

## **Press Report**

### **International Webinar on “Career opportunities for Life Sciences Graduates in Pharma and Biotech sectors” on occasion of International Microorganisms Day, held in JSS AHER, Mysore**

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Life Sciences on the occasion of 105<sup>th</sup> Jayanthi Celebrations of His Holiness Jagadguru Dr. Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Mahaswamiji and to commemorate International Microorganisms Day (celebrated worldwide on 17<sup>th</sup> September), celebrated the special event by conducting a webinar on “Career Opportunities for Life Science Graduates in Pharma/Biotech Sector” with keynote address by Mr. Biswarup Das Gupta on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020. The webinar was organized under the able guidance of Dr. B. Suresh, Pro-Chancellor, and Dr. Surinder Singh, Vice-Chancellor, and support from Dr. Manjunath B. Registrar, Dr. Kushalappa P.A, Director Dean (Academics), Dr. Balasubramanian S. Director (Research) and Prof. K.A. Raveesha, Head, Department of Water and Health. This webinar was conceived and convened by Dr. Ashwini P, Co-ordinator, Department of Microbiology with support from Dr. Sumana K & Dr. Jamuna Bai A, Department of Microbiology, JSS AHER.

For the graduate students, making a career choice is a real dilemma. This Webinar was specially conducted for B.Sc. and M.Sc. Life Science graduates to make them aware of the new avenues and various options for life science students to pursue a successful career in the multibillion dollar Biotech and Pharma Sectors. 439 participants including students and faculty from various institutes across the country attended the webinar.

The program began with Dr Ashwini. P welcoming the enthusiastic participants and introduction of the key note speaker. Dr. K.A. Raveesha, Head, Dept of Water and Health, JSS AHER rendered the opening remarks and spoke about importance of enlightening the young minds about different career avenues. He also spoke about the relevance of celebrating International Microorganisms Day and emphasised on the importance of role of Microbiology and its societal impact. He advised students to

have an increased industry interaction in terms of summer research programmes and industry visits to hone their skills to be prepared for career in Pharma and Biotech industry.

Keynote address was delivered by Mr. Biswarup Das Gupta, Director, Quality Assurance, Gene Therapy, Andover, Massachusetts, USA. He has enormous experience as Quality & Compliance leader for over 18 years leading cross functional teams in Manufacturing, Quality Control and Quality Assurance working in leading Pharma Giants like Glaxo Smith cline Biologicals, Sanofi Pharmaceuticals and Serpenta Pharmaceuticals, USA. In his educative presentation, Mr. Biswarup highlighted the plethora of opportunities Microbiology graduates have in Biotech and Pharma Sectors. Mr. Biswarup also remembered his roots in India during his graduation days in Department of Microbiology, University of Mysore and thanked all his teachers for providing a strong basic foundation in Microbiology and attributed it as reason for his present position in USA. Throughout his presentation, he provided crucial insights on career opportunities for Microbiology graduates in Industrial Microbiology, Clinical studies, Pharmaceutical manufacturing, challenges in manufacturing and scaling of Biologicals. He also touched upon the regulatory affairs in Pharma sector. This enlightening presentation was followed up by a very interactive Q & A session moderated by Dr. Jamuna Bai A, where Mr. Biswarup answered the key questions posed by the student community pertaining to preparations, prior knowledge and basic set of skills and training required for joining Biotech and Pharma Sectors. He said industrial visits and an increased interaction with industry personnels should be made a prerequisite while designing the academic curriculum. The webinar concluded by vote of thanks rendered by Dr. Sumana K.



A webinar on “Career Opportunities for Life Science Graduates in Pharma/Biotech Sector” with keynote address by Mr. Biswarup Das Gupta (L) on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020. Prof. K.A. Raveesha, Head, Department of Water and Health, Dr. Ashwini P, Co-ordinator, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Life Sciences, JSS AHER. and Dr. Sumana K, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, FLS, JSS AHER were also present (R).



Keynote Speaker Mr. Biswarup Das Gupta, Director, Quality Assurance, Gene Therapy, Andover, Massachusetts, USA.