

CONFERENCE REPORT

6th International Translational Cancer Research Conference – 2016

Pre-Conference event-1 February 02, 2016

Cancer Walk and Lok Darbar : Cancer awareness program For General Public (Public Forum)

Cancer Walk was organized by The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad, from Shivranjani Cross Road Satellite, to Sadvichar Parivar, Ramdevnagar in which around 150 GCRIans along with invitees from M D Anderson Cancer Centre, Houston, Texas participated. The motto was to spread awareness among the general public about various causes of cancer. The walk was flagged off by Dr. Bharat Aggarwal, USA at 5.00 pm. All participants walked with different banners (both in local and English language) highlighting to stop tobacco habits such as cigarette smoking, gutkha chewing, alcohol consumption, along with importance of dietary habits and measures to be taken for early screening and treatment of cancer. They also recited slogans for anticancer campaign which created an enthusiastic atmosphere and great interest for general public.

The rally reached the venue of Cancer Lok Darbar, Ramdevnagar. There was an interactive session with the Media representatives with the intent to spread the Cancer awareness amongst the general public by the mean of television. Around 500 delegates participated in Cancer Lok Darbar. The programme began with prayer by Ms. Anal Mehta followed by welcome address by Director GCRI, Dr. R.K. Vyas. The Former Director, GCRI introduced the dignitaries and spoke on the importance of the Cancer Lok Darbar. Shri Asitbhai Vora, dynamic Chairman of Gujarat Subordinate Services Selection Board and Former Mayor Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation were our Chief Guest addressed the gathering with his inspirational speech.

During the question answer session the inquisitive public asked various question pertaining cancer etiology regarding tobacco habit, lifestyle, hereditary, various types, sign and symptoms, infections disease or not, type of treatment and their side effects, disease out come due to delay of treatment, cost effective of treatment, usefulness of stem cell treatment and bone marrow transplant and the need for cancer health checkup, and many more which were addressed by the leading cancer clinicians- Dr. R.K. Vyas, Dr. Pankaj M. Shah, Dr. Devendra D. Patel, Dr. Kirti M. Patel, Dr. Mukund Mehta, Dr. Kiran C. Kothari, Dr. Geeta Joshi and researchers Dr.

Prabhudas S. Patel, from Ahmedabad, and Dr Bharat Aggarwal, Dr. Varsha Gandhi, Dr. Kapil Mehta and Dr. Sen Pathak M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, USA. Dr. Hemangini Vora was the coordinator of LOK DARBAR.

Pre-Conference event-1 February 03, 2016

Cancer awareness program for students:

On 3rd February morning 9.00 a.m “Cancer Awareness” for College Students was organized at Thakorbbhai Desai Hall, Law garden. Around 400 college students and Faculties of all disciplines from colleges across the city actively participated in the programme. The programme started with the prayer followed by lamp lightning ceremony. The Chief Guest was Dr. M. N. Patel, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University and Guest of Honor Shri, Kshitish Madanmohan, Secretary, GCS. Dr. Geeta Joshi, Deputy Director, GCRI delivered the Welcome speech for the students awareness cancer programme. Then Dr. Shilin N. Shukla, Former Director, GCRI introduced the dignitaries and explained the detailed theme of the students cancer awareness programme. Other dignitaries on the dais were Dr. Bharat Aggarwal, Dr. Prabhudas Patel, Dr. Varsha Gandhi, Dr. Kapil Mehta, Dr. Sen Pathak. Further, the dignitaries were felicitated and addressed by the Chief Guest. An elocution competition and exhibitions on various aspects of cancer screening, early signs, prevention, diagnosis and treatment was organized on the eve of this preconference event on “Cancer Prevention” theme. Fourteen students participated in the Elocution competition. A skit on Cancer Awareness was performed by student group from H.K. Arts College. The participants of elocution competition were appreciated by prizes. The following were the winners: Utpal Solanki (1st Prize, GCRI), Depander Tivari (2nd prize), Shikha Chauhan and Chetan Prajapati (3rd prize), Nilesh and Group (Prize for skit performers)

The programme was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Varsha Gandhi, MDACC. A The programme was coordinated by Dr. Rakesh M. Rawal.

