

WEBINARS/SEMINARS

UGC-STRIDE seminar on "Socio-cultural Issues and their Impact on Health"

St Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangaluru organized a seminar titled, "Socio-cultural Issues and their Impact on Health" under UGC-STRIDE programme. The eminent speaker, Dr. Javed Jamil, the Chair in Islamic Studies and Research at the Yengapoya (Deemed to be University) delivered the talk on Thursday, December 16, 2021 (10.00am) at Sandhya. Dr. Jamil is a renowned professor, thinker, Islamic scholar, and author.



A doctor by profession and Islamic scholar by passion, he has been able to blend his knowledge with the understanding of the present world that many a times ignores the true values and practices that religion imparts. Dr. Jamil's recent books include, "Economics First or Health First?", "Justice Imprisoned", "A Systematic Study of the Holy Qur'an" among others.

Dr. Jamil argued that religion is challenged by economic fundamentalism where the dominance of market forces can be felt in world affairs today. The market economy, which is largely Western based, has targeted the ideals of religion, family system, and consumption of goods and services. In the meanwhile, it has not been able to give a permanent solution to issues like female feticide, suicides or diseases like HIV/AIDS. Dr. Jamil pointed out that religions like Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, and Buddhism preach religious morality in terms of promoting healthy family systems, healthy practices of consumption, respect for women, and in general promotion of scientifically proven health practices. Dr. Jamil, there-



fore concluded that not religious identity, but religious morality can unify the believers of major religions both within and outside India.

Dr. Alwyn D'Sa, the Registrar and the Director of UGC-STRIDE programme at the College, delivered the presidential remarks while highlighting the importance of holding talks on such socio-cultural issues.

The talk was moderated by Dr. Joyce Lobo, Asst. Prof in Dept. of Political Science and coordinated by Mr. Reiji John, Asst. Prof in Dept of Economics.

Report by Dr. Joyce Sabina Lobo

Webinar series on Industry Academic Interface.

The UG departments of Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology have jointly organized the Industry Academic Interface Webinar Series- II in collaboration with HiMedia Laboratories Pvt. Ltd, titled innovations in Real time Molecular Diagnosis on December 17, 2021. The speaker for the webinar was Ms Radha Hariharan and Dr Rajas Warke- Director of HiMedia. Ms Radha Hariharan works as a product specialist, Molecular Biology and Virology Division at HiMedia Laboratories. Ms Radha explained in detail the principle of PCR and it's wide range of applications in the Pharmaceutical and other industries. She further went on to compare Real time RT PCR with the Conventional method and highlighted how the real time method was superior. She then spoke about the scope of molecular diagnosis.

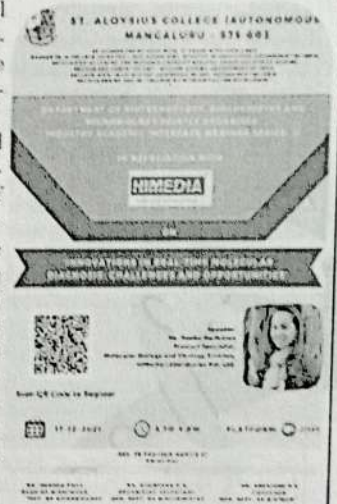
Ms Radha appreciated the fact that the webinar was held inspite of the pandemic. Ms Radha highlighted the importance of the topic of the webinar. She said that the topic was apt as innovations in Real time Molecular Diagnosis is a tangible topic during the present times. She further spoke on how with the break out of Covid in

2019-20, we were caught unaware on how to tackle the situation. The only tools were Early Detection and RT-PCR- the gold standard. Ms. Hariharan also pointed out the gap between UG and PG studies in terms of hands-on experience.

She motivated the students to try their hands at many things and to take risks. She urged students not to search for fields with scope, rather to create scope and be the scope in that field. The speaker also answered a few questions from the students pertaining to a affordability of Molecular Diagnosis and the requisite skills in that department.

