

ACPCON 2024 REPORT

The recently registered Association of Clinical Pharmacologists (ACP) conducted its third national conference (ACPCon) from 26th to 28th September 2024. The event was jointly organized by the Departments of Clinical Pharmacology of Seth GordhandasSunderdas Medical College (GSMC) and King Edward-VII Memorial (KEM) Hospital and the Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research, and Education in Cancer (ACTREC); and was hosted by ACTREC at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai.

Under the guidance of the senior office bearers of the ACP, the event was conducted as a three-day extravaganza, with a pre-conference workshop and a national quiz scheduled for the first day, and the main conference spread out over the next two days. The pre-conference workshop tapped on the recent epidemic of antimicrobial resistance and focused on the application of clinical pharmacokinetics in antimicrobial stewardship programmes. The workshop was conducted by esteemed faculty members of different academic institutions across India and was attended by almost fifty delegates, who participated in the academic activities including case discussions.

The theme of the conference was 'Redefining clinical pharmacology in the expanding horizons of Medicine'. As the field of medicine makes rapid strides in both diagnosis and treatment of diseases, the discipline of clinical pharmacology has witnessed a significant surge in its importance and ability to contribute to patient care. The discipline involves translation of research from bench to bedside, and therefore, plays a vital role in drug development and conduct of clinical trials, apart from ancillary patient care such as therapeutic drug monitoring, pharmacogenetics, and other diagnostic services.

The conference was made a huge success as the number of registrations crossed the three-digit mark (108 national delegates, to be precise), and the academic feast was served and enjoyed by the stalwarts of clinical pharmacology across the country, from both the pharmaceutical industry and academia. The event brought together on the same platform young and experienced clinical pharmacologists, noted drug research scientists and drug regulators from different parts of India to discuss and deliberate on contentious issues around the theme. The general body meetings and panel discussions during the event aimed to chalk

out a plan for the future for the advancement of the discipline and enhancement of patient care.

The event was richly sponsored by various pharmaceutical companies and governmental agencies. Notable among the sponsors were Glenmark pharmaceuticals, who actively participated in the conference. Dr Monika Tandon from Glenmark pharmaceuticals delved into the expectations of a clinical pharmacologist in the pharmaceutical industry, by chronicling her own journey from a freshly passed out graduate to the top echelons of the company. The annual oration in the honour of Prof. Ranjit Roy Choudhury was delivered by Prof. Nilima Kshirsagar, former Dean of Seth GSMC and KEMH, and former National Chair of Clinical Pharmacology, ICMR; who emphasized upon the potential contributions that a clinical pharmacologist can make to the society.

The participation of students and faculty from across the country contributed to the conference being a grand success. Although two previous conferences have been conducted by the society at Patna and Kolkata, this one was the first after the society was officially registered. The next conference to be organized in Puducherry in September next year promises to raise the bar further.