

**REPORT ON ALUMNI ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND
MOECULAR BIOLOGY**

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

(Dec 2020)



Prepared by Dr. Thejaswini Venkatesh, Alumni co-ordinator, Dept of BCMB

1. Formation of the alumni association:

An alumni association is an association of graduates or, more broadly, of former students (alumni). Our department was established in the year 2010 and each year MSc students have passed out. The number of passed out students were 16 till 2016 and it was increased to 38 afterwards. We also have a PhD program and 9 students who have been awarded the doctorate degree. As per the directive of our Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Venkateshwarlu H, Central University of Kerala, we opened a whatsapp group under the official name 'BCMB alumni@cuk' as an alumni association group with Dr. Thejaswini Venkatesh as the coordinator on 26th Oct 2020. Currently, we have 75 members in the group including the 5 faculties of the Department and an alumni faculty, Prof. Rajkopal Kammara, currently working as a Scientist at CSIR-CFTRI, Mysore.

2. Activities of the alumni association:

2.1. Collection of data: Alumni members were added from 26th oct 2020 till 1st November 2020. The members were urged to bring in all their friends so as to include everyone. The information such as their email Ids, mobile number, their current positions were collected at the same time (Tables 1 and 2). It was noted that many of the MSc passed out students are placed in various premier institutes such as IIT, CFTRI, RGCB, NIIST as JRF or PhD students. One alumni member is working as a teacher in Qatar school and one is also a group A officer at Ministry of industry and finance, India. It was also noted that many are in companies such as Medgenomics, Labnics, Syri Labs. Few more students are pursuing Post doctoral studies in USA at institutes

such as John Hopkins and MD Anderson research centre, USA. Several students are also actively involved in preparations for the competitive exams. The group has been active wherein the materials to write SOP in addition to advertisements relating to post-doc, JRF, scientific writer positions across globe were shared.

2.2. First alumni meet: The coordinator felt that the involvement of the alumni members needs to be active and hence, a meeting was arranged at 5 pm on 31st oct 2020. The meeting was held and 5 alumni members, Dr. Rajendra Pillankatta, HoD; Dr. Thejaswini V and Prof. Kammara took part in it. Dr. Thejaswini explained the importance of alumni group and how it can help in the future to both the host institute and the members. She stressed upon the concept of support, expand and growth being the motive of the group. Dr. Rajendra Pillankata expressed his delight to meet the old students and urged the senior members to help the junior students. Dr. Kammara suggested that he is free anytime to discuss about patents and would be happy to help the department. Students Ms. Anaga Nair and Mr. Aditheyye Nair gave their wishes to the department (Figure 1).

2.3. Second alumni meet: The second alumni meet was conducted on 26th Nov 2020 at 11 am on an online mode (Figure 3-brochure). The following chief guests were invited:

1. Dr. Viswanadham Duppatla, Assistant Vice President, IKP Knowledge Park.,
Telangana, Hyderabad

2. Dr. Jyotsna U Rao, Senior Principle Investigator, Biocon Bristol Myers
Squibb R and D Center, Syngene International Ltd

The meeting was held as scheduled and in total 35 participated. The welcome address was given by Dr. Thejaswini V. She welcomed the Dean Prof. Govind Rao, Rajendra P, HoD, chief guests, colleagues and alumni members. She emphasized on the fact that academicians lack expertise to guide students on start-ups and entrepreneurships. Hence, we need to collaborate more with industries. Prof. Govind Rao, Dean wished the program success and also gave a brief idea about the students, MSc programs and alumni cell. Dr. Rajendra Pillankata expressed his delight on having the personalities from industry set up and shared the thoughts that without the industries there is no diagnostics. Dr. Aswati Niar wished the program a success.

