Report on the Academies two days lecture workshop on “Life Science Research – Present and Future”.

Thank you for the support from Academies for conducting the lecture workshop in Christ University.

Details of the Resource persons

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We had 87 participants from 13 different educational institutions apart from the 90 participants from Christ University.
The list of colleges participated in the workshop

1. PESIT
2. GFG College Yelahanka
3. St. Joseph’s College
4. National College
5. Dayanand Sagar College
6. Jyothi Nivas College
7. Oxford College
8. BMS College
9. VV Puram College
10. Surana College
11. St. John’s Medical College Hospital and Research
12. NMKRV College
13. Vijaya College

The seminar was begun at 9:30 am by the ceremony inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of Christ University; Rev. Fr. Dr. Thomas C. Mathew, chief guest and the first speaker; Dr. Ajitkumar, Dean of Sciences; Dr. Nanjegowda, Assistant Dean of Sciences; Dr. Louis George, Workshop Coordinator Dr. Biljo V. Joseph, and the student coordinators Praveen Kumar and Ms. Aditi Kandlur. Dr. Ajitkumar was kind enough to release “BioLink”, the Annual newsletter of the department. After the inaugural session, the first session was conducted by Dr. Ajitkumar.

Dr. Ajitkumar

In his talk, he covered the basic aspects of genetic engineering, its importance, uses and the problems associated with the same. He started with the basics of recombinant DNA technology, Restriction enzymes and Ligases and went on to explain the appropriate uses and how these could be used to make the recombinant DNA molecules. He gave a very good idea about the pros and cons of the technology. And he addressed all the questions from the
audience. And we witnessed a very good interaction from the audience.

After the interactive session with Dr. Ajitkumar, there was a small video about “PARIVARTHANA”, an initiative in Christ University as part of the Centre for Social Action wing of Christ University. We are proud to say that we are having a zero waste campus because of PARIVARTHANA, who uses all the waste generated in campus to make compost, biogas and the reusable items (waste paper, tetra-packs etc) to make recycled papers, folders, office stationeries, bags etc. We are happy that we have provided the conference kit from PARIVARTHANA and the work of the group have really motivated the participants and a few faculties from other collages showed their interests to start up such initiative and they wanted to take our settings as model for implementation. Those interested participants were taken to PARIVARTHANA unit by our volunteers during the lunch time.

After the lunch, we had Dr. Dipshikha Chakravortty and she gave talk on community behavior of microorganisms. She highlighted the mechanisms by which the microorganisms limit its number and how the different types of population in the same bacterial community. It was really interesting to know about the population called cheater population of microbes and how this population manages to live in the expense of the other microorganisms. The participants were really excited with the topic and had very good interaction with the speaker. Seeing the enthusiasm of the participants, we decided to have Panel Discussion next day evening.

Date 26/03/2015

Second day started with the talk by Dr. Utpal Nath who talked in detail about the growth pattern of the leaf and plant organs. It was a nice experience to know why each leaf is of different shape and how the gene expression in a part of leaf helps in the correct formation the shape and curling of the leaf. He was explaining the simple experiment any one can do to study the pattern of development of the leaf.

After the lunch, we had Dr. Balaji who talked on Frontline Responders: Arsenals of Innate Immunity. In his talk, he covered all the basic components of our immune system. Starting from the formation of the immune system while the baby is in our mother’s womb and
explained how the immune system becomes stronger by developing response the foreign particles we encounter. He gave a detailed account on the development of our immune system further supported by humoral factors such as antibodies, complement system etc and also by cellular components such as Macrophages, dendritic cells etc.

There was a small cultural event session for 15 minutes when the students performed a mime on the “Central Dogma”, a song and a dance programme. The workshop was concluded with the valedictory session along with the panel discussion. The panel involved the convener of the programme, Dr. Dipshikha, Dr. Nanje Gowda and Dr. Biljo V. Joseph. The panel attended all the students, providing them a helping hand to be sure of the choices for higher studies and discussed about different institutions and prospects of different areas of life science. Dr. Dipshikha also stressed on the importance of understanding and learning the basics of each topics and subjects for the better aptitude for being a good scientist. After the valedictory session, we had a photo-session and the convener Dr. Dipshikha stayed back for further interaction with the students.
News Letter release of Biotechnology Department and Inauguration Ceremony of Academies two day lecture workshop on Life Science Research – Present and Future

Dr. Ajitkumar during his talk

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Dr. Dipshikha Chakravortty during her talk

Dr. Utpal Nath during his talk

Dr. K Balaji during his talk