

Report on the seventh event organized by ACTREC Alumni Association on 'First Annual Meet 2012 and First Annual General Body Meeting' at Khanolkar Auditorium at ACTREC, Tata Memorial Centre on 28th December, 2012

The seventh AAA event First Annual Meet 2012 and first General Body Meeting was organized at Khanolkar Auditorium on 28th December, 2012. The theme of the event was 'Think out of the box: Key to transform a researcher into an entrepreneur'. Prof Rajiv Sarin, Director-ACTREC and Patron, AAA welcomed the guest alumni Entrepreneurs- Dr Hemant Gharpure and Dr Surendra Chavan to *alma mater*. The 9th Executive committee meeting was held at conference room, Khanolkar Shodhika, ACTREC. Matters to be discussed during First Annual General Body Meeting were discussed during this meeting by EC members. Annual Meet program commenced at 10.30am with refreshments for all. Dr Nishigandha Naik, President, AAA welcomed all participants of the event. Being first annual meet, she narrated the journey of AAA formation till date alongwith its major activities. In her speech, she extended gratitude to both Patrons of AAA Dr Sarin and Dr Zingde, Deputy Director-CRI ACTREC, for providing constant support in conducting activities of AAA. She also appealed to Authorities to state how they wish AAA to move on in terms of endeavors it undertakes. She felicitated Dr Sarin as Chief Guest of the event. Dr. Jyoti Kode, Secretary, AAA informed all that members' data base has been generated with kind permission of Dr Sarin, Patron AAA and timely efforts of Mr Prasad Kanvinde, IT Coordinator and his teammate Mrs Shraddha Kesarkar. Dr Kode requested Prof Rajiv Sarin to inaugurate AAA Online Membership Form so that membership registration can be done online from anywhere outside alma mater. Dr Sarin launched the Online Membership Form available on AAA webpage and congratulated AAA EC and IT team for getting database ready and making membership registration paper free. He mentioned that this would contribute to Green environment and cutting down of trees for paper making. He expressed his views about vital role of Alumni Association working in sync with mandate of *alma mater*. He mentioned that he appreciated efforts of AAA to conduct CSSAA events and these should be definitely continued in future. He also appealed that alumni can contribute to writing short articles for local newspapers in various languages on topic of 'Ongoing Research in ACTREC'. His speech was followed by introduction of guest alumni. Dr Pradnya Kowtal, In-charge, Sequencing facility and Scientific officer, Sarin lab was more than happy to share her past long-term association with Dr Hemant Gharpure. This was followed by felicitation of Dr Gharpure by Dr Sarin with memento. Dr Aarti Juvekar, In-charge, Anti-Cancer Screening Facility volunteered to introduce Dr Surendra Chavan. This was followed by felicitation of Dr Chavan by Dr Sarin with memento. Dr Gharpure took charge of dias and shared his journey from days he spent in CRI, ACTREC through his post-doc, few job opportunities he had in Mumbai and finally how he courageously decided to have a world of his own in form of BioPrime company. He shared ups and downs he faced during this entire journey and made special mention of his wife who stood behind her like a strong wall in his support through thick-n-thin. At the end he thanked immensely the AAA forum and alma mater to make this event happen so that he got this unique opportunity to share his inner feelings about whatever success he has achieved today was based on strong foundation CRI ACTREC had built for him during his graduation days. Later Dr Surendra Chavan addressed all. He too mentioned the key issues to get into shoes of entrepreneurs. Both the talks by guest alumni had impelled irresistible questions from floor and they were highly delighted to answer one and all. This was followed by get together luncheon for members of the association. First alumni general body meeting was started at 2pm. President AAA welcomed all those present for First AGM. She updated all with formation of AAA and then requested Secretary, AAA Dr Jyoti Kode to give details of activities held through AAA since its inception in year 2006. This was followed by account statement presentation by Dr Rajiv Gude, Treasurer, AAA. Few key issues were discussed during AGM and the meeting ended at 3pm with thanks to chair.