

Meeting report: Gene to vial concept for biotechnology based healthcare molecules

**CBST-VIT University, Vellore, India
February 7–10, 2010**

The international symposium “Gene to Vial concept for biotechnology based healthcare molecules” was held in February 2010 at the Centre for Bioseparation technology (CBST), VIT University, Vellore, Tamilnadu, located in the southern part of the Indian peninsula. The meeting comprised of excellent summative review lectures by plenary speakers, oral presentations and poster presentations on current research. The meeting had more than 200 attendees from 10 countries and half of them represented industry based scientific research.

The meeting took off on Sunday afternoon with the opening presentation of Dr. **Charles Lutch** (Sanofi Pasteur Inc., USA) on “Vaccines; Technology and applications”. His talk on different frontiers of vaccine development evoked much interest among the audience. This talk was followed by 16 plenary lectures and 16 oral presentations on the three following days by eminent scholars under five different themes, namely: Expression of biomolecules and high-value therapeutic molecules, Purification of biomolecules, molecular recognition and interaction, Biomolecular characterization, validation and proteomics and

nanotechnology and its application in drug formulation. Prof. **Alois Jungbauer** (Austria), Prof. **Rajan Dighe**, Prof. **Anjali A Karande**, Prof. **Paramjith Khurana**, Dr. **Surekha Zingde** (all from India), Dr. **Ales Podgornik** (Slovenia), Prof. **Suichi Yamamoto** (Japan), Dr. **Stefan Lofas**



(Sweden), Dr. **Uwe Gottschalk** (Germany), Prof. **Nadir Mrabet**, Prof. **Dominique Domurado** and Dr. **Patrik Santambien**

(France) were a few plenary speakers to name. Each theme was also highly appreciated in interesting discussion sessions.

The involvement of three international societies, the SBCN (Society for Biochromatography and nanosepar-



tion), the ISMR (International Society for Molecular Recognition) and the PSI (Proteomics Society, India) was one of the highlights of the symposium. Prof. **Xavier Santarelli** (France), Prof. **Gideon Fleminger** (Israel) and Prof. **MA Vijayalakshmi** (India) represented these societies. To encourage young scientists, awards were given for the best oral and poster presentations. Prof. MA Vijayalakshmi was honored in the symposium for her contributions to the field of bioseparations as the SBCN named the award as “*VIJI Award*”. This award includes that the society will cover the

complete expenses of the awardee to attend the SBCN conference, which will be held in Leon, France, in October 2010. Two awards were



given in the tradition of the ISMR, one each for the best oral and poster presentation in the name of Hoffmann La-Roche “younger investigator award” with the financial support from Hoffmann La-Roche.

The meeting culminated with a hearty appreciation for the involvement of academia and industry delegates which disseminate the information of current advances in scientific research, in specific to healthcare biotechnology.

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<http://www.vit.ac.in/events2009/gene/index.html>

