

Post Conference Report on 'Brainwave: Connections to Cognition', a satellite symposium jointly organized by Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) and Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University Kolkata

On 10th September 2021, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University Kolkata hosted '**Brainwave: Connections to Cognition**', an online, one-day satellite symposium jointly organized with the Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN). **Dr Ashima Bhattacharjee** and **Dr. Raja Bhattacharya**, neuroscience faculties of Amity Kolkata Biotechnology were the joint conveners of this meeting. The inaugural session started with a 'Saraswati Bandana' sung by Ruchita Karmakar and Ananya Dutta, B.Sc. semester V students of the department.

The inaugural session was attended by the following delegates

- (i) **Dr Santanu Palchaudhuri**, Assistant Director, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University Kolkata.
- (ii) **Shri. Arunasis Chakraborty**, Deputy Director General, Amity Foundation for Science, Technology & Innovation Alliances (AFSTIA).
- (iii) **Dr. Rajiv Sharma**, Director General, Amity Foundation for Science, Technology & Innovation Alliances (AFSTIA) and Sr. Vice President, Ritnand Balved Education Foundation (RBEF).
- (iv) **Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma**, Department of Biological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata.

The delegates provided their words of encouragement which set the meeting to a nice start. Dr Rajiv Sharma stressed on the importance of maintaining a long-term collaboration with IAN. He congratulated the campus, the department and the conveners for organising such a curtain raiser event for this year's IAN's annual meeting. This was followed by Prof Das Sharma's speech where she introduced the audience to IAN and its dignitaries and requested them to say a few words. The speakers included:

- (i) **Prof Pankaj Seth**, General Secretary (IAN), National Brain Research Centre
- (ii) **Dr. Subhas C. Biswas**, Joint organiser of the IAN society meeting 2021, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology.
- (iii) **Dr. Anirban Ghosh**, Joint organiser of the IAN society meeting 2021, Netaji Subhas Open University.
- (iv) **Dr. Pallab Bhattacharya**, Associate Professor, NIPER, Ahmedabad.

Dr Ashima Bhattacharjee and **Dr. Raja Bhattacharya**, the joint conveners of the meeting next discussed about the organisation of the meeting, the challenges and advantages imposed by the pandemic and relevance of the meeting in the current context.

The conference included two scientific sessions and a student talk session. The speakers for the first scientific session included:

- (i) **Dr. Aurnab Ghose**, IISER, Pune
- (ii) **Prof. Nihar Ranjan Jana**, IIT-Kharagpur
- (iii) **Dr. Kuntal Ghosh**, ISI, Kolkata

This session was chaired by **Dr. Kavita Babu** (Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore) and **Dr Raja Bhattacharya** (Associate Professor and Ramalingaswamy fellow, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University Kolkata).

This was followed by a very interesting student talk session. Out of a total of 23 submitted abstracts, 6 were selected for presentation in this session by the expert panel. Each presenter was allowed 7 minutes to present his/her work, followed by a 3-minute interaction with the expert judges and participants. The selected speakers were as follows:

- (i) Rahul Kumar, McGill University, Canada
- (ii) Siddharth R. Venkatesh, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

- (iii) Diptankar Bandyopadhyay, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology
- (iv) Anushka Deb, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
- (v) Fareeha Saadi, Indian Institute of Science Education Research, Kolkata
- (vi) Debmita Chatterjee, Saha Institute of Chemical Biology

The judges for this session were:

- (i) Dr Aurnab Ghose, IISER-Pune
- (ii) Dr. Arnab Gupta, IISER-Kolkata
- (iii) Dr. Amitabha Majumdar, NCCS, Pune

It was challenging to select the winners taking into consideration the quality of work, presentation and interaction. Diptankar Bandyopadhyay was awarded the first prize. Rahul Kumar got the second prize and Siddharth Venkatesh received the third prize. Prizes were sponsored by Patel Chem de Drugs.

The second scientific session included the following speakers:

- (i) **Dr. Oishee Chakrabarti**, SINP, Kolkata
- (ii) **Dr. Amitabha Majumdar**, NCCS, Pune
- (iii) **Dr. Supriyo Ray**, University of Allahabad

The session was chaired by **Prof. Birendra Nath Mallick** (Director of the Amity Institute of Neurosciences and Neuropsychology, Amity University, Noida) and **Dr. Ashima Bhattacharjee** (Associate Professor, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, AUK).

The last scientific session included a plenary talk by **Prof. Shubha Tole**, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. This session was chaired by **Dr. Raja Bhattacharya**.

Prof. Jayasri Das Sarma announced the prizes for the student talk session and delivered the concluding remarks. **Dr. Sandipan Chakraborty** (Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University, Kolkata) delivered the vote of thanks.