

PREFACE

The special issue of the Indian Journal of Biochemistry and Biophysics, entitled “Multiple facets of Protein Science”, is a compilation of papers presented at the international conference on “Celebrating proteins on the birth centenary of Dr. G. N. Ramachandran” organized by the Department of Biochemistry, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. The conference was organised in memory of the great biophysicist and structural biologist, on the 3rd and 4th of March 2023, showcased several aspects of protein research. Prof. Kini R. Manjunatha from National University of Singapore delivered key note address on ‘Toxin inspired basic and applied research’, detailing how toxins can be applied to cure life threatening diseases. Prof. Siddhartha P. Sarma, Chairman of MBU from IISc Bangalore captivated the imagination of delegates with his lecture on ‘Structure and dynamics of peptide toxins and proteins’. Dr. David Heppner from University at Buffalo, USA presented an extremely interesting talk on drug design and development with the title ‘Design and development of mutant EGFR inhibitors from structural perspective’. Prof. Purnananda Guptasarma from IISER, Mohali gave an insightful talk on the topic of ‘Newly discovered behaviour in the bacterial histone-like protein HU’. The conference hosted Prof. L.J. Parekh Memorial Lecture and Prof. S.D. Telang Memorial Lecture, in association with Alumni Association of Biochemistry Department (ABCD). Prof. L.J. Parekh Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. B.V.V. Prasad from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, USA on ‘Towards understanding in situ structural mechanism of replication and morphogenesis of complex human virus’. His talk on Rotavirus is highly relevant to the Indian context with endemic breakout of gastroenteritis affecting millions of children annually. Prof. D. N. Rao from IISc, Bangalore enlightened the audience on ‘Arming the arsenal of restriction modification enzymes in *Helicobacter pylori*’, through his Prof. S.D. Telang Memorial Lecture. Prof. Alo Nag from Delhi University presented a possible new strategy for the treatment of cancer in her talk on ‘Disrupting oncogenic interaction with Peptides - a strategy for HPV induced cancer therapy’. Dr. Sharad Gupta from IIT, Gandhinagar presented the advances in the area of research on neurodegenerative diseases through his talk on ‘Unravelling the PTM code of aggregation in neurodegenerative diseases proteinopathies’. An alumnus of the Biochemistry Department Dr. Vishal M. Gohil from Texas A&M University, USA presented an interesting talk on ‘Mitochondrial copper biology: from yeast genetics to Menkes disease therapeutics.

There were around three hundred delegates from thirty odd institutes and universities. Five cash prizes were awarded to select posters out of the fifty posters presented. Three young investigator presentations were also given cash awards.

I thank SERB-DST, Gujarat Biotechnology Mission, Society of Biological Chemists (India) and Gujarat Science Academy for recognizing the importance of the event and sponsoring the conference.

I express my sincere thanks to Prof. (Dr). Vijay Kumar Srivastava, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for encouraging us to organise the international conference and come up with the special issue of the journal IJBB and Prof. Haribhai Kararia, Dean of Faculty of Science for extending constant active support.

Last but not least, I take the honor of appreciating the publisher for envisaging the idea of producing a special issue highlighting the research activities of Indian and international scientists in the field of

protein science. I am grateful to all the authors and reviewers for their support. I would like to extend my gratitude and sincere thanks to Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi, and Shri. R. S. Jayasomu, Dr. G. Mahesh, Dr. Meher Wan from Research Division, for encouragement towards this publication. I appreciate the support and extensive work done by the Executive editor, Prof. D. N. Rao, Scientific editor, Dr. N. K. Prasanna and team of the Indian Journal of Biochemistry and Biophysics in bringing out this excellent special issue the CSIR-NIScPR Team for bringing out this excellent issue.

C. Ratna Prabha
Guest Editor
Professor & Head,
Department of Biochemistry,
Faculty of Science,
The M. S. University of Baroda,
Vadodara, India