Report

The department of Biochemistry, jointly with Mumbai Immunology Group (MIG), Advanced Center for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC), organized a one day state level seminar titled **“Cancer Biology and Therapy: Recent Developments and New Perspectives”** at SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce on Monday, **27th February 2017**.

The seminar fetched supporting sponsors like Mumbai Immunology Group, Saraswat Bank, Synergia Life Science, Yashraj Biotechnology, ACL Academy and Prerana Enterprises.

A total of 104 participants registered comprising of 88 students and 16 teachers from various colleges and institutes from within Maharashtra.

Eminent researcher and Academician, Dr. Padma Devarajan [Professor of Pharmacy and co-coordinator TEQIP, Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai] was the invited Guest of Honour. The seminar commenced at 9.00 am with the welcome note by the Convener of the seminar, Dr. Deepali Kothekar. Through her opening address she emphasized the need to protect India’s youth from devastating chronic diseases like cancer, if India has to harness its demographic dividends. The need for academia and researchers to join hands in spreading awareness about cancer was highlighted.

After the formal inauguration by our revered guests, Principal Dr. Uma Shankar gave a warm welcome to the guests and participants and reflected optimism in fighting cancer through efforts from scientific community and clinicians and practice of yoga, music and positive attitude in alleviating the pain associated with cancer treatment.

Dr. Shubhada Chiplunkar, Director ACTREC and Secretary MIG, informed the participants on the various training and educational programs and workshops that her organization conducts in various colleges and research institutes.

In the key note address, “Targeted drug delivery for cancer”, the Guest of Honour, Dr. Padma Devarajan, elaborated on different drug delivery methods, the challenges faced and their efficacy in treatment of cancer.

The first technical session titled “Targeting Cellular Checkpoint Pathways For Tumor Therapy” was delivered by Dr. Sorab Dalal, Scientist G, ACTREC, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. Dr. Dalal briefed on the various surveillance systems that function to arrest cell cycle progression and their role in cancer development.

The second talk titled “Emerging Frontiers In Cancer Epigenetics” was presented by Dr. Sharmila Bapat, Scientist F, National center for Cell Science, Pune in which she highlighted the reversible nature of epigenetic changes that make them a promising target for cancer therapy.

This was followed by the session “Technological Advances in Surgical Interventions for Cancer” by Dr. Devendra Chaukar , Head, Dept. of Head and Neck Surgery, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. Dr. Chaukar enlightened the audience of the major developments like the use of laser in surgery and robotic assisted surgery.

The next session was by Dr. Vedang Murthy, Professor, Radiation Oncology, TMH on “Radiotherapy For Cancer: Recent Advances & Future Directions”.

Post lunch session was addressed by Dr. Shubhada Chiplunkar, Director, ACTREC, Mumbai. The title of her talk was “Immunotherapy for Cancer: Current Scenario”. Dr. Chiplunkar discussed dendritic cell vaccines, DNA vaccines, engineered monoclonal antibodies and CAR-T cell therapy and the challenges faced in their clinical applications.

The seminar continued with the next session by Dr. Vineeta Deshmukh (Deputy Director, Integrated Cancer Treatment and Research Centre, Pune) titled “Integrated Treatment for Cancer: Role of Ayurveda”.

The last session titled “Can you prevent Cancer?” was delivered by Dr. Girish Maru , Honorary Consultant, ACTREC, TMH, Mumbai.

The seminar concluded with the formal vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Varsha Raghunath followed by High tea and distribution of certificates.

This state level seminar provided a unique opportunity for the students, academicians, researchers and Scientists to gather and deliberate on various aspects of cancer biology and therapy.