

Christ Church College, Kanpur In association with Indian Academy of Biomedical Sciences



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

organised
International Conference
On
PANDEMIC AND ITS AFTERMATH
(ICPA - 2020)

November 8 – 10, 2020

Department of Chemistry, Christ Church College, Kanpur, in collaboration with Indian Academy of Biomedical Sciences, Lucknow, organised an International Conference on "Pandemic and its aftermath" from November 8-10, 2020 on the GoToWebinar platform. This conference brought Academicians, Researchers, Industrialists and representatives from Pharmaceutical Companies on one e-Platform for effective deliberations on the effects of the pandemic on various sectors and ways to overcome these unforeseen hurdles of life.

This pandemic has not just resulted in loss of lives but has had an adverse impact on business, commerce and the global economy on account of lockdowns and restricted movement. The outbreak of Covid-19 brought societies and economies around the world to a halt. As the world is passing through an unprecedented time and facing the global crisis, in order to be safe and overcome the situation, we as academic leaders are committed to provide constant guidance to our fraternity.

The first day of the Conference started with a prayer offered by **Dr. Dorothy Rai, Head, Department of English,** for the well-being of the people and uninterrupted flow of the conference proceedings.

Principal, Dr. Joseph Daniel said that at this time of crisis, these webinars help us stay connected. We are able to listen to experts from various fields and can enrich ourselves from the deliberations. He pointed out that Coronavirus is a buzzword going around the world. It has not only locked us in our homes but also taken away our near and dear ones. The pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War II.



Convenor of the conference, Dr. Anindita Bhattacharya, Professor, Department of Chemistry, introduced the theme of the conference.

Chief Guest on the occasion was Dr.DipankarSaha, Former Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi. Presently he is an Expert Member, Environmental Appraisal Committee, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. He emphasised that the key principle of sustainable development, underlying all others, is the integration of environmental, social, and economic concerns into all aspects of decision-

making. Environmental sustainability concerns the natural environment and how it endures and remains diverse and productive. Since natural resources are derived from the environment, the state of air, water, and the climate are of particular concern. Environmental sustainability requires society to design activities to meet human needs while preserving the life-support systems of the planet. Dr Sahaemphasised that sustainable development was vital for winning the battle against the pandemic.

The Special Guest on the occasion was Dr. Hari S. Sharma, Department of Pathology, Institute of Cardiovascular Research, University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Dr. Abbas Ali Mahdi, KGMC Lucknow.

Dr.Sudhir Gupta, Head of the Chemistry Department offered the Vote of Thanks.

The Inaugural session was compered by Dr.Soofia Shahab.It was followed by two Technical sessions with insightful talks by three resource persons in each session.

The First Technical Session on the Pharma World, with section chairperson Dr. Meet Kamal and Rapporteurs Dr. Shweta Chand and Dr. Firdos Katiar, started with a talk by Dr.Sushmita Bhattacharya, Head, Medical Writing (India), ICON, Bengaluru, followed by talks by Dr.SwarnalataSaraf, Director, University Institute of Pharmacy, Raipur, Dr.DeepankarGahlot, University of Manchester, and Dr. Ajanta Chakraborty, Senior Scientist, Virology Lead, PerfectusBioMed (UK) Ltd. They all apprised us about developments in the endeavour to develop a vaccine against COVID -19.

The Second Technical Session on Banking and Finance had Dr.Anindita Bhattacharya as Chairperson and Dr.Shalini Kapur as rapporteur. Itstarted with a talk by Ms. Sagarika Bhattacharya, Business Manager, BARCLAYS, United Kingdom, followed by Ms Molly

Kapoor, Head, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Co. Ltd. and Ms. ShefaliMudgal, Regional Manager, State Bank of India, Jabalpur. They told the gathering that the novel coronavirus has impacted every single life on the globe in some way or the other. The magnitude may be different but it has touched every single life. The global economy is having a hard time with widespread



unemployment. Banks are experiencing growing tension between supporting their customers and increased concerns about the rise in non-performing loans (NPL), which will lead to capital depletion.

DAY 2 had a Special Session featuring a very insightful talk by Dr Shekhar C. Mande, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, New Delhi, and Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, New Delhi. He spoke on the topic "Coronavirus Pandemic and CSIR's Role". He shared his thoughts on the crisis, what's happening in the research space



to fight the disease, and the way forward for India and the world. He opined that we are still learning about the virus. The pandemic has been upon us for less than a year, and the current understanding of it explains that the virus also spreads through smaller aerosols. Therefore, the recommended practice would be wearing masks even in enclosed places.

