



ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES 2022-2023

PG & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY



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ACTIVITIES - 2022 - 2023

(Conferences, Seminars, Webinars, Workshops, Industrial Visits, Field Trips, Talks, Campaigns, etc.)

1. TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY& SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Centre for Environmental Studies and the PG & Research Department of Biotechnology at Women's Christian College, Chennai, are jointly organizing a two-day international conference on 'Environmental Sustainability and Social Responsibility' on the 10th and 11th of January 2023.

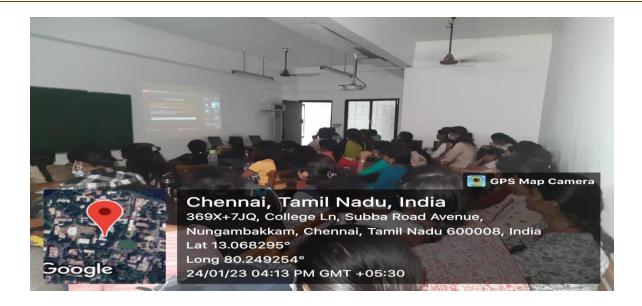
The inauguration of this two-day international conference was held on January 10 between 9 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. in the main auditorium of the college. The program commenced with a prayer song and the Tamizh Thai Vazhthu rendered by the students. The principal of WCC, Dr. Lilian I. Jasper, welcomed the gathering. The chief guest for the event was Mrs. H.D. Varalaxmi, Regional Director, Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India. In her inaugural address, she emphasized the importance of environmental sustainability. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Sudha Nair, former Senior Director of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and former Founder Member of Biotech Park for Women, Chennai. She enlightened the students with an interactive session on the importance of their role in protecting the environment. The proceedings of the conference, with the abstracts received for oral and poster presentations, were released by the Chief Guest. The inaugural program ended with the Alma Mater.



2. WEBINAR ON MICROBIOME and PCOS

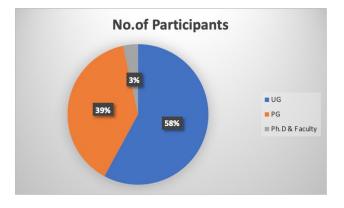
A webinar on microbiome and PCOS was organized by the PG & Research Department of Biotechnology in association with the Microbiologists Society of India on January 24th, 2023, through Google Meet between 4 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. I and II-year M.Sc. students and staff members attended the program.

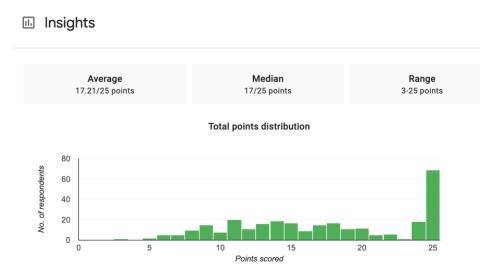
The speaker, Dr. T. Ramani Devi, addressed the students on the topic 'An Awareness on Endometriosis'. She has over 33 years of medical practice experience in Gynaecology. She has received various national and international awards to her credit. She has visited many countries to deliver lectures on reproductive wellness for women. She has published approximately 50 research articles in refereed national and international journals. She has authored various chapters for books and been an editor for quite a few books. Dr. T. Ramani Devi gave an insight on the role of the microbiome in PCOS. She explained how lifestyle modifications can promote good gut health and help prevent PCOS. Overall, it was very useful information on PCOS, which is considered to be at a higher rate among the reproductive age group of women.



3. WORLD BIOFUEL DAY NATIONAL E-QUIZ

With regard to World Biofuel Day, which is observed on August 10th every year, the Microbiologist Society of India and the Student's Unit of the PG and Research Department of Biotechnology at Women's Christian College conducted a National E-Quiz from August 11th–13th, 2022. The aim of conducting such a quiz was to raise awareness among students about the importance of unconventional fossil fuels that can serve as alternatives to conventional fossil fuels. A total of 292 responses were received, and e-certificates were issued to participants who scored 50% or above. Five student volunteers, under the guidance of Dr. Anchana Devi, organized the event, and the outcome of the online event is graphically represented below. Students from all over India from nearly 20 colleges across different states participated in the quiz. There was approximately an average level (17/25) of awareness that prevailed among the participants. The outcome of the quiz emphasized the need to educate young minds about the importance of biofuels for sustainable development and future needs.





4. ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS & PLEDGE DRIVE

A seminar on ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS was organized by the PG & Research Department of Biotechnology along with NCC COY of Women's Christian College and MOHAN Foundation, Chennai, on August 27, 2022, from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. at Bamford Hall, CB Block. The program began with a prayer by Dr.Preethi Jeyakumar and a welcome address by Dr.Priya Iyer. The speaker was introduced by Dr. Anita RJ Singh, Associate Professor, PG & Research Department in Biotechnology. 178 students and faculty members participated in the program.

The speaker, Dr. HEMAL KAVINDAE, MOHAN FOUNDATION, Chennai, addressed the students on the topic 'Organ Donation Awareness'. She is a certified transplant counselor who has nearly 20 years of experience counseling families to come forward for organ donation. In her talk, she shared real-life experiences and addressed the myths that prevail in our society about organ donation. She also explained the protocol for organ donation and how to enroll in it. Overall, the session was productive for the students, and they clarified their doubts about organ donation. At the end of the session, there was a small open quiz for the participant to kindle their curiosity about organ donation. As an outcome of the program, 55 participants registered and pledged to donate organs after the event. At the end of the program, a vote of thanks was rendered by Dr.Anchana Devi, Assistant Professor, PG, and Research Department of Biotechnology.



5. POSTER COMPETITION EXHIBITION

The PG and Research Department of Biotechnology (Shift II) conducted its annual intradepartmental poster and model competition for the II M.Sc. students on November 5, 2022, in the department. Like in previous years, the theme of the posters was environmental awareness. All the students in the class actively participated in it. The objective of conducting this competition is to create awareness about the depleting natural resources of our planet Earth and to educate the college community about the ways in which each individual is responsible and plays a vital role in the preservation of Mother Earth. The entries were judged by Dr.Preethi Metha, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Faculty Coordinator of the Centre for Environmental Studies, WCC. The posters were displayed for all the staff and students (both Shift I and Shift II) of the college.







6. BIOINSTRUMENTATION MODEL COMPETITION- 2023

The P.G. and Research Department of Biotechnology (Shift II) conducted an intra-departmental bioinstrumentation model-making competition for the I M.Sc. students on February 6, 2023, in the department. The model-making competition was based on the different types of instruments used in the laboratory. All the students in the class actively participated in it. The objective of conducting this competition is to enhance a better understanding of the principles and working mechanisms, respectively. The entries were judged by Dr.Priya R. Iyer. The outcome of the event helped the students better understand, actively participate, and come up with innovative ideas for working models.

7. INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF BRACKISH WATER AQUACULTURE (CIBA)

The faculty members, Dr. Priya Iyer (Head of the Department), Dr. Anita Singh, Dr. Anchana Devi, Dr. Preethi Jeyakumar, and Lab Assistant Rekha, along with 54 students, visited the Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture (CIBA) on February 7, 2023. The objective of the visit is to observe and learn about the techniques involved in aquaculture. Dr. M. Jayanthi, Principal Scientist and acting HOD of ICAR-CIBA, and S. Rajamanickam, Assistant Chief Technical Officer of the division of Crustacean Culture, guided the visitors throughout the visit.





The institute developed cost-effective, sustainable, and efficient feed processing technologies for all shellfish and finfish species in brackish water aquaculture. They developed comprehensive hatchery technology for the seed production and larval rearing of economically important finfish species. They also demonstrated micro- and macro-algal culture techniques, such as floating baskets and hanging rope. The IV trip provided students with insight into aquaculture techniques, allowing them to apply this knowledge in future research endeavors.

8. INDUSTRIAL VISIT TO JSS PHARMACY COLLEGE, MYOSRE

The PG and Research Department of Biotechnology at Women's Christian College visited the site on March 27, 2023, along with two faculty members: Dr. Priya Iyer (Head of the Department), Dr. Anchana Devi, and 43 students, including first- and second-year students.

The visit started with a brief talk by Dr. Pramod Kumar, Principal of JSS Pharmacy College, Mysore, and Dr. B. M. Gurupadayya, Professor and HOD of the college, who guided us throughout the visit. After introduction, the students were separated into batches of 2 guided by different faculty members, and they headed to various departments, namely, pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical chemistry, and pharmacognosy. Various instruments, including HPLC, GCMS, extraction units, and so on, were thoroughly explained during the working demonstration.