This was followed by an introduction to the chief guest Dr. Viswanadhan D, AVP, IKP knowledge part. He presented his ideas on how innovation rules the start-ups and entrepreneur ships. He gave a brief about IKP valley that it is Not-for-profit Science Park and Incubator HQ in Genome Valley, Hyderabad. It has funded 700+ companies from 7 countries, including over 600+ startups; 290+ funded and has 9 Incubators - 2 in Hyderabad, 3 in Bangalore, 1 each in Mangalore, Mysore, Belgaum and Shimoga. His presentation also included IKP start up projects on Covid-19 management, ethidium bromide disposal and machine learning. He also depicted few slides regarding the fellowships available for MSc students and grants for faculties such as SPARSH. He even shared a contact from IKP knowledge part to arrange an offline program for both students and faculties regarding start-up opportunities This was followed by an introduction to Dr. Jyotsna U Rao, Senior Principle Investigator, Biocon. She presented on creating your future. She discussed on ikigai laws including

passion, love , motivation and what the world needs. She further elaborated the elements of a

good decision and briefed about policy making, journalism and consulting arenas. She shared her elements on how to create ourselves and how to ward of mental blocks.

This session was followed by a discussion on how to acquire practical skills lost during covid times, linked in profiles, interview tips, academia-industry transitions, BS-MS programs, diagnostic testing and syllabus demands in the context of industry and digitalisation. Dr. Jyotsna gave importance to programming, digital learning and data science to be included at graduation level and need be even coding. Dr. Viswanadham stressed on social networking and digital profile presentation. The chief guests were happy to involve more at department level in future. Students expressed that the presentations and sessions were useful and thanked the department for such an event. This was followed by vote of thanks from Dr. Rajendran Pillankata. The best wishes of Dr. Sameer Kumar who could not be in the event due to unavoidable situation was noted.

| SI # | Name | Guardian Name | Native place | email | Designation | Phone number |
|------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | ANJITHA S PRASAD | Shivaprasad | Kollam | sivapadmam13@gmail.com | MPhil Student at SCTIMST Trivandrum | |
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| 3 | SHILPA S U | K Sreekumar | Trivandrum | shilpasree18@gmail.com | PhD Research Scholar at ICAR-CTCRI Trivandrum | |
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| 21 | Keerthana N | Balan NA | Kasargod | keerthanapoinachi@gmail.com | Guest faculty | 9747839025 |
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| 24 | Anaga Nair | Madanmohan | Palakkad | anaganair22@gmail.com | JRF at CSIR-NIIST, Trivandrum | 8075215729 |
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| 26 | Supreeta Behra | KK Behera | Bhuvaneshwar | star.behera@gmail.com | Lab analyst, Prewel Labs, Bangalore | 88951281281 |
| 27 | Kukoo | Annukaran | Kannur | kukooannoor@gmail.c | Product | 91675241 |

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| 29 | Lijina P | Gopalan T | Kasargod | liginagopal@gmail.com | PhD AT CFTRI | 83018842 30 |
| 30 | Aswathi KS | KG Somasundaram | Wayanad | aswathiks.cuk@gmail.com | PhD student at CUK | 99952436 27 |
| 31 | Sneha Mohanan | Mohanan | Kannur | snehamohanansmi@gmail.com | - | 82814291 66 |
| 32 | Neethu Mohanan | Mohan | Trivandrum | Neethumohanat14@gmail.com | PhD at RGCB | 94970795 47 |

| Sl # | Student name | Placement |
|------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. | Dr. M. Nageswar Reddy | Deputy Manager, Biologics, Syri Research Pvt Ltd. (B & S Group, UK) Vadodara, Gujarat. |
| 2. | Dr. Haritha K. | Post-Doctoral Researcher at John Hopkin's, USA |
| 3. | Dr. Sruthi T.V. | Post-Doctoral Researcher at Thomas Jefferson's, USA |
| 4. | Dr. Krishna Ghosh | Post-Doctoral Researcher at MD Andersons Cancer Centre, USA |
| 5. | Dr. Biji C. | Post-Doctoral Researcher at MD Andersons Cancer Centre, USA |
| 6. | Dr. Lincy Edatt | Post-Doctoral Researcher at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, USA |

