

Conference Report

33rd Annual Conference of the Physiological Society of India

A three-day International Conference on '*Research and Technological Advancement in Health Sciences and Sustainable Development*' was held on 3-5 March 2023, under the auspices of the **33rd Annual Conference of the Physiological Society of India** at the Department of Human Physiology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore. The conference provided an unique platform where scientists, researchers, and students from the domain of physiology and allied sciences had an opportunity to present their findings and interact with each other to enrich their scientific careers.

The conference showcased a wide-range of presentations covering a broad spectrum of topics. It also included a pre-conference workshop on the various applications of electroencephalogram (EEG) by eminent doctors and scientists from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This workshop immensely benefitted the undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as research scholars working in the area of neurophysiology.

Delegates from the length and breadth of the country attended the conference, including Amritsar, Jammu, Tripura, Rajkot, Kishanganj, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, and New Delhi. Additionally, delegates from abroad, including Taiwan and Saudi Arabia, also attended the conference.

The conference commenced with two important Keynote Lectures. The first keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Uday Bandyopadhyay, Director, Bose Institute, Kolkata. He spoke on the emerging field of 'transcriptomics'. This lecture aimed at encouraging a dialogue between healthcare innovations and modern science, with special reference to next generation transcriptome sequencing. The second keynote

lecture was delivered by Prof. Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata. He spoke on the importance of basic research in fostering healthcare innovations.

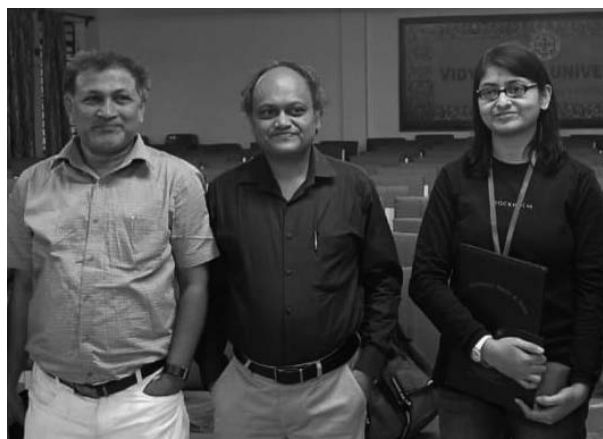


**In front of the statue of
Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar**

Dr. Kaushik Bharati delivered the Plenary Lecture on COVID-19. The topic of the lecture was '*COVID-19 Pandemic: Past, Present and*

Future. In the lecture, Dr. Bharati traced the origin of the pandemic from the wet markets in the city of Wuhan, which is situated in the Hubei Province of China. He highlighted that the ongoing pandemic is the deadliest in living memory and has killed more than seven million people across the globe. This is second only to the Spanish flu of 1918, which killed at least 50 million people globally. He talked about the spread of the virus from bats (reservoir host), through pangolins (intermediate host) and finally to humans (incidental host). He also covered the various variants, such as alpha, beta, gamma, delta, and the currently circulating omicron, which is globally the dominant variant at the present timepoint. He also stressed on the instrumental role played by vaccines in thwarting the spread of the virus. He indicated that one-third of the global population still remains unvaccinated, as a result of which new variants keep on emerging. He added that reaching 80% vaccine coverage would ensure the development of herd immunity across the world, thereby stopping the emergence of new variants. But until then, public health measures would still be required.

One of the main attractions of the conference was a symposium session, conducted by four leading scientists from the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a constituent institute of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), New



On the last day of the conference

Delhi. This symposium on *'New Frontiers in Military Physiology'* highlighted the applications of physiology in the context of military operations.

This year, the Physiological Society of India conferred 13 *'Oration Awards'* to leading scientists for their seminal contributions in their respective fields of scientific endeavour. These awards are named in the memory of highly acclaimed Indian scientists in the field of Physiology. Some of these distinguished physiologists include Prof. S.C. Mahalanobis, Prof. B.B. Sarkar, Prof. P.B. Sen, Prof. S.R. Maitra, and Prof. J.N. Moitra, among several others. Besides the orations, four budding scientists received *'Young Scientist Awards'* named after Prof. B.B. Sarkar, Prof. P.B. Sen, and Prof. Sachchidananda Banerjee (two awards) for their contributions in the field of Physiology.



Valedictory session

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