

Report on Day of Immunology 2021 ACTREC-MIG

Day of Immunology 2021 ACTREC-MIG was conducted at ACTREC as webinar to celebrate International Immunology Day on 29th April, 2021. Event was inaugurated by Dr Sudeep Gupta, Director, ACTREC at 9.40am. His talk was followed by speech by Dr Prasanna Venkatraman, Event Chairperson and Deputy Director, CRI-ACTREC. She spoke about Day of Immunology being celebrated across world on this day. Later Dr Jyoti Kode, Event Organizer spoke few words in capacity of EC Member of Mumbai Immunology Group (MIG) and described activities of MIG being conducted for college students and teachers for awareness of immunology topic amongst all.

We had 473 registered participants for this webinar. Total of 194 participants (connections) including speakers/ panelists were online. 201 participants provided feedback and views on topic and level of understanding of talks and panel discussion and also their interest in attending future such activities. Statistics details showed overall good feedback.

First talk of event by Dr Jyoti Kode on “COVID-19 Vaccines: Taming the Beast of Immunity” covered basics of immunity, vaccines and inflammation. This was followed by talk by Dr Preeti Chavan. She covered Covid Patient laboratory assessment to help in clinical management, Prognosis, Prevention aspects, laboratory biosafety and hospital infection control. Dr Amit Dutt covered genomics and informatics of Covid-19 virus. He also described application of Raman spectroscopy for diagnostics of covid 19, using genomic tools. Mr Nikhil Gadewal demonstrated work on molecular modeling of virus and host proteins with phytochemicals. He also described Molecular Dynamics simulations basics and applications of Schrodinger Software. Later Dr. N. Srikanth, Additional DG CCRAS spoke on policies of AYUSH Ministry in conducting clinical trials being conducted for treatment of COVID-19 using ayurvedic formulations and AYUSH-64 protocol.

Panel discussion covered questions on COVID diagnostics, logistics, government policies, biochemistry markers, seroconversion and vaccine efficacy results and comments from medical experts in the field. Dr Vikram Gota moderated the session. Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi chaired the session and provided final comments on each segment. Eminent panelists were Dr. Manisha Madkaikar, Dr. Alka Nerurkar, Dr. Anant Gokarn, Dr. Prashant Tembhare and Dr. Shripad Taklikar. Dr. BCS Rao covered experience from clinical trials involving AYUSH protocols while Dr. Rajesh Shah covered experience using homeopathy medicines.

Event supporters included Mumbai Immunology Group, Indian Immunology Society, ACTREC Alumni Association, Rubbu Biologic Incorporation, Biosimilia Pvt .Ltd., Genova Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. And Merck Life Science Pvt. Ltd.

As a part of campaign towards spreading Immunology Day celebrations, we had conducted CREATIVE MIND CONTEST for ACTREC staff and students and for ACTREC Alumni members – Life members, Affiliate members and Associate members in category of poetry, slogans, photos, sketches, paintings, videos/short films and rangoli. We had received 53 entries from ACTREC from 13 depts and 16 contestants. Similarly, 23 entries from ACTREC Alumni Association members from 9 ACTREC depts, 12 contestants and 2 Alumni life members outside ACTREC.

Contest entries were judged by review committee members Dr. Dhanalaxmi Shetty, Mr. Shyam Chavan, Ms. Shamal Vetale, Ms. Trupti Pradhan, Ms. Vaishali Kailaje, Mr. Archisman Banerjee and Ms. Supriya Hait. Final entries were selected by the Covid Task Force review committee that consisted of Dr. Preeti Chavan, Dr. Meera Achrekar and Dr. Chittal Naresh.

Winners were felicitated by Dr Sudeep Gupta, Director, ACTREC, Dr Navin Khattry, Deputy Director, CRC-ACTREC, Dr Tanuja Teni, Vice-President, ACTREC Alumni Association, Dr Preeti Chavan, Dr Manoj Mahimkar, Dr Vikram Gota and Dr Jyoti Kode.

Dr Nirmal Kumar, Mr Naythan Dcunha, Ms Priyanka Patil, Ms Pallavi, Ms Arti Patil and Mr Archismann helped enthusiastically in financial, administrative matters and conducting event smoothly.

Meeting ended with Vote of thanks delivered by Dr Ojaswini Upasani, Event Coordinator at 5pm.