

## **Report on 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Pharmaceutical Association – Students’ Congress**

September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Vikas Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh

Indian Pharmaceutical Association – Students’ Forum (IPA-SF), the student wing of the IPA was inaugurated by our former President, Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on August 16, 2008. IPA-SF was adjudged the best overall performer among all the 85 international member associations and was conferred the Sidney J. Ralph award in 2013. IPA-SF were winners of Vampire Cup and Live Vampire Cup (given by IPSF for maximum blood donation camps) in 2014 and winners of Live Vampire Cup in 2015 and 2016. IPA-SF hosted the 61<sup>st</sup> IPSF World Congress, 2015 at Hyderabad - over 400 student delegates from 61+ member countries participated in this event and it served as a great opportunity for the delegates to "Connect-Catalyse-Innovate".

IPA-SF’s major national event is IPA-Students’ Congress and the 9<sup>th</sup> Indian Pharmaceutical Association – Students’ Congress was held from September 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 in Vikas Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. The 9<sup>th</sup> IPA - Students’ Congress focused on workshops, scientific poster / oral presentations, patient counselling event, clinical skills event, compounding event, pharma quiz and placement conclave blended with a social evening.

The congress brought together over 2000 delegates from 75 colleges across the nation to participate in the workshops and competitions, to share their experiences, to learn from one another and to debate regarding the current and future pharmacist roles.

The congress was inaugurated by Dr. Surender Singh, Director, National Institute of Biologicals and former DCGI. The event was blessed by the presence of Dr. Eswara Reddy, Joint Drugs Controller, CDSCO and Prof. M. Mutyala Naidu, Vice Chancellor, Adikavi Nannaya University.

Dr. Mahesh Burande, President, Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Association; Prof. Chinnaswamy, President, Indian Association of Colleges of Pharmacy; Dr. Rao Vadlamudi, President, Indian Pharmaceutical Association; Dr. T V Narayana, Chairman, IPA Education Division and Presidents of other professional bodies like APTI, IHPA, IPGA and AIDCOC all federated to IPCA, graced the occasion. Dr. A. Ramkishan, Deputy Drugs Controller, CDSCO and Convener, Scientific Services Committee, IPCA graced the occasion as well.

Dr. Eswara Reddy, Joint Drugs Controller, CDSCO was conferred the Dr. M. Venkateswarlu Memorial Lecture Award; instituted jointly by IPA & AU PACT, in the memory of Late Dr. M.

Venkateswarlu, former DCGI of India. This was followed by felicitation of Dr. Rao Vadlamudi, President, IPA for being elected as President of Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA).

The theme for the congress is 'Empowering Future Pharmacists'. Justifying the theme, the congress truly empowered the future pharmacists by providing them the opportunity to know their key skill in various areas.

- Students' Congress served as a best platform to share and showcase a student's research work. 475 posters were presented in all and out of which 10 best posters were selected for e-poster competition. Besides, 35 teams participated in the oral presentation.
- The patient counselling event was a platform through which pharmacy students can practice with one another and develop their patient counselling skills. 40+ teams participated in this event.
- Clinical Skills Event focused on using clinical knowledge / referring authentic content to solve and to improve patient's therapeutic outcome. 25+ teams participated in this event.
- Compounding event raised the awareness about the importance of compounding and quality/security measures regarding the production of compounded pharmaceutical products. 50 + teams participated in this event.
- 70+ teams participated in Pharma Quiz.
- 11 teams from different colleges participated in the dance competition and was a treat to eye.

Total cash prize of worth 8.75 Lakhs was awarded to the winners of all the competitions.

The congress would not have been a success without the selfless support, guidance and encouragement of IPA, IPA- Education Division, IPA Students' Forum, IPA AP State Branch, IPA Rajahmundry Local Branch and the LOC team. We also thank Scientific Partner- Omics International and academic institutional sponsors for supporting this event.