

# PUSHPAGIRI RESEARCH CENTRE UPDATES

## National Conference on 'Microbiome-Little Bugs: friends or foe!' (Bioradiance-2023)

Pushpagiri Research Centre and Department of Microbiology, Pushpagiri Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre supported by American Society for Microbiology (ASM) organized Bioradiance 2023, a one day National Conference with the central theme of "Microbiome- Little bugs: friends or foe!" on 27th May 2023. Though, Bioradiance is being conducted annually since 2013, this was the first time it was conducted in a hybrid mode. It was also celebrated as Pushpagiri Research Day. It was an occasion of coming together of researchers and clinicians under one roof to share knowledge, discuss important scientific advancements in research and the way forward for research scholars, scientists and students of biosciences, medical, and dental branches from all over India. The conference began with the first talk by Dr Rama Chaudhry (Former International Ambassador of American Society for Microbiology (ASM) to India, Former Dean Research and Head, AIIMS, New Delhi, SR Director and Professor Microbiology, Dean Research, NIMS University, Jaipur) who discussed the importance of the less talked organism, Bartonella and its high time we take it seriously. She stressed how important it is we believe what we find out, and try to substantiate it by sound scientific knowledge and proof. This talk was followed by the inaugural programme. Dr Sherry Antony (ASM young Ambassador to India and organising secretary of Bioradiance 2023) delivered the welcome speech. This was followed by the introductory address by Rev. Dr Mathew Mazhavancheri (Director, Pushpagiri Research Centre) who spoke of the importance of research and on the commitment of faculty, towards a common goal of research and development of mankind. Thereafter, the chief guest of the ceremony, Dr Sabu Thomas (Faculty Scientist and Principal Investigator, Pathogen Biology Division, Rajiv Gandhi Center for Biotechnology, Trivandrum) delivered the inaugural address where he stressed the significance of Microbiome and how our lifestyle changes has affected our flora thereby making us prey to various diseases. Then the conference was inaugurated by lighting of lamp. Dr Sabu Thomas was honoured for his long research career by Rev. Fr. George Valiyaparambil (Director, PIMS&RC) with a traditional Aranmula kannadi. Dr Sunil Rao felicitated Dr Sabu Thomas with a ponnada signifying his immense contributions in the Kerala state having several publications, funded projects and also mentored several youngsters and inculcated in them a passion for research and innovations. Rev. Fr. George Valiyaparambil inaugurated the first of its kind here, the Mar Athanasios Research Endowment award. He spoke on why research should be undertaken and how the management is supporting the faculty of medical college with such kind of gestures. He congratulated all the winners of the award and prayed that all faculty take up more research work and come forward in the coming years to win the award. This was followed by distribution of prizes to the winners, Dr Punya Chandran (Department of Physiology), Dr Reeba Mary Issac (Department of Pathology), Dr Sherry Antony (Department of Microbiology), Dr Varkey S Kulagara (Department of Orthopaedics) and Dr P. S. John (Department of Orthopaedics). Next Dr Gaddam Vijaya Lakshmi (Vice Principal, PIMS&RC) delivered the vote of thanks who thanked all the dignitaries, speakers, sponsors and delegates. There were around 210 delegates with poster presentations, making the event a grand success. The scientific sessions continued by Dr Sabu Thomas, who spoke on 'Gut Microbiome: an emerging frontier to human health.' He condensed the topic in a very palatable manner for the students with various anecdotes of his personal experience. He was presented with a memento by Dr M.O Annamma (Former Principal, PIMS&RC). The next invited lecture on the 'Molecular detection of oral microbiome in health and disease' was by Dr Kishore G Bhat (Clinical microbiologist, Arianth Super specialty Hospital, Belgium). His talk gave young researchers an insight to the mesmerising world of different molecular techniques. He was presented a memento by Dr Dr Sunil Rao (Professor and Acting Head of Microbiology, PIMS&RC). This was followed by lunch. Afternoon session included a talk by Dr Beena Antony on 'Dysbiosis of microbiome with an emphasis on Clostridiodes difficile and current perspectives'. She was presented with a memento by Dr Kishore G Bhat. The final talk of the day was by Dr Sherry Antony (Coordinator, Pushpagiri Research Centre and Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, PIMS&RC). She talked about 'A career in microbiology: the way forward with a peak into ASM.' Her lucid talk covered all the basics of how to proceed forward which proved to be very valuable for the budding research scholars as well as clinical microbiologists. She was presented with a memento by Dr Nebu George Thomas (Professor, Department of Periodontics, Pushpagiri College of Dental Sciences and Scientist, Pushpagiri research Centre). Meanwhile, the poster presentation began at 8.20 am in Lecture Hall 1 and 2 with 2 categories being held simultaneously i.e. General research, and Clinical cases and research respectively. The judges for the category 1 were Dr Sreeja Nair (Department of Microbiology), Dr Prabha S.P (Department of Biochemistry), and Ms. Nisha Kurian, (Department of Community Medicine, PIMS&RC). While the judges of Category 2 were Dr Liya Roslin Joseph (Department of Pharmacology), Dr Amrutha Mary Zachariah (Department of Physiology) and Dr Anjum Susan John (Department of Community Medicine, PIMS&RC). The onsite and online sessions were managed smoothly and smartly by Dr Soumya R.S. (Pushpagiri Research Centre), Dr Leya Elizabeth Babu (Department of Physiology), Dr Rosin George Varghese and Dr Betsy Jose (Department of Community Medicine, PIMS&RC). This was followed by the valedictory speech and announcement of the winners of Poster competition by Dr Leya Elizabeth Babu. The winners of Category 1 were Dr Ruby Varghese (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, School of Sciences, Jain, Deemed to be University, Bengaluru), Dr Namitha Vijay (PIMS&RC) and Dr Betsy Thomas (Pushpagiri College of Dental Sciences). While in the category 2 the winners were Dr Amrithavarshini (Amrita School of Nanosciences and Molecular Medicine), Dr Raksha Bhattach (St. Martha Hospital, Bangalore) and Dr Anju Mathew (Pushpagiri Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre). The various prizes were handed over by Dr Sunil Rao and Dr Nebu George Thomas, to the winners. The valedictory session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Sherry Antony. The active participation of delegates, scientists, faculty members, students and research scholars from various Institutions were the highlight of the conference making it a successful and fruitful event. The programme ended with the national anthem



## Dr Aniket Naha was invited as a SPEAKER FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dr. Aniket represented PRC and gave a talk on the topic 'Bioinformatics and its application in Plant Biology' on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in Three Days National Workshop on 'Plant Biology and Biotechnology.'



## Visit to Assam University

Dr Aniket Naha guided students of 6th Semester Biotechnology (Hons.) Gurucharan College, Silchar and demonstrated Advanced Instrumentation Facilities in Central Instrumentation Facilities in Assam University, Silchar. He had a discussion with the Scientists and Professors namely Prof. Pranab Bihari Mazumdar from Department of Biotechnology, Prof. Indu Sharma, Department of Microbiology, Assam University, Silchar and Dr. Anupam Guha, Tripura for future collaborative projects with Pushpagiri Research Centre (PRC), PIMS & RC, Tiruvalla on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.



