Dear Colleagues,

For the first time India has witnessed the Annual conference of International Chemical Biology Society (ICBS). The 8th edition of this ICBS conference (ICBS-2019) was held hand-in-hand by ICBS with the host institute, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) and in association with Chemical Biology Society (CBS) of India during 2-4 Nov, 2019.

There were 48 lecturers including keynote lectures, invited talks, short talks, Rising Star Awardee talks and also short presentations from selected candidates from posters. The main theme of the conference was ‘Navigating Translational Discoveries’. The introductory session on the 2nd day featured a keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Minoru Yoshida, Group Director, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science (CSRS).

The conference was organized in the sprawling campus of CSIR-IICT in the historical city of Hyderabad, also called City of Pearls and Nizams. The city is situated in the southern Indian state of Telangana, right in the middle of Deccan plateau of India. The meeting attracted about 400 guests including registered delegates (faculties, students, post-docs) and invited delegates from academia and industry representing at least 16 countries including India. The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Sekhar Mande, Secretary, DSIR & Director General CSIR, India and was followed by his inaugural Keynote lecture.

Dr. Sekhar Mande, Ph.D., Secretary, DSIR and Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, India.

Dr. Minoru Yoshida, Ph.D., Professor, The University of Tokyo, Group Director, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science (CSRS).

The conference spanned over 12 themes as follows: Newer drug targets and therapeutics; Special ICBS session on Phenotypic screening; Chemical biology in modern medicine - an industrial perspective; Special EFMC session on Cancer & checkpoint inhibitors; Infectious disease therapeutics; Synthetic biology & chemistry; Chemical biology in non-invasive imaging & diagnostics; RNA therapeutics; Chemical tools targeting bio-macromolecules; Reverse pharmacology & emerging topics in chemical biology; Rising Star session; and CBS (I) session on recent trends in chemical biology. Besides these, conference delegates engaged themselves with Editors from different journals in ‘Meet the Editors Forum’ and participated in the ‘Open to all’ ICBS General Membership Meeting conducted by ICBS Board Members.
**ICBS-2019 Rising Stars**

The rising star awards of ICBS-2019 were conferred to Dr. Arun Kumar Shukla, IIT-Kanpur, India, Dr. Shengying Li, Shandong Univ, China, and Dr. Robert Spitale, Univ. of California, Irvine, USA.

Dr. Arun Kumar Shukla received a Master degree in Biotechnology from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in India. He then completed his Ph.D. from the Department of Molecular Membrane Biology at the Max Planck Institute of Biophysics in Frankfurt, Germany and carried out postdoctoral research in the Department of Medicine at Duke University in North Carolina, USA. Dr. Shukla is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, India.

Dr. Robert Spitale received his Ph.D. in Chemistry in 2009 from the University of Rochester, followed by an appointment at Stanford University (2010-14) before joining the University of California, Irvine. The major scientific goal of Dr. Spitale’s lab is to understand how RNA molecules orchestrate gene expression pathways and contribute to disease pathologies. Dr. Spitale aims to develop biochemical technologies to study RNA inside living cells to better understand the RNA structure and function on a systems level.

Dr. Shengying Li received his B.S. degree in Biology in 2000 and M.S. degree in Microbiology in 2003 from School of Life Sciences at Xiamen University. He earned his Ph.D. degree from the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Michigan in 2009 (Dr. David H. Sherman). From 2010 to 2012, he continued his postdoctoral research with Dr. Sherman at Life Sciences Institute, the University of Michigan. He has been the Director of Shandong Provincial Key Laboratory of Synthetic Biology since 2015. In late 2018, he joined the Microbial Technology Institute of Shandong University. Now he is an Associate Editor of BMC Biotechnology and an Editorial Board Member of Journal of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology. Dr. Li’s research interests include natural product biosynthesis and cytochrome P450 enzymology and enzyme engineering. The P450 enzymes discovered, analyzed and engineered in Prof. Li’s laboratory have demonstrated great significance and application potential in chemical, pharmaceutical, biofuel and bioremediation industries.

**ICBS2020 Virtual Conference: November 10-13, 2020**

The 9th Annual Conference of the International Chemical Biology Society

**ICBS2020 ATLANA Virtual Conference**

Chemical Biology Bridges Academia and Industry
November 10-13, 2020, Atlanta GA, USA

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