



# ARCHANA SHARMA FOUNDATION OF CALCUTTA NEWSLETTER (ASFC) (2018-2019) 1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION

## FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK

It gives me immense pleasure to present the inaugural issue of the Newsletter of the Archana Sharma Foundation of Calcutta. The Newsletter mirrors the team work of the members and gives me the opportunity to present before you the activities of the Foundation during 2017-2019. At the onset I would like to mention that the publication of the Journal *The Nucleus* is going on in full swing as envisaged by our mentors. The print version of the volume 61 was published within the stipulated time and the Editorial Board of *The Nucleus* was successful in publishing a special issue- From Chromosomes to Genomics: the evolving trends, as our gesture to pay homage to the founders of the journal. The articles included in the special issue were invited and contributed by specialists covering an array of topics ranging from classical cytogenetics to cytogenomics and epigenetic regulation to structural organization of nucleosome.

Keeping our focus on the objectives of the society, I am happy to state that we were successful in organizing seminars and workshops in collaboration with other scientific organizations like the West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology and the All India Congress of Genetics and Genomics. In addition, the foundation had the opportunity to help financially the less privileged, needy girl students of Sri Sarada Math, Dakshineswar in their academic pursuit. In reverence to our mentors, the first Archana Sharma and AK Sharma oration was organized on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018, at the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta. Professor Partha Pratim Majumdar, JC Bose National Fellow, an eminent scientist delivered his talk on “Enabling Precision Medicine in Cancer “. The oration was well attended by a large number of students, faculty and scientists from institutes in and around Kolkata.

In the mean while on the 26th of January, 2019, we lost our President Dr. Satyesh Chandra Pakrashi. He was the 2nd President of Archana Sharma Foundation of Calcutta who took the responsibility of steering the Archana Sharma Foundation of Calcutta (ASFC) in the hour of crisis when Professor A.K. Sharma, Founder President of ASFC passed away on July 2017. As a well-wisher of the foundation, a close friend of Professor A. K. Sharma and Professor (Mrs.) A. Sharma he accepted our request and guided with his valuable suggestions in administration and matters related to the growth of the journal, *The Nucleus*. We will always remember his contribution to the welfare of the Foundation and move forward to newer heights.

This year we lost one of our founder member Professor Indu Bhushan Chatterjee, friend and associate of Professor A K Sharma. He left us on the 11th of February, 2019. He was a distinguished Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Calcutta and was associated with the Foundation since its inception. Professor Chatterjee will be remembered by all of us for his contribution to the foundation .

We have sincerely tried our best to highlight our initiatives in the Newsletter and seek for your assistance and support in fulfilling the future endeavors of the foundation.



ASFC has organized the first Archana Sharma & AK Sharma oration on 11th June, 2018 in the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta.

Professor Partha Pratim Majumdar delivered the first lecture in this occasion, entitled, *'Enabling Precision Medicine in Cancer'*.

An expert in Human Genomics, Professor Majumdar led us into the arena of cancer genomics and the importance of identifying the cancer-specific mutations in a particular individual, through two small stories whose messages he connected at the end of the lecture. While probing into oral cancer, Prof. Majumdar's group had identified a panel of ten mutations, likely involved in all types of cancer progression. He argued that knowing the specific mutation would open up the possibility of designing and administering personalized medicines to the patient.

Professor Majumdar and his team are part of an international consortium engaged in research on oral cancer and have shown that, Cox-2 inhibitors supposedly make good cancer drugs. He also touched upon the concept of genomic research informing personalized medicine in the treatment of specific cancers due to B-raf and EGFR mutations. He concluded that change in paradigm and introduction of genetic screening is thus necessary for cancer diagnostics.



Professor Pakrashi, President ASFC, felicitating Professor Partha Pratim Majumdar



Professor Majumdar delivering the lecture



One day symposium on “*Applications of Advanced Tools and Technology in Plant Biology*” organized by the **West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology (WAST)** in collaboration with the **Centre of Advance Study, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta** and the **Archana Sharma Foundation of Calcutta**, was held on the **6<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019** at the Archana Sharma Memorial Hall of the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta.



1. Vice President of WAST and Dean of Science, University of Calcutta on the podium
2. Head of the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta greeting the Vice President of WAST
3. Dr. Pallob Kundu, Bose Institute, Kolkata, delivering the talk
4. Dr. Nrisingha Dey, Institute of Lifesciences, Bhubaneswar, Odhisa, during deliberation.
5. At the end a special key note address on “Art in Science” delivered by Professor Gautam Basu, Bose Institute, Calcutta. This was arranged to inspire the innovative audience to excel in their own professional domain.
6. Professor Amita Pal felicitating the Vice-President of ASFC, Professor Anita Mukherjee for chairing the second technical session,.

### **Background of the Symposium:**

Last few decades we are witnessing techniques of plant genetic engineering that dealt with synthesis of artificial gene, recombinant DNA technology, PCR-based mutagenesis and manipulating the plant genomic architecture introducing foreign genes for the improvement of plants qualitatively and quantitatively. Teachers and scholars of Plant Sciences are now ready to accept more challenges in the area of plant biology. In this context the present mini National Symposium has been conceptualised to deliver three selected topics covering the genome editing and its application, designing plant promoters using breakthrough technologies and laser capture micro-dissection and their applications in high throughput next generation sequence (NGS)/microarray-based gene expression studies.



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NGS has revolutionized the arena of genomics and is providing novel insights into genome organization, evolution and function. While extensive genome-wide transcriptomic study mediated by NGS and microarray has transformed the study of genetics and epigenetics at unprecedented resolution, the more precise applications of these tools by micro-dissection may revolutionize some fundamental knowledge of plant biology.



Moments of the day



**1930-2019**

Dr. Satyesh Chandra Pakrashi, President of Archana Sharma Foundation of Calcutta, left for his heavenly abode on Saturday the 26th of January 2019 .



**1930-2019**

Professor Indu Bhusan Chatterjee, Founder member of Archana Sharma Foundation of Calcutta, passed away on Monday the 11th of February, 2019. He was associated with the Foundation since its inception.

*Amita Pal*

Archana Sharma Foundation of Calcutta