6th International Translational Cancer Research Conference – 2016

February 04-07, 2016

Hyatt Regency, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad, INDIA

February 04, 2016 – Day-1

Inauguration Function and Keynote address:

On 4th February 2016, Thursday, 4.00 pm on the occasion of “WORLD CANCER DAY” was the grand inaugural programme of the “6th International Translational Cancer Research Conference”, 2016, with the theme “Prevention and Treatment of Cancer: Hypes and Hopes”. It has been jointly organized by Department of Cancer Biology- GCRI and GCS, local organizing body with International Society for (ISTCR), MD Anderson, USA at Hyatt Regency, Ahmedabad. More than 400 delegates from overseas and India had come for this international conference comprising 10 countries, 26 overseas delegates and 82 institutions all over. After the divine blessings, Dr. Hemangini Vora gracefully took the programme forward by inviting the Chief Guest, Shri Pankaj Shah, Former Director, GCRI and Guest of Honor Shri S. N. Tyagi, Mission Director, Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission. Chief Guest and Guest of Honor were felicitated by the invited members of MDACC and all the dignitaries on the dais and off the dais were felicitated by Dr. Prabhudas S. Patel. Dr R. K Vyas Director, GCRI, welcomed all the dignitaries. Thereafter Dr. Sen Pathak and Dr Kapil Mehta, MD Anderson USA, read out the message of prime minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and of Chief Minister of Gujarat Smt Anandiben Patel respectively.

Dr. Prabhudas Patel, Chair local organizing Committee, spoke on the theme of the conference. Dr. Bharat Aggrawal, Founder Member, ISTCR, gave an inspirational talk on mission and vision of ISTCR. Shri S. N. Tyagi, Mission Director, Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission, spoke to joint to join Pharma and academic institutions to which Gujarat State and GSBTM will support. He also recommended multi-institutional collaborative projects to bring out better science. He further stressed that mission should be undertaken by today’s youngsters under the guidance of experts.

Dr. Pankaj M Shah focused on targeted therapy and their molecules which are invented due to translational cancer research approach. He emphasized on “Tissue Banking’ as it could be one of the major source of cancer research that could be beneficial for patient treatment. He also gave an overall view of various steps taken by different organizations and policies like “Ma Yojana” and how these policies help the general public to fight against Cancer.

The inaugural function ended with vote of thanks from Dr. Geeta Joshi Deputy Director GCRI. After the short tea break scientists Dr. Dr. Mitali Mukerji and Bhavana Prasher, New Delhi, set the stage of scientific session with their key note lectures related to Ayurgenomics.

February 05, 2016 – Day -2

The first Scientific Sessions “Cancer prevention/Cancer Metastasis” began at 8:30 am, was chaired by Dr. Kapil Mehta, USA and Dr. Devendra D. Patel, Ahmedabad. After a brief introduction on the topic by Dr. Kapil Mehta, MDACC, USA, Dr. Sopit Wongkham, Dr. Faye Johnson, Dr. Rakesh Singh and Dr. G.K Rath shared their knowledge on multi-molecular approaches for discovery of alternative targets, PI3K/mTOR pathway inhibitors, chemokine signaling in cancer metastasis and the concepts and strategies for cancer prevention in India.

The second session was on “Cancer Epigenetics” which was chaired by Dr. Sen Pathak, USA and Dr. Rakesh Vyas, GCRI. Dr. Shiv Grewal, Dr. Devarajan Karunagaran and Dr. Bhavan Dave enlighten the delegates with their in-depth knowledge on the topic on non-coding RNA and diseases, miRA-145 modulating Wnt signaling and highlights of translational medicine in non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Simultaneously during the lunch session, poster (60 posters) displayed from different Institutes, covering different aspects of newer developments in the field of cancer research by students Research Scholars was viewed and judged. There were fruitful discussions/ suggestions from the judges, which certainly helped the students for their future research work.

The Post lunch session was on “Cancer Drug Development”. The session was introduced by Dr. Sarat Dalai, Ahmedabad and Dr. Ravi Malhotra, Noida. Invited faculties Dr. Saraswati Sukumar, Dr. Kumkum Khanna, Dr. Sunil Kaul, and Dr. B.C. Das gave different aspects of drug developments targeting molecules like ER-responsive genes, DNA damage response pathway, Fos related antigen Fra-1, and anticancer activity of Ashwagandha leaves.

Session 4: Cancer prevention/Cancer Metastasis chaired by Dr. Prabhudas S. Patel and Dr. Purvish Parikh. The speakers covered diverse topics like therapeutic efficacy of nutritional herbs on models for molecular subtypes of clinical breast cancer, Inhibition of metastasis by PEITC, Factors involved in gallstone formation in gallbladder cancer, disordered transcriptional repressor domain of MBD1 interaction effects with binding partners.