The session was moderated by Sreejesh P C, HOD Dept. of Biotechnology. Dr. Harsha Paul, Dean of Biosciences welcomed the gathering and Ms. Shreya introduced the speaker. Vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Craig, student coordinator.

Reported by Mr Sreejesh P.C



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On April 22, 2022, a National Seminar on "Foods for Gut Immunity" was held by the collective efforts of the undergraduate departments of Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Botany, and Food Science, in associa-



tion with KSTA (Government of Karnataka).

The event began at 9:30 a.m. with a prayer song recited by Saumia and the team, followed by a dance recital by Malvika and the team. Prof. S Harsha Paul, Dean of Bio-sciences, and the HOD, Department of Microbiology delivered the welcome address and introduced the chief guest, Prof. B. P. Veerabhadrappa, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Kuvempu University. Prof. B. P. Veerabhadrappa, addressed the gathering with a speech on the diversity of food found across the world and how humanity adapted to it which varied accordingly across generations. The Hon. Vice-Chancellor also briefed the gathering about the opportunities that exist in both private and public sector jobs in the field of science and commended the workings of our prestigious institution and suggested more courses be added to obtain the university status. Rev. Dr. Praveen Martis SJ, Principal, then gave his presidential remarks. Ms Shameena, K.A., head of the Department of Biochemistry, proposed the vote of thanks for the inaugural portion of the seminar. The Inauguration was followed up by a keynote address on "Therapeutic Uses of Fermented Food" by, Dr. Prakash M. Halami, Chief Scientist and Head of the Depart-



ment of Microbiology and Fermentation Technology at CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru, the resource person for the event. The speech proceeded with the basic concept of how our gut works and the microorganisms that it harbors.

He pointed out key sensitive topics regarding how various harmful pathogens inflict inflammation which leads to Inflammatory Bowel Disease, the role of *Bifidobacteria* in the large intestine and *Lactobacillus* in the small intestine, the Benefits of *Bifidobacterium* in humans, and how it could be the key tool in maintaining the longevity of the lifespan of a person, *Bifidobacterium* is a key probiotic which does not lead to contamination in any form and fit for human consumption. He concluded with his current research on how they synthesized curds with both *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*, where the approval for mass-scale production is yet to be initiated and where the Indian society could view *Bifidobacterium* to be equally as important as *Lactobacillus*. A Question & Answer session was held, where the students actively participated in the discussion and the seminar concluded at 12.30 p.m.



The exhibition on fermented foods, "Fermentato La Fiera", was inaugurated by the Chief guest, Prof. B.P. Veerabhadrappa, in the LCRI Block Entrance, compered by Mr Ian Castelino. The exhibition consisted of 27 teams exhibiting multiple kinds of fermented foods such as kimchi, buttermilk, cheese products and various types of pickles and wines. Dr. Ambarish C. N., Post-graduate Department of Biochemistry, and Dr. Santhosh Wilson Goveas, Postgraduate Department of Biotechnology, judged the exhibits. The exhibition hall was managed under the supervision of Dr. Vaishali Rai, Department of Microbiology. The exhibition concluded at 1:15 p.m.

The valedictory program began at 3:15 pm. Dr. Richard Gonsalves, Director, LCRI Block was the guest of honor, accompanied by Prof. Harsha Paul S, Dean, Biological Sciences, and Ms Shameena, Dept. of Biochemistry. Ms. Nidhi Shenoy, the student coordinator, had given the welcome speech, followed by the distribution of prizes. First place was secured by Shriya Rao and Pratheeksha, second place was secured by Alroy Nazareth and Dabria Heleena Moniz, and third place was secured by Shreyas K.B and Sushupthi. The vote of thanks for the exhibition and valedictory ceremony was proposed by Mr Vishal Shridar Moger, the student coordinator. The event concluded at 4 p.m.

Reported by Ms Shameena KA



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