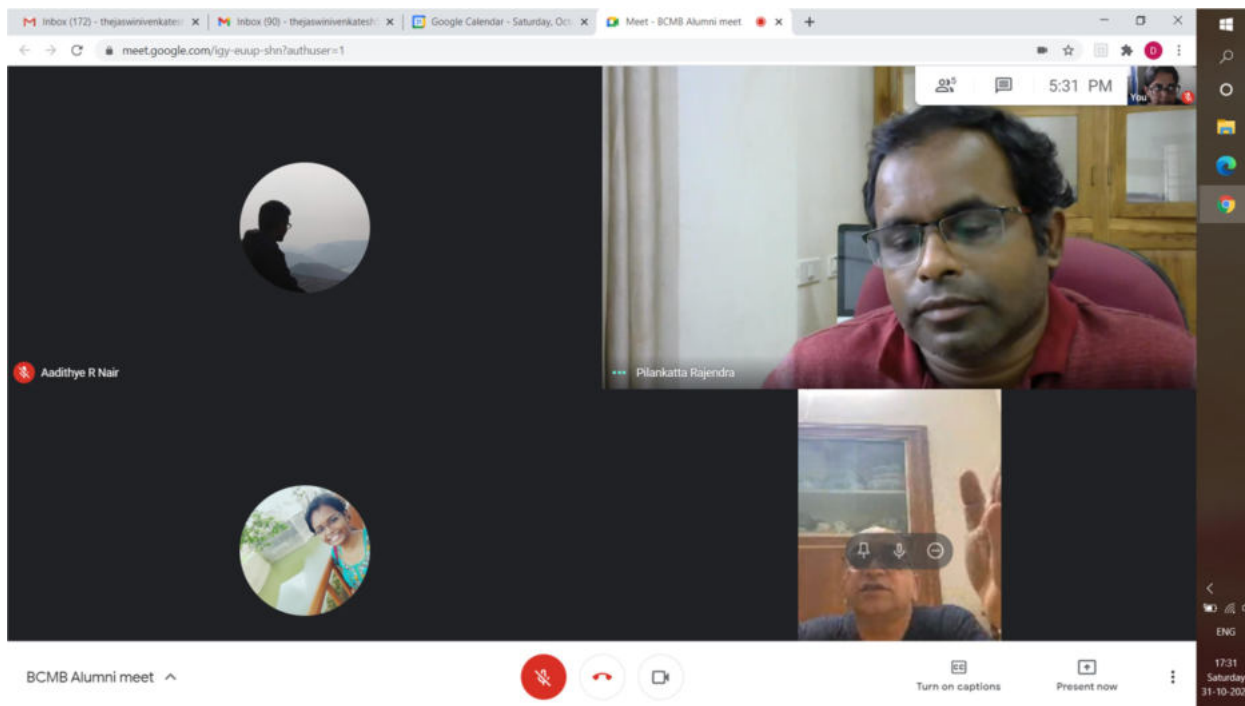


Figure 1: First alumni meet.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (BCMB)

Alumni Meet (26th Nov @ 11 am)

'Educational institution is a second home and it is indeed our great pleasure to welcome among us the alumni of the Department. It a moment of happiness and nostalgia for us. Our Alumni has brought great glory to our Department and we could not be any prouder. We extend our warm regards to every member and invite them to share a piece of their early education life.'

Program Schedule:

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| <p>Welcome address: Dr. Thejaswini V, Alumni coordinator, BCMB</p> <p>Felicitations: Prof. Govind Rao, Dean, SBS Dr. Rajendra Pilankatta, HoD, BCMB Dr. Aswati Nair, Associate Professor, BCMB</p> | <p>Keynote addresses</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Dr. Viswanadham Duppatla, Assistant Vice President, IKP Knowledge Park., Telangana, Hyderabad</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div> <p>Dr. Jyotsna U Rao, Senior Principal Investigator, Biocon Bristol Myers Squibb R and D Center, Syngene International Ltd, Bangalore</p> </div> </div> |
| <p>❖ Inviting alumni members to speak</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖ Open discussion session</p> | <p>Vote of thanks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Sameer Kumar VB, Assistant Professor, BCMB</p> |

Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/wrf-txah-ctd>

Nobody's bothered about an institution more than its alumni – N.R. Narayana Murthy

