

Health Matters

Ciliate Biology international symposium Eminent scientists debate at Acharya Narendra Dev College



Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi Ciliates are a diverse group of unicellular eukaryotes that vary widely in size, shape, body plan, and ecological niche.

ribozymes, and axonemes. DNA elimination, gene scrambling, and mating type determination have been deciphered, revealing interesting adaptations of processes in other kingdoms of life.



From left: Prof. H.K. Dangi (treasurer, GB, ANDC), prof. Manoj K. Khanna (chairman, GB, ANDC), prof. Ravi Toteja (principal, ANDC), prof. Rup Lal (INSRC president, INSA senior scientist, ANDC) and Komal Kamra (adjunct scientist, ANDC).

highlight the importance of ciliate research. Acharya Narendra Dev College (University of Delhi) has become beacons of light on Ciliate Biology in India.



From left: Prof. Seema Makhija, Madhu Bala, Bharti Sarkar, Ravi Chaturvedi, Komal Kamra and prof. Ravi Toteja.

part of the symposium, 40 posters were displayed by a team of students and research scholars who were backbone of the event.

The eminent international scientists who presented their work were prof. Joel Dacks, Elena Sabaneyeva, Alan Warren and Dagmar Jirsova.

Dacks, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Alberta and honorary professor in the Centre for Life's Origins and Evolution, University College London explored the evolution and diversity of the eukaryotic membrane-trafficking system using omics, molecular evolution, and evolutionary cell biology; Sabaneyeva, associate professor, Department of Cytology and Histology, Faculty of

Biology, Saint-Petersburg State University, Russian Federation has been studying symbiotic associations between ciliates and other microorganisms; Warren, Natural History Museum (NHM), London is focusing on the ecology and systematics of peritrich ciliates; Jirsova, post-doctoral fellow, Arizona State University (ASU) is exploring the evolutionary cell biology of various protists. Yuri Mazei, professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia) and Shenzhen MSU-BIT University (China) is deputy editor-in-chief of Protistology and Editorial board member of European Journal of Protistology and Nature Conservation Research was an invited guest.

As a prelude to the international symposium, college lined up pre-symposium workshops for the students and faculty at the college premises on February 3. It will be worthwhile pointing out that the steppingstone was to bring eminent scientists from across the globe to interact with budding ciliate biologists for whom opportunities are few and far between to travel abroad and provide encouragement to young minds to pursue a career in scientific research and provide platform for research collaboration.

This seminal activity was supported by International Society of Protistologists, International Union of Biological Sciences, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, partnered by Zoological Survey of India. The Proceedings of the Symposium are going to be being published with ISBN number and a report to be submitted to Journal of Eukaryotic Biology for publication.

Over the years, the International Ciliate Biology International Conferences in India have been the handiwork of Komal Kamra. Kamra has burnt midnight oil to organise the international Ciliate Biology events with precision and perfection.

Acharya Narendra Dev College was established in 1991 as a constituent college of University of Delhi and grew by leaps and bounds as a lighthouse of excellence in higher education. The edifice on which college stands is its commitment to academic precision, holistic development, and social engagement.

Framework (NIRF) and stands amongst the top 10 colleges of the University of Delhi.

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