Technical Session-III was on the theme "Mental Health and Meditation" with Dr. Shweta Chand as Chairperson and Dr. Meet Kamal as the rapporteur for a talk by Dr. Alok Bajpai, Clinical Psychiatrist, Kanpur. His talk by Dr. Nibedita Mukhopadhyay, Scientist, Kanpur, and Hemant Bhargay, Dr. NIMHANS, Bengaluru. They all opined that the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a global health crisis. This has led to an increased level of psychological burden on humans, leading to stress and decline in critical decision-making abilities. With increasingly incoherent thoughts, people are faced with cognitive dissonance.

The speakers of Technical Session-IV on the theme "Human Health" were Dr.Arti Gupta, Paediatrician, Pune, and Dr.Suchita Gupta, Pathologist, Chandigarh. They informed the gathering that even infants and children are affected by the Coronavirus. Those already suffering from existing morbidities are more at risk. They also emphasised on the fact that there will be a significant increase in patients with lingering 'Long Covid' illness - both physical and emotional - and necessary resources and support are required to care for patients and help them come to terms with and adjust to the aftermath. The session was chaired by Dr.SunitaVerma and rapporteurs were Dr.Anindita Bhattacharya andDr. Archana Dixit.

The last session, Technical Session-V of the day was dedicated to "Environment and Biodiversity" with the first speaker being Dr.Arshi Naqvi, College of Science, Taibah University, Madina, Saudi Arabia, followed by Dr.Siddika Sultana, Executive Director of Environment & Social Development Organization (ESDO), Dhaka, and Dr. Wilka Ranasinge, Assistant Director, Central Environmental Authority, Sri Lanka. They all said that the air was much cleaner due to less traffic and economic activity during the lockdown phase. Several species of flora and fauna that were in danger of extinction not too long ago also got a fresh lease of life. The session was chaired by Dr. Navin Ambasht and rapporteur was Dr. Anindita Bhattacharya.

The Final Day of the conference featured Technical session - VI dedicated to the "Industrial and Corporate Arena". The speakers were Mr. Kaushik Chakraborty, Director, Human Resources, Savills, United Kingdom; Dr. Jaya Kapoor, IHM, Ahmedabad, and Ms. Sumana Chatterjee, Delivery Manager, Microsoft. They talked about the effects of the pandemic on human resources, hospitality industry and the software and IT sector. The session was chaired by Dr.AlkaTangri and rapporteurs were Dr.Meet Kamal and Dr.Niranjan Swaroop

DAY 3 had a special session dedicated to Health Sciences chaired by Dr.Anindita Bhattacharya, Convenor of the Conference. The session opened with a very informativetalkbyProf.Dr. Hari S. Sharma, University Medical College – VUmc, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He elaborated on the effects of COVID – 19 on patients with Chronic Lung Diseases. He was followed by talks by Prof. Eliza Chakraborty, MIET, Meerut, Prof.Dr.Subhash C. Gupta, BHU, Varanasi, and Dr. Sanjay K. Banerjee, NIPER, Guwahati, Assam.Dr. Chakraborty spoke about the aftermath of the pandemic for the betterment of human Life. Dr. Gupta explained the biology of cancer. Dr. Banerjee explained how an active metabolite of garlic is beneficial for cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure. This session dealt with various aspects of human health and the major concerns related to it.

Chief Guest for the occasion, Dr. Ajay Taneja, Professor and Head, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Agra will deliver his talk.

A large number of delegates from all over the world attended and actively participated on all three days of the Conference.

I would like to extend my thanks to the entire organising team, headed by Dr Meet Kamal as

organising Secretary. I also take the privilege to thank all the people who made it happen. First of all, I thank Dr.Arun Sharma, Director, UCMS, Delhi, who made the conference possible by providing the platform. I thank Dr. Hari S. Sharma, UMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Dr. Abbas Ali, KGMC, Dr.DipankarSaha, Former Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi, Dr.Sushmita Bhattacharya, Head Medical Writing India, ICON, Bengaluru

and Ms. Sagarika Bhattacharya, Business Manager, BARCLAYS UK.



