

Press Release

Biocon Academy Alumni Day Meet Throws Up Interesting Insights into the Future of Biotech Industry Opportunities

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India: March 27, 2017

The application of contemporary biotechnology in areas such as lifestyle management holds tremendous entrepreneurial opportunities as it has the potential to offer a range of differentiated and specialized products and services for consumers in India and overseas.

These and several other interesting insights into the transformative economic impact of biotechnology came out of a discussion held during the Alumni Day celebrations of Biocon Academy, a Centre of Excellence for Advanced Biosciences Learning, a CSR initiative of Biocon, Asia's leading Biotechnology Company.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chief Mentor, Biocon Academy and CMD, Biocon Ltd, and **Dr Sheldon Schuster**, President, Keck Graduate Institute, California, discussed the new trends in global Life Sciences world which were opening up research opportunities in India and abroad, leading to closer industry-academia collaborations and driving demand for high-end talent. These two inspiring speakers shared their stories of challenges & success and motivated the students with several leadership lessons.

Addressing the alumni, **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** said, "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. I am excited to see this bunch of young and passionate graduates who have made a right choice to opt for a specialized course to make a difference in life sciences."

Dr. Sheldon M Schuster, President of Keck Graduate Institute, California said: "It was a wonderful opportunity to meet the alumni of the unique Biocon-KGI certificate program, which we have been successfully running in India over the past three years. I am proud of

the contribution that the program is making towards enriching the life sciences ecosystem in India by producing highly skilled bioscientists. I am confident that these bright young men and women who have graduated from the Biocon Academy will contribute immensely to the global life sciences industry through their knowledge, talent and passion.”

The program kicked off with a discussion on ‘Innovative Knowledge Era and What’s Up in Biotechnology’, which saw participation from a power packed panel that included Dr Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director, Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC); Amit Chopra, Managing Director, Thermo Fisher Scientific, India; Dr. Pratima Khandelwal, Professor and Head, Dept of Biotechnology, New Horizon College of Engineering; and Dr. Suman Kapur, Dean, International Programmes and Collaboration Division and Senior Professor in Department of Biological Sciences, BITS, Pilani (Hyderabad Campus). The panellists spoke about the new science of Nutrigenomics, which signals the approaching era of personalized nutrition along with existing personalized medicines! Food safety, food security and the role of industry, academia and government in tapping these emerging opportunities also came up for discussion.

Over 100 graduates of the Academy attended the Alumni Day celebrations to reminisce and relive the fun days they had spent in their alma mater. The celebrations hit a nostalgic note when the alumni shared their memories of the golden days spent at the Academy.

Sourav Chatterji, an alumni of Biocon-KGI program said, “Nothing is more gratifying than coming back to one’s alma mater. The Biocon-KGI program showed me a clear direction on what I have to do. The program enhanced my practical knowledge and synced it with that of the biotech industry’s requirement. Coming from a research background in Microbiology, I knew the theoretical and technical aspect but could never understand how to translate my knowledge with the requirements of the industry. That is where Biocon-KGI programme came to my aid.”

Biocon Academy leverages rich industry experience of Biocon and subject expertise of international education partners to empower biotechnology and engineering graduates with advanced learning and industrial proficiency through job-skills development essential to build a promising career in the Biotech industry.



The 9th batch of the Biocon-KGI Program in Biosciences kicked off on Thursday, March 23 2017. Five of the 30 students in the batch are from Malaysia. Ms Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, welcomed the new batch and spoke to them on the uniqueness of the program.

Leading biotech companies visit **Biocon Academy Campus** during the placements week, and have 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.

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

For More Information- Media Contact:

Seema Ahuja
VP & Global Head, Corporate Communications
☎ +91 80 2808 2222; 📠 +91 99723 17792
✉ seema.ahuja@biocon.com

Chandroma Ray
Assistant Manager, Corporate Communications
☎ +91 80 2808 2182; 📠 +91 80954 90600
✉ chandroma.ray@biocon.com