Figure 2: Brochure for the second alumni meet

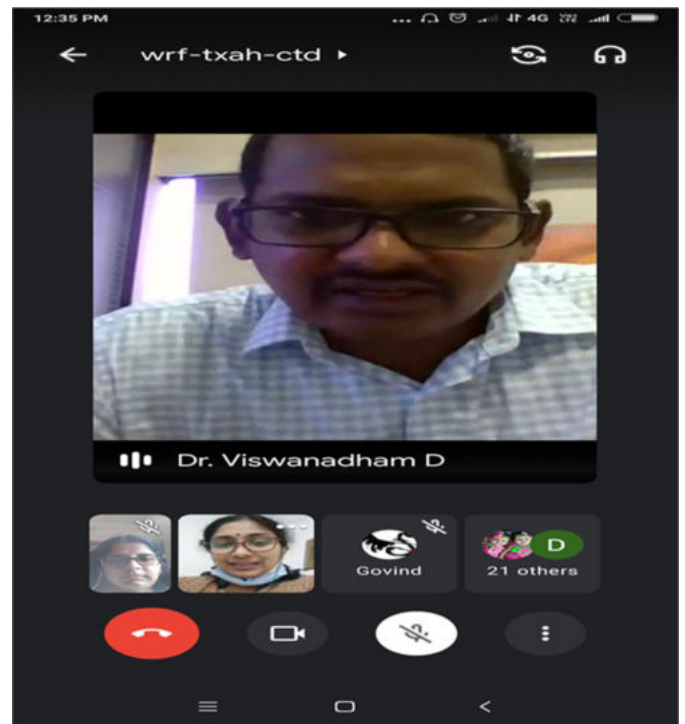
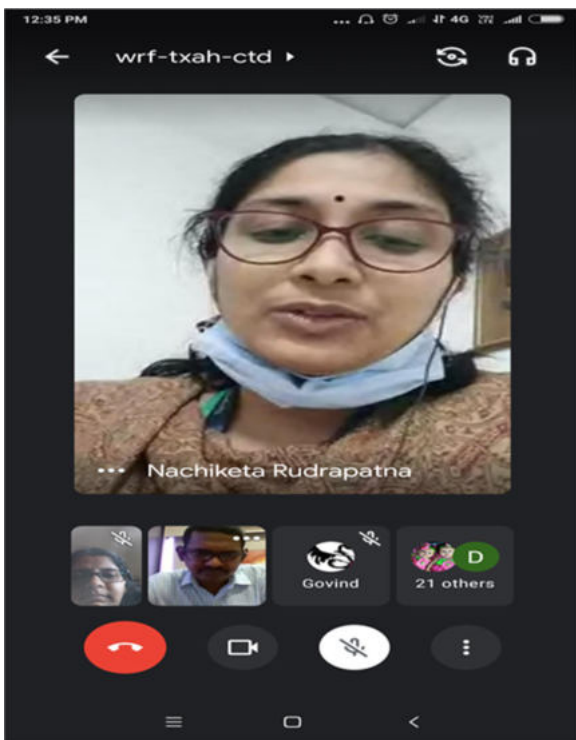
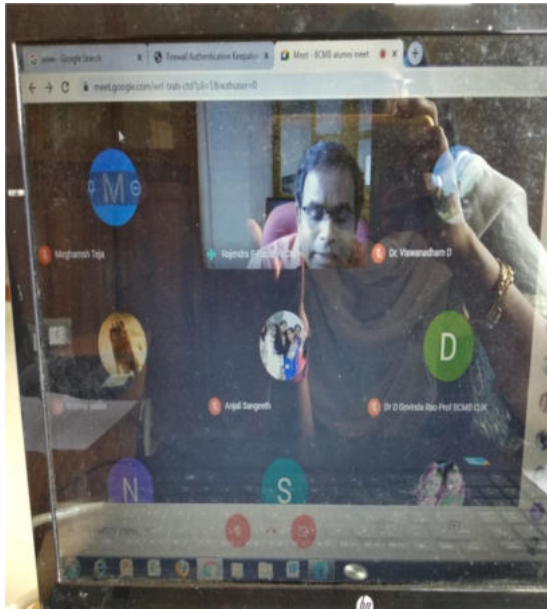


Figure 3: Second alumni meet.