Session 5 was on Cancer proteomics which was chaired by Dr. Rakesh Singh and Dr. Amit Verma. Dr. Ritu Aggarwal, Dr. Mark McDowall, Dr. Savita Yadav and Dr. A. J. Vanisree explored the different aspects of proteomics involving proteomic profiling of retinoblastoma, Mass spectrometry imaging in cancer, salivary proteomics for cervical cancer, and role of growth regulating protein, and receptor in enhancement of sensitization to chemo agent.

Thereafter all the conference delegates along with invited faculties proceeded for cultural programme: Ras Garba at Sabarmati River Front, with luscious Kathyavadi food.

February 06, 2016 – Day -3

On 6th February, 2016, the first session was on Cancer Microenvironment chaired by Dr. N. K. Jain and Dr. Perunuma Sudhakaran. Under the session, speakers Dr. Jacques Pouyssegur, Dr. Sarita gupta, Dr. Alpana Sharma and Dr. Subhash Chandra Gupta shared their knowledge on bioenergetics in hypoxic tumors, role of stem cells in prostate cancer, Bone marrow microenvironment in multiple myeloma progression and role of acidic microenvironment in breast cancer.

Next session was ISTCR-ISO Panel discussion, Translational Cancer Research from clinic to laboratory. Under which the leading malignancies in India i.e. lung cancer, breast cancer and oral cancer were discussed with the expertise knowledge of different panelists. The first panel discussion was on Lung Cancer. Dr. Chirag Desai gave an overview of recent development in lung cancer. The session was moderated by Dr. Pankaj M. Shah. Different panelists including Dr. Varsha Gandhi, Dr. Chirag Desai, Dr. Asha Anand, Dr. Rakesh Rawal, and Dr. Priti Trivedi were actively involved in discussing the important aspects and answering different burning question on lung cancer. It also highlighted about 5 “Ts” and role of EGFR targeted therapies. Thereafter the panel discussion was on Breast Cancer. Dr. Saraswati Sukumar, USA, gave an overview of recent developments with an enhanced knowledge covering all the aspects of early detection, diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Harit Chaturvedi, moderator, who actively carried

forward the panel discussion with active participation of the panelists Dr. Saraswati Sukumar, Dr. Kapil Mehta, Dr. Kiran Kothari, Dr. Hemangini Vora, Dr. Dhaval Jetly, Dr. Sanjeev Misra and Dr. Sonia Parikh. They discussed the points covering dietary fats and breast cancer, prevention strategies, screening tools, mutational analysis, blood testing and exploring the role of miRNA and different target molecules like Her2 and Myc. The discussion concluded with panel discussion on Oral Cancer. Dr. Faye Johnson gave an overview of recent developments in oral cancer and gave an alarm on the sharp increase in incidence rate of oral cancer among younger population. The session was moderated by Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi. He actively informed all the panelists and conference delegates to fight against oral cancer by a campaign to stop all the tobacco habits, a major culprit of oral cancer. The panelists were Dr. Shiv Grewal, Dr. Faye Johnson, Dr. Ravi Mehrotra, Dr. Prabhudas S. Patel, Dr. Pooja Nandwani Patel. They all discussed importance of immunotherapy for advanced disease, genomics, cetuximab with radiotherapy in HPV+ cases, role of HPV, salivary diagnostics and importance of glycosylation in monitoring oral carcinogenesis process.

This was followed by lunch and poster viewing session. There were around 50 posters presented by UG/PG students. The delegates and judges had enormous interactions with student participants, which encouraged the students to think out of the box for future innovative researches.

Post lunch there was a session on Cancer Personalized Medicine chaired by Dr. Varsha Gandhi and Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi. Dr. Varsha Gandhi gave an overview of the session which was discussed in details by various speakers Dr. Renu Wadhwa, Dr. Neeta Singh, Dr. Hemant Malhotra, Dr. Kaiser Jamil who in their talks covered wide topics like Mortalin in human carcinogenesis process, HPV and cervical cancer, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia: Indian perspective and problems and Pharmacogenomics leading towards personalized medicine through bioinformatics.

Next there was a parallel session on Cancer Immunology-I and II, which was chaired by Dr. G. Nareshkumar and Dr. Harit Chaturvedi, Dr. Hemangini H. Vora and Dr. Oommen V., respectively. Various speakers like Dr. Shubhada Chiplunkar, Dr. Divyesh Mehta, Dr. Rajeev Tyagi, Dr. Periaswamy Selvaraj, Dr. Shashikala Inamdar and Dr. Subrajit Biswas explored their in depth knowledge on gamma delta T cells in gall bladder cancer, immunotherapy of breast cancer, long lived immunoregulatory human dendritic cells induced by intracellular pathogen,

novel personalized immunotherapy for cancer, lectins recognizing tumor specific antigens and alterations of apoptotic sensitivity of hepatic stellate cells with Sorafenib resistance.

