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**A Report on AICTE Sponsored International Seminar and Exhibition on  
Phytopharmaceuticals: "Emerging Challenges and Opportunities"**

TIFAC CORE in Herbal Drugs and Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytopharmacy of JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty, affiliated to JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (Deemed to be University), Mysuru, conducted a two days AICTE sponsored International Seminar and Exhibition on Phytopharmaceuticals: "Emerging Challenges and Opportunities" (ISEPECO) on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.

The inaugural function was held on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 at 10.30 am with an invocation song and lighting the Kuthuvilakku by the students of this college and the dignitaries, respectively. Prof. K. Chinnaswamy, Chair-ISEPECO 2017 had presided the function and spoke on the importance of phytopharmaceuticals. Dr. Amir Agarwal, Director-R&D, Natural Remedies, Bengaluru had participated as Chief Guest and emphasized the importance of natural product leads and their roles as medicines. Following this, the proceedings of the conference and CD containing the abstracts of e-posters were released by Dr. Khin Phyu Phyu, Director, Department of Medical Research, Myanmar. Dr. Srinivas Patnala, Visiting Fellow, University of Rhodes, South Africa, Dr. Mustafa Al-Shagga, Sr. Teaching fellow, University of Nottingham, Malaysia, Mr. Awotunde O Samson, Lecturer, Habib Medical School, Uganda participated as guests of honor and spoke on the occasion. Dr. Nirmal Robinson, CECAD CRG group, University of Cologne, Germany gave the keynote address on "Targeting metabolic pathways to enhance immune defence: opportunities for phytopharmaceuticals". Following the inauguration, an exhibition on medicinal plants and their applications was inaugurated by Dr. Swarnalata Saraf, Director, University Institute of Pharmacy, Raipur.

There were about 347 external, 35 internal and 4 international delegates registered for this conference. The event consisted of 5 scientific lecture sessions and they were delivered by 5 international and 7 national invited speakers. Eighty-five delegates were actively participated in e-poster presentations under different specialization of pharmacognosy and 14 members have won the e-poster awards for their outstanding research and communication. Among the best e-poster winners six members from other colleges and six members from JSSCP, Ooty. 2 international prizes won by the delegates from Myanmar.

The scientific sessions of ISEPECO-2017 were concluded on 12th December 2017, 3:00-4:00pm. The best e-poster awards were announced and the guests Dr. Srinivas Patnala, visiting fellow, Rhodes University, South Africa, Dr. Bala Prabhakar, Dean, NMIMS University, Mumbai and Dr. Musthafa Al-Shagga, Sr. Teaching Fellow, University of Nottingham, Malaysia have distributed the best poster awards to the awardees. Overall, the feedback from delegates and invited speakers reflected that the seminar covered many advanced topics on Phytopharmaceuticals and allowed them to actively engage with the advancement of Pharmacognosy and Phytopharmacy education and research. Furthermore, the feedback was highly appreciative of JSS CP, Ooty hospitality and organization of the event.