

Report on CSSAA-4 and Day of Immunology 2023 by ACTREC Alumni Association

International Day of Immunology (DoI) 29th April was celebrated by ACTREC Alumni Association (AAA) by conducting 17th event of AAA as Cancer Screening and Support Abhiyaan-4 (CSSAA-4) at the Pillai College of Engineering, New Panvel on 29th April, 2023. Theme of this year DoI was “Immunology and Public Health”. Event was inaugurated by Dr Sandeep Joshi, Principal, PCE at 10.45am. He welcomed all participants, congratulated AAA for conducting such events and assured AAA their support to host any such similar events. His talk was followed by speech by Dr Jyoti Kode, Secretary, AAA; Member IIS and EC member MIG. She introduced activities of AAA being conducted for college students and teachers as CSSAA for cancer awareness and DoI to spread awareness in field of various aspects of cancer and immunology. Event started by felicitation of Dr Sandeep Joshi, PCE for kindly agreeing to host this event. This was followed by felicitation of Mr Shreyas Kudalkar and Vaishali Kudalkar, Trustees King’s Pratishthan, Mumbai for generous support for conducting this event. Ms Sharayu Ghorpade, and Ms Vaishnavi Gharge, students of B.Tech. Electronics and Computer Science Branch at PCE compered the event. First talk of event by Dr Anbarasan S, MD DM and Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology and he discussed in details information on common cancers in men and women viz. oral cancer, prostate cancer (men), breast cancer and cervical cancer (women) with emphasis on pre-disposing factors, exposure to tobacco or fat-rich diet, diagnosis, and importance of prevention and management of these cancers. He also mentioned about increasing incidence of cancer at global level and also at India level. Then he discussed in brief the information about familial cancers. He also discussed the global cancer incidence and importance of cancer genetics in familial cancers. This was interactive session and old-n-young participants got their queries answered by asking questions themselves. This was a public lecture and around 88 participants had registered online. 79 participants including college faculty, academic staff, students and common public attended the event. Students and faculty belonged to B.Tech. Computer, Information Technology, Electronics and Computer Science (ECS); and Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering (EXTC) branch. He also emphasized the need for early detection of cancer to control cancer incidence. Dr Selma D’Silva, Scientific Officer in the department of Transplant Immunology & Immunogenetics at ACTREC-TMC gave short presentation on importance of HLA matching, blood components and platelet donation during serious health ailments as well as during cancer treatments. She emphasized the need for platelet repositories and donors. She appealed to the young participants to be platelet donors to save the life of patients. This was followed by short talk by Dr Jyoti Kode, Principal Investigator

at ACTREC, on inherent immunity in every human being and how advances in immune-based therapy are showing interesting leads in field of cancer control and treatment. Later Dr Albeena Nisar, Scientific Officer D & FIC, CAR T & Cell Therapy Unit (CTCTC) at ACTREC explained innovating therapy being studied and how their team has made world-class CAR-T cell therapy available at best economical cost for Indian cancer patients. This was followed by live drama act by CTCTC team, on topic “How CAR-T cell kill cancer cells”. Drama was written and directed by Dr Albeena Nisar and the team which included Dr. Shailender G., Ms Khushali Pandit, Ms Shivangi Shukla, Mr. Aaron Raphael Jes and Ms Sneha Basu.

As a part of campaign towards spreading Immunology Day celebrations, we had conducted CREATIVE MIND CONTEST for PCE staff and students in category of drawings/ paintings and slogans. Three slogans and two best drawings submitted were felicitated by Dr Sandeep Joshi, Dr Sharvari, Dr Jyoti and Dr Shreedevi Kulkarni with certificates and cash prizes.

Event supporters included Indian Immunology Society, New Delhi; Mumbai Immunology Group, Mumbai, ACTREC Alumni Association and King’s Pratishthan, Mumbai.

Dr Ojaswini Upasani, event coordinator, Dr Kishore Amin, Treasurer AAA, Ms Priyanka Patil, Ms Arti Patil and Mrs Vaishali Kailaje helped enthusiastically in financial, administrative matters and conducting event smoothly.

Dr Jyoti Kode and Dr Sharvari Govilkar delivered Vote of thanks. The program ended at 1.30pm followed by lunch to dignitaries and organizing team.