After Cancer Immunology session, there were 3 parallel sessions. Young scientist oral presentations award session by Ph.D research scholars from GCRI and different Institutes and, 2-oral presentation sessions by faculties. The young budding scientists explored their enormous potential of their research work followed by brainstorming discussion with the students and the presentations were also evaluated. As there was good number of participation by young scientists the session was continued to the next day. After, the stimulating scientific interactive day, followed the refreshing KARAOKE Musical evening, at Sabarmati riverfront. All the conference delegates enjoyed the music, singing and dancing along with dinner.

February 07, 2016 – Day -4

The young scientist award session and oral presentation sessions were further continued from 8.00 am to 9:40 am. The next session was on Cancer Prevention: The holistic Approach-I which was chaired by Dr. Rakesh M. Rawal and Dr. Girija Kuttan. Dr. Krishna Misra, Dr. Prashanta Banerji and Dr. Pratip Banerji explored their knowledge on various topic like enhancement therapeutic potential and bioavailability of curcumin and ultra diluted medicines for treatment of lung cancer.

Further there were parallel sessions on Cancer prevention: The “Holistic Approach-II” and “Cancer Drug Development-II” Various speakers Dr. Kiran Kalia, Dr. Jayashree Joshi, Dr. Donald JL Jones, Dr. Sunil Ganatra, Dr. Cheppail Ramachandran, Dr. Siefgried Knasmueller, Dr Katharina Pachmann, Dr. Alpana Saxena, Dr. Suparna Sengupta, Dr. Meena Jhanwar-Uniyal, Dr. Priya Srinivas, Dr. Mukul Jain, Dr. Tejal Mehta and Dr. Subhash Chauhan gave talks on tobacco and oral cancer, target preventive therapy with turmeric oil extract, searching of novel circulating chemopreventive biomarkers through dietary rice brand, anticancer inhibition *In-silico* and *in-vitro* studies, mango ginger extract: a promising nutraceutical anticancer agent, impact of coffee consumption on human cancer and effectiveness of curcuma preparations on tumor stem cells, circulating prognostic markers in lung cancer, reversible p53 independent action on Ras-Raf-ERK-DR5 axis makes diaminothiazoles highly promising for cancer therapy, glioblastoma and its stem cells, novel clues for targeting therapy in breast cancer, preclinical characterization of ZYTP1 in management of solid tumors, formulation an

development to lutein nanocrystals and development of new therapeutic approached in pancreatic cancer.

The session was followed by valedictory function. Dr. Nandita Ghosh appreciated the organizing committee for their enormous contribution for the success of the conference. This was followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Prabhudas S. Patel. Further Dr. Kapil Mehta awarded the winners for their outstanding performance in poster presentation, young scientist award session. The winners for the poster presentation were divided into 2 categories: Research Scholars and UG/PG students. The winners for poster presentations were.

Outstanding Poster Awards

Sr. No.	Poster No.	Name	Institute
1	07	Gaurav Chauhan	The M. S. University of Baroda
2	34	Shruti Patel	The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute
3	21	Anil Krupp	Waters Corporation
4	27	Padmavathi G.	IIT, Guwahati
5	06	Ankit Borisa	Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma university
6	23	Anal Mehta	The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute
7	24	Kinjal Gajjar	The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute
8	59	Kinjal Bhadresha R.	Iilla devi hospital
9	63	Dhara Bhimani	The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute
10	72	Akil Mansuri	NIPER, Ahmedabad
11	73	Riya Mehta/ Makwana Anita	M. Sc. Student, Gujarat University
12	76	Aishwariya Nair/ Munshi Sana	M. Sc. Student, Gujarat University
13	98	Thakur Monika	M. Sc. Student, Gujarat University

The winners for Young Scientist Award session were as follows:

Sr. No.	Prize	Name	Institute
1	1 st Prize	Swarnendra Singh	National Institute of Immunology
2	2 nd Prize	Shanaya Patel	The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute
3	2 nd Prize	Dhavan Sharma	Nirma University, Ahmedabad
4	3 rd Prize	Anindita Deka	IIT, Guwahati
5	3 rd Prize	Nupur Patel	The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute

Dr. Kapil Mehta then introduced the next conference Translational Cancer Research at IIT Madras, Chennai which would be organized by Dr. D. Karunakaran.

The conference ended with a joyful atmosphere with a wish to meet all the delegates again in next TCR!