Bioorganic chemistry has developed into an important area of interdisciplinary research. Application of chemistry is increasingly becoming evident in several aspects of biological research. Recognizing the importance of introducing the progress made in this field to the postgraduate and doctoral students working in universities and also to allow for their interactions with scientists working in this field, a special lecture programme entitled “Frontier Lectures in Bioorganic Chemistry” was organized under the auspices of Science Academies’ Lecture programme at the Department of Chemistry, Central College campus, Bangalore University on May 28th and 29th, 2009. The programme was sponsored by The National Academy of Sciences India-Allahabad, Indian National Science Academy-New Delhi and Indian Academy of Sciences-Bangalore.

Prof. S. Chandrasekaran of Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science was the convener. V. V. Sureshbabu of Dept. of Chemistry was the local coordinator. M.Sc students, research scholars and the faculty of the Dept. of Chemistry and the Dept. of Biochemistry of Bangalore University and its affiliated post graduate colleges as well as those from other universities of Karnataka were invited, and an encouraging participation was received from them. Over 200 participants attended the programme. Scientists working in different fields of bioorganic chemistry were invited to deliver lectures.

Eight lectures were arranged with four lectures each for two days. Chairman of the Department of Chemistry, Bangalore University welcomed the participants. The first talk of the Lecture series was delivered by Prof. P. Balaram, Director, IISc., Bangalore which focused on designing enzyme mimetics and the scope of their application as substitutes for natural enzymes. This was followed by a lecture by Prof. Santanu Bhattacharya of the Dept. of Organic Chemistry, IISc who spoke on the design principles and preparation of DNA binding pseudo-peptide ligands and their applications. In the post lunch session, Prof. R. Varadarajan of Molecular Biophysics unit, IISc talked on molecular protein based molecular switches and immunogens. The day ended with
a lecture by Prof. K. N. Ganesh, Director, IISER, Pune on the synthesis of collagen mimetics containing 4-aminoproline residues. His talk highlighted the effect of the nature and stereochemistry of the substitutions on the proline ring on the stability of the collagen assemblies.

Prof. S. Chandrasekaran of IISc delivered the first lecture on the second day. His lecture centered on synthetic peptide chemistry with emphasis on the application of Poc protecting group for peptide synthesis. Prof. Nitish Mahapatra of Dept. of Biotechnology, IIT-M Chennai spoke next on the physiological antihypertensive peptides and the design of peptide based antihypertensive drugs. The post lunch session had two lectures of which the first one was delivered by Prof. S. Baskaran of Dept. of Chemistry, IIT-M Chennai. His talk featured the development of new and facile synthetic methodologies and their application in preparation of bio-active molecules. The second talk of this session which was also the final talk of the programme was given by Prof. S. Vijaya of Dept. of Microbiology, IISc on the biochemical studies on the mechanism of infection and replication in case of flaviviral virus.

The conference concluded with the valedictory remarks by V. V. Suresh Babu. The support offered by all the three Science Academies towards successful conduction of the programme was acknowledged by him. The efforts put in by P. Vishnu Kamath, as well as the co-operation received by faculty and students of the Department were also appreciated.

The hospitality offered during the conference was appreciated by one and all. The programme concluded with the belief of having fulfilled its cause and objectives.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date and time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title of the talk</th>
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| 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009 | Prof. P. Balaram  
Director, I.I.Sc. Bangalore | DNA binding ligand design and its use in Therapeutics |
| 11-11.30 AM | Tea Break | |
| 11.30-12.30 PM | Prof. Santanu Bhattacharya  
Dept. of Organic Chemistry  
I.I.Sc. Bangalore | Design of protein based molecular switches and immunogens |
| 2.00-3.00 PM | Prof. Raghavan Varadarajan  
Molecular Biophysics Unit  
I.I.Sc. Bangalore | |
| 3.00-3.30 PM | Tea Break | |
| 3.30-4.30 PM | Prof. K. N. Ganesh  
Director, IISER, Pune | |
| 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 | Prof. S. Chandrasekaran  
Dept. of Organic Chemistry  
I.I.Sc. Bangalore | Synthetic Studies on Peptides |
| 10.00-11.00 AM | Tea Break | |
| 11-11.30 AM | Prof. Nitish Mahapatra  
Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM  
Chennai | Physiological anti-hypertensive peptides |
| 11.30-12.30 PM | Prof. S. Baskaran  
Dept. of Chemistry, IITM,  
Chennai | |
| 2.00-3.00 PM | Tea Break | |
| 2.00-3.00 PM | Prof. S. Baskaran  
Dept. of Chemistry, IITM,  
Chennai | |
| 3.00-3.30 PM | Tea Break | |
| 3.30-4.30 PM | Prof. S. Vijaya  
Dept. of Microbiology & Cell Biology, I.I.Sc. Bangalore | Molecular and biochemical studies of flaviviral replication |