohali delivered his talk on 'General Safety in Chemistry Lab and Our Routine Health Care and Wellbeing'. He discussed the do's and don'ts of general lab practices and what are the precautions a research scholar should take while working in the laboratory.

Dr Tarun Wadhwa, Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology, RAK Medical and Health Science University, UAE spoke on 'Pharmaceutical Care Intervention' wherein he highlights the role of community pharmacy especially in the intervention of diabetes.

Further, the session was on 'Research Ethics and Funding Opportunities'. Prof. B S Bhoop, Emeritus Professor, Chitkara University Innovation and Network (CURIN), Chitkara University delivered his talk on 'On being an Adept Pharmaceutical Researcher: Maladies and Remedies in Ethical Publishing of Scientific Findings'. The talk was very useful particularly for the budding academician and research scholar as he pointed out the importance of ethical scientific writing and pointed out the biggest menace of plagiarism in scientific writings. He gave numerous examples via various case studies and emphasized being an honest researcher even when the findings were not very appealing.

Dr. Gaurav Joshi, Assistant Professor and Convenor, IIC, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, HNMG Central University, Uttarakhand spoke on the topic 'Navigating Research in Pharmaceutical Sciences: A Hands-on Session on Literature Search Reference Management and Funding Opportunities'. He showed various databases that a researcher can utilize in his research and how he could write for extramural funding.

During the Valedictory Session, Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Vikas Madhukar shared his words of wisdom and pointed out some of the most exciting domains of pharmaceutical sciences. He outlined six breakthroughs that are taking place in pharmaceutical sciences such as machine learning and the growing role of AI, augmented reality, big data analytics, digital therapeutics, 3D-printing-based drug discovery, and nanotechnology. He highlighted the necessary goals that are of utmost importance for the stakeholders of healthcare sectors.

The Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, MDU Rohtak, Prof. Harish Dureja delivered a brief valedictory address wherein he emphasized skill training and skill upgradation that is required for an academician so as to well fit in the everchanging scenario of teaching and research. Subsequently, Dr. Sanjna Vij, Deputy Director, Amity Academic Staff College shared her views on the growing need for innovation and technology in the field of education and she emphasized that an academician should learn new skills and should get acquainted with the newer technology. At the end, Prof. Satish Sardana proposed the vote of thanks.