

Conference on Recent Advances in Bioinformatics underway at CSIR-NEIST

A four-day Conference on 'Recent Advances in Bioinformatics' is being organized by CSIR-NEIST from 23-26 May 2019. Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST in his presidential address emphasized the importance of Data Science, Informatics and related tools in basic and applied research and how these tools can be used for better computation, analysis and interpretation. CSIR-NEIST will lead the integration of Bioinformatics with Data Science in several interdisciplinary activities. He informed that CSIR-NEIST will be taking a lead role in the region for using these tools to harness knowledge which has huge potential in Drug Discovery, Healthcare, Agriculture, Oil, etc. He expressed hope that the conference will be a learning platform for the participants to get deeper idea on the use of these tools.

Prof T P Singh, INSA Senior Scientist, AIIMS, New Delhi who graced the inaugural session as Chief Guest delivered a Keynote Lecture on the topic, 'Structure and Function Studies of Innate Immunity Proteins and their applications as Protein Anti-biotics'. Prof T P Singh explained the mechanism & role of innate immune system in fighting human pathogens and the developments that have taken place in the world from Pre-Antibiotics era. He highlighted the contributions of scientists like Gopinath Kartha and G N Ramachandran in structural protein studies which he said have played key role in the field of protein structure research. Prof Singh said that bioinformatics is very much relevant to the present 21st century and this technique should be used in exploiting the huge database available for drug discovery, therapeutic protein research and understanding many biological phenomena. He also mentioned about Protein Data Bank and the huge contribution of India in the repository.

The workshop has various eminent scientists and personalities like Dr G Madhavi Sastry, Schrodinger, LLC; Dr V Subramanian, Chief Scientist, CSIR-CLRI, Chennai; Dr Shandar Ahmad, *Professor and Dean*, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences & *Chief Coordinator*, Communications and Information Services, JNU, New Delhi; Dr S Ramachandran, Sr Principal Scientist, CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi; Dr Sucheta Tipathy, Pr Scientist, CSIR - IICB, Kolkata; Dr Anupam Nath Jha, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Tezpur University; Dr U C Jaleel, Open Source Pharma Foundation, Bangalore; Dr. Vinod Scaria, Sr Scientist, CSIR - IGIB, New Delhi; Dr Amit Kumar Yadav, Scientist, THISTI, Faridabad; Dr M K Modi, Professor, Dept. of Agricultural Biotechnology, AAU, Jorhat and Dr R Parthasarathi, Scientist Fellow, CSIR-IITR, Lucknow.

Dr Silla Devi, Convenor of the programme delivered the welcome address wherein she informed that the conference to be held during 23-26 May is organized with an aim to provide a brainstorming forum to explore recent developments and innovation in Bioinformatics and to encourage use of Data Science and Informatics tools among the scientific community at CSIR-NEIST.

Dr H P Deka Boruah, Head, Biological Sciences & Technology Division briefed about the activities of Bioinformatics Infrastructure Centre of CSIR-NEIST in his address to the participants.

Mr S C Kalita, Chief scientist & Head Engineering Sciences & Technology Division presented a brief note of the programme.

The four-day Conference is planned to cover Lecture sessions and Hands-on sessions on the use of some advanced bio-informatics software & tools.

It is worthwhile to mention that earlier during the day, Prof T P Singh inaugurated the “Passion” and “Excellence” wings of Kids’ World of Science at CSIR-NEIST.



Prof T P Singh inaugurating the “Passion” and “Excellence” wings of Kids’ World of Science in presence of Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST; dignitaries and CSIR-NEIST staff members.



Lighting of inaugural lamp by Prof T P Singh (left) and Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST (right) joined by other dignitaries.
