

March 7, 2019

Press Release

Frontiers of Life Sciences seminar at JMI

Department of Biosciences, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) organised a daylong seminar titled “**Frontiers in Life Sciences**” at the Ramanujan Block, Seminar Hall on March 6th 2019. It was attended by all the life science departments/centres of Jamia Millia Islamia. **Prof. Mohammad Sami**, Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences, was the Guest of Honour. **Dr. G. P. Dutta**, FNA, FNASc., former Deputy Director, CDRI, Lucknow, was the Chief Guest and keynote speaker. **Dr. M. Moshahid Alam Rizvi**, Head, Department of Bioscience in his welcome address, introduced the guests about the milestone that the department has achieved during last couple of years like the various national and international awards conferred upon its faculty members, special grants to the department and honours to its alumni.

In addition, he also stressed upon the introduction of new PG. Program like M.Sc. Microbiology from the current academic sessions and regularisation of ongoing M.Sc. Biochemistry program and strengthening the CIF with high ended equipment. He introduced Dr. G.P. Dutta’s excellent research career and pioneer work in the field of Malaria Immunology and Chemotherapy as well as his prolific writing/publishing/patenting skills. Prof. Mohammad Sami highlighted the concept and organisation of such programmes and congratulated the HoD Biosciences for this seminar. He further pointed towards its utility for the young researchers and students.

Dr. G. P. Dutta, in his keynote address, highlighted the achievements of CDRI and CSIR in the field of malaria chemotherapy and its worldwide implications. It is pertinent to mention that Dr. Dutta has been main contributor in the CDRI drug development program. He specially mentioned the α/β Arteether the Malarial drug that is being successfully used against Cerebral Malaria or *Plasmodium falciparum* worldwide. It is being prepared by multiple Indian pharmaceutical companies and being exported to malaria endemic regions like Africa and other Asian countries. The other antimalarial like Bulaquine and Tefenoquine are drugs of choice for antirelapse malaria or the Plasmodium *Vivax*. Dr. Dutta gave an insight into the future prospects and the challenging directions for the new drugs development.

Other speakers at the seminar spoke on various other frontiers of life sciences. **Prof. Shyamal Goswami** from School of Life Sciences, JNU spoke on the role of scope of oxidative stress in heart function. **Prof. Suhail Parvez**, Head Department of Toxicology, Hamdard University gave an insightful talk on electrophysiology of Nerve cells. **Prof. V. K. Barnawal**, Principal Scientist IARI provided lot of information on Plant, health and diseases with special references to plant viruses.

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