

ICRABB 2020: Conference Report

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Recent Advances in Biotechnology and Biochemistry will provide an excellent opportunity to focus on recent developments in the frontier areas of Biotechnology and establish new collaborations in these areas. Multidisciplinary perspectives bring together biochemists, biotechnologists, microbiologists, pharmaceutical experts, bioprocess engineers, agronomists, medical professionals, sustainability researchers, and academicians in one platform. This technical get together will provide a platform for potential knowledge exchange on recent trends, theories, and practices in the field of Biotechnology. During last January 8, 9th 2020, the Department of Biotechnology, National Institute of Technology Raipur, C.G., India, organized an International Conference on Recent Advances in Biotechnology and Biochemistry.

The Inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. A. M. Rawani (Director, NIT Raipur and Chief Patron), Prof. Shirish Verma (Dean Academics, NIT Raipur), Prof. Shubhrata Gupta (Dean R&C, NIT Raipur), Dr. Pratima Gupta (Chairman & HOD, Biotechnology Department), Dr. Lata S. B. Upadhyay (Organizing Secretary), Dr. J. Satya Eswari (Organizing Secretary) along with faculties and students of the Institute. Dr. M. Arujanan, Executive Director, Malaysian Biotechnology Information Centre graced the event as the Chief Guest and one of the keynote speaker. Dr. Pratima Gupta, being the Chairman of the conference outlined the details of the conference, its theme to the august gathering. Prof. A. M. Rawani (Director, NIT Raipur and Chief Patron) focussed on the importance and need of the interdisciplinary research among various branches of the study. The event came to an end with vote of thanks by Dr. Lata S. B. Upadhyay, Organizing secretary, ICRABB-2020.

As the day progressed, Dr. M. Arujanan delivered the keynote lecture which mainly focused on the advances and challenges of biotechnology in the

present scenario. She enlightened the audience with the challenges faced by the modern-day researchers, the new trends, socioeconomic and regulatory impact in biosciences with an emphasis on talent development, public engagement in science. Following the keynote lecture, several researchers and faculty members from various institutes discussed and presented their work which were broadly categorised in to 5 technical sessions on advanced research in biotechnology, applied microbiology and microbial products, molecular biology and drug development, applied nanobiotechnology and its advancements, biosensors and biomedical devices. The day ended with the charming performances by the students of the Biotechnology department and a soulful musical rendition by RAAGA, the official music club of NIT Raipur.

The second day commenced with the keynote lecture on “The Biology and Promising Potential of Enigmatic Stem Cells” by Dr. Nibedita Lenka, Scientist-F, National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune. She discussed in details various aspects of embryonic stem cells, somatic cell nuclear transfer, challenges and tools of gene therapy and cell replacement therapy. She also emphasized on the usage of 3D- bioprinting in the field of tissue engineering and its biomedical implications. The second keynote lecture of the day was delivered by Dr. Satish Verulkar, Professor & Head, Department of Plant Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, C. G. He enlightened the audience about advances in crop improvement with a focus on increasing the productivity and draught resistance capacity with better grain quality that will improve the commercial viability of different rice varieties. This will help the farmers in the coming days. This was followed by 4 technical sessions focussing on cell and tissue engineering, biofuel and bioenergy, environmental biotechnology and advancement in agrobiotechnology.

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The two day event was attended by researchers across the globe and comprised keynote lectures from various eminent personalities of the field followed by technical sessions for which more than 80 research papers were been received. The two day event was concluded with a valedictory session which was presided by Prof. Satish Verulkar. Dr. J. Satya Eswari (Organizing Secretary, ICRABB-2020) shed light on the success of the conference and congratulated all the participants and delegates. Ms. Sanu Awasthi (Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur) received the “Best technical

paper award” for her work on “Fabrication and characterization of lignin-agar based bioactive porous scaffold for biomedical application.” The “Best oral presentation award” was jointly awarded to Dr. Sayli Dalal (NIMHANS, Bengaluru) and Dr. Murugan A. K. (Department of molecular oncology, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center, Saudi Arabia). The day came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. Pratima Gupta (Chairman, ICRABB-2020) acknowledging the efforts of each and everyone involved directly and indirectly to make the event a success.