

ISF College of Pharmacy, Moga in association with IPA students' Forum organized the 8th National IPA student Congress on 3rd and 4th September, 2016. The theme of the conference was "Skill India:Emerging Horizons for Pharma Professionals". ISF College of Pharmacy is known globally to provide excellent education along with development of scientific temper amongst students of pharmaceutical sciences. Since its establishment in 1984, more significantly in last 10 years, after commencing post graduate courses in different specializations, the institute is committed towards development of new generation of intellectuals with research aptitude and entrepreneurship skills. Various practices adopted at this institute like interaction with highly successful entrepreneurs, research scientists along with a platform for active dialogue with industries etc. have led to developing self-employment skills and entrepreneurship within student community. ISF College of Pharmacy offers D.Pharm, B.Pharm, M.Pharm, Pharm.D. and Ph.D. courses. The courses are affiliated /approved by various regulatory agencies like IKPTU, MRSPTU, PCI, AICTE, PSBT&IT and state Government. The institute is also recognized **among top 5 Best Pharmacy Institute in India (by AICTE – CII, New Delhi)** consecutively for year 2012 – 2013 and 2013 -14 , **Best Pharmacy College in Punjab** by Punjab technical University for year 2014 and **Best Pharmacy Education Institute in Punjab** (by AICTE – CMAI , New Delhi) for year 2012-2013.

Dr. B. Suresh, President, Pharmacy Council of India and Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JSS University, Mysore was the Chief Guest. Jathedar Tota Singh, Cabinet Minister, Punjab State was the Presiding Guest and Prof. MPS Ishar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University, Bathinda was the Chief Patron.

The conference was attended by more than 800 student delegates from across the country. Mr. Parveen Garg, Chairman, ISF College of Pharmacy welcoming the Guests and delegates to the conference, apprised about the need and importance of the conference. He also announced his everlasting support for bringing top scientists to the campus and providing a platform for interaction between students and scientists. Prof. Ranjit Singh, Director, ISF College of Pharmacy gave a brief glimpse of ISF College of Pharmacy and the activities undertaken by the college for improvement of the teaching learning methodologies in under graduate and post graduate courses.

Dr. B. Suresh, Chief Guest for the day, while delivering the keynote address deliberated on the significance of skill in professional education. He emphasized on the necessity for turning students into professionals where skills are inbuilt. He said that changing priorities and focus of pharmacists to patient care is gaining significance in Indian scenario.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. MPS Ishar hinted upon the fast changing scenario in the profession of pharmacy. He expressed his enthusiasm and support to strengthen the association between university and academic institutions making leads to robust learning techniques. Prof. T. V. Narayana, Vice President IPA and Chairman, Education Division of IPA stressed on more involvement in the movement started by the students

forum of IPA. He also informed the various initiatives and support extended by IPA in the form of prizes and jobs for winners of IPA national elocution contests. He also announced free registration for the Indian Pharmaceutical Congress to be held at Visakhapatnam in the month of December, 2016 for some economically weak students if their posters are selected. Dr. Rao VSV Vadlamudi, President, IPA laid out the future plans of the association and also welcomed all the delegates to be a part in building the future of India with new avenues for budding pharmacists.

The newly elected office bearers of IPA students' forum were introduced and the activities conducted by the forum were highlighted by Mr. Rahul Lad. The newly elected office bearers of APTI, Punjab state branch were also felicitated during the conference. During the conference, it was a privilege to sign the MOU of technology transfer between ISF College of Pharmacy and National Research Development Cooperation, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

The Chief Guest also felicitated the achievers of the college, Prof. Amit K. Goyal, Dr. Gautam Rath for their achievement of technology transfer. Dr. Raj Kumar Narang, Vice Principal of ISF College of Pharmacy and Dr Ravinder Rawal were also felicitated for getting grant from DST, New Delhi. The Guests on the dais released the Abstract CD, Souvenir and the official newsletter of the college. Prof. Rajesh, Principal, ISF College of Pharmacy proposed the vote of thanks.

The Chief Guest, Dr. B. Suresh, also inaugurated newly constructed state of the art animal house of the college named after Galen. He took a brief visit around the animal house and appreciated the facility created for different experimental animals. Prof M P S Ishar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, MRSPTU, inaugurated the mini expo. He spent time with more than 20 exhibitors displaying/showcasing products ranging from books to equipment.

Prof. Shailendra Saraf, Director, University Institute of Pharmacy, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, cut the ribbon and inaugurated the poster exhibition. He took a poster walk encouraging the researchers for their hard work. The Poster competition had more than 170 posters on display.

The speakers for plenary and scientific sessions were eminent academicians and technocrats namely Prof. S.P.Vyas, Prof. V.K. Kapoor, Prof. S.K. Saraf, Dr. Sanju Nanda, Dr. S.C. Mandal, Mr. Kaushik Desai, Prof. T.V. Narayana, Dr. Umesh Sharma, Dr. M.D. Burande. Different plenary sessions were chaired by renowned scientists and academicians including Prof. K. C. Gupta, Dr. R. K. Sharma, Dr. Gajender Singh, Dr. Neelu Sood, Dr. Saranjit Singh, Dr. V. Gupta, Dr. P. Rama Rao, and Dr. M. Parle. Plenary session from eminent scientist and academicians covered all the aspects of pharmacy profession including recent advancements made in the pharmacy profession, drug discovery, nanomedicine and possible efforts made in the skill development in the field of pharmacy. With ever-changing avenues in the field of pharmacy, drug delivery,

regulatory and clinical studies, the emerging opportunities were discussed. The participants were greatly benefited by getting information of available opportunities for their future, and jobs and career options across the world. During conference, graduates students have got an opportunity to hone their professional developments by interacting with the stalwarts of the pharmacy profession who shared their experience related to research and advancements in the areas of pharmacy. During the plenary sessions, lucky draw coupons were drawn in each session and several gifts have been given to participant to increase their involvement in scientific session. Day 1 ended with a cultural program showcasing multifaceted skills of the students ranging from dances to songs and skits. Students and other dignitaries had a gala time during the cultural program.

The second day witnessed the interactions between office bearers of IPA – SF with several student delegates motivating them to be a part of the ongoing activities of forum. A stupendous response was received from the students and the President of the Student Forum expressed his desire to open the Punjab Branch of IPA–SF. ISF College of Pharmacy offered to extend every kind of support for creation and functioning of the state IPA – SF branch.

Prof. P. Rama Rao, Dean, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda was the Chief Guest for the valedictory program. Prof. S.P. Vyas, Dr. H.S. Gour Central University, Sagar was the Guest of Honor. The winners of the poster competition were felicitated with certificates and cash prize. The members of LOC were also facilitated on the occasion. The valedictory function ended with the National Anthem.