

## Biocon Academy presents 110 Industry Ready Graduates to Biotech Sector

**Bengaluru, India: January 6, 2017**

**Biocon Academy**, a Centre of Excellence for Advanced Biosciences Learning, a CSR initiative of Biocon, Asia's leading biotechnology company, announced today that 110 students donned their graduation caps to take on aspiring careers in Biotech.

The convocation ceremony was held for students enrolled for the 16-week Biocon KGI Certificate Program in Biosciences, offered in collaboration with Keck Graduate Institute, California, and the 8-week BITS Biocon Certificate Program in Applied Industrial Microbiology, offered in collaboration with the Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS), Pilani.

While 90 students graduated from the Biocon KGI Certificate Program in Biosciences, 20 completed the BITS Biocon Program in Applied Industrial Microbiology. The graduation ceremony was held at Biocon Park in Bengaluru and was attended by faculty, industry experts and mentors. 10 students were awarded Gold Medals for Academic Excellence, while 31 received 'Kudos Awards' for their notable performance during the program.

**Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, Chief Mentor, Biocon Academy & Chairperson and Managing Director, Biocon, expressed her delight at the quality of talent Biocon Academy is delivering. She reiterated her commitment towards developing industry ready, high end talent for the biopharma sector and collectively making the sector globally competitive.

Delivering the Keynote Address at the Biocon Academy Convocation Ceremony, **Ms. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chief Mentor, Biocon Academy** said: *"Biocon Academy is the realization of my dream to enable the younger generation to pursue a career in biotechnology, a field with the potential to bring transformative change. I congratulate all the graduates today who are set to build a fulfilling career in biotechnology. To exploit the potential of biotechnology we need scientists, thinkers and innovators. Through Biocon Academy we are enabling young minds to be curiosity driven and out-of-the-box thinkers to partake in the journey of transforming India through the power of biotechnology."*

*"Through Biocon Academy we have set a benchmark for a valuable partnership with both Keck Graduate Institute, USA and BITS, Pilani, India. It is a partnership between organizations committed to the 'Business of Science', a partnership between academia and industry," she added.*

**Ms Bindu Ajit**, Program Director, Biocon Academy, said: *"I am delighted and proud to see the bright young graduates pass out and ready to take on industry challenges. We are happy to share that we have achieved 100% placement for all our batches in leading pharma and biopharma companies and 60% among them are placed outside Biocon and that's a big step towards achieving our mission of addressing the biotech skill deficit of India."*

**Prof. Suman Kapur**, Senior Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani, said: *"I would like to congratulate each and every graduate for successfully completing their courses. By unlocking the true potential of life sciences students I believe we have enabled them to make important contributions to improving the lives of people around the globe through the power of biotechnology."*

**Shobhana Raman, one of the Gold Medalists**, said, *"The well-planned course curriculum, which included extensive modules on various topics, equipped me with advanced knowledge which I believe has made me industry ready. I got to know about this Academy while looking for jobs in the sector. Everyone wants us to have experience, but they don't realize that we need to start somewhere as freshers to gain experience. Biocon Academy gave me that platform."*

**Expressing her delight on being a graduate, Aishwarya Mathur** said, *"The holistic approach of the KGI program is focused on enhancing Knowledge in biosciences, with practical industry exposure and developing professional management skills, which made me ready for the industry challenges. When I studied biotechnology in college, I realized that there is so much difference between the classroom and the industry, and this gap has been bridged through my learning at Biocon Academy."*

The **Biocon KGI program** provides an intensive 16-week advanced learning course and hands-on professional training in diverse areas like molecular biotechnology, biopharma quality assurance and control, CMC regulations, pharmaceutical development, mammalian cell biotechnology, and professional skills development.

The **BITS Biocon Program** is aimed at improving the employability prospects of fresh science and pharmacy graduates specialized in microbiology. It provides deep understanding of various aspects of Microbiology through an intensive curriculum comprising 8 modules, delivered by the renowned faculty from BITS. The live experiments at the state-of-the-art Quality Control Labs of Biocon further accentuates the learning of the students.

Leading biotech companies visited **Biocon Academy Campus** during the placements week, and found the students to be extremely good. The objective of the programs is to improve the employability quotient of the students, and this has been substantially achieved with the successful placement of all the students. The students have been hired by various leading pharma and biopharma companies for different functions; such as Production, Quality Assurance, Regulatory Affairs, Research & Development and Marketing.



Admissions for the ninth batch of the Biocon KGI Program is now open. Visit: [www.bioconacademy.com](http://www.bioconacademy.com) for details.

**Biocon Academy:**

Biocon Academy, a Centre of Excellence for Advanced Biosciences Learning is a CSR initiative of Biocon, Asia's leading biopharmaceutical Company. It is aimed at developing high-end, industry-ready, talent for the Indian biotech sector to address the skill deficit. The Academy aims at enhancing the employability of bioscience graduates by providing them advanced experiential learning through practical training. It has been instrumental in shaping careers of aspiring biotech graduates while bridging the industry-academia gap. The Academy has collaborated with leading global institutes like Keck Graduate Institute, California, USA and BITS Pilani, India, to offer global quality learning to the students of Biocon Academy. Biocon offers scholarships that cover the majority of the cost of these international programs.

For more information, visit [www.bioconacademy.com](http://www.bioconacademy.com)

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