

RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY Vidya Vihar, Bhubaneswar-751022

SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/WEBINARS CONDUCTED BY DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

- 1. Event: Seminar
- 2. Title of the Event: Rosalind Franklin Seminar Series
- **3. Date & Duration:** 16th December, 2024 (2:30 pm 4 pm)

4. Objective/Motivation of the Event:

DNA is subjected to many endogenous and exogenous damages that impair DNA replication and proper chromosome segregation. DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs) are one of the most dangerous lesions and must be repaired to preserve chromosomal integrity. Organisms are equipped with several different, but related, repair mechanisms involving homologous recombination, including single-strand annealing, gene conversion, and break-induced replication. DNA breaks and repair are central to the functioning of cells, and their manipulation plays a significant role in cancer therapy. Cancer cells often exhibit a high rate of genetic mutations, many of which arise due to faulty DNA repair mechanisms or DNA damage. The ability of cells to repair DNA breaks is crucial in maintaining genome stability, but it also presents both a challenge and an opportunity for cancer therapy.

The seminar aims to bring together learned professionals, faculty members, research scholars and students to discuss and understand the mechanism and regulation of DNA double-strand break repair, generation of chromosomal translocation and its role in oncogenesis, and evaluation of novel small molecule inhibitors in cancer treatment. The need of the hour is understanding the role of DNA repair inhibitors in cancer. The efficacy of cancer chemotherapy and radiotherapy relies on generation of DNA damage. Since intrinsic DNA repair pathways enable cancer cells to survive by repairing these damaged lesions, inactivation of DNA repair coupled with chemotherapy and radiotherapy has a potential to enhance the effect of these therapies.

- **5. Theme of the Event:** Understanding basic mechanisms of DNA repair and the therapeutic options using DNA repair inhibitors in cancer therapy.
- 6. Funds Received (In Rs.):
- 7. Technical Session (Details)
 - i. No. of Technical sessions conducted: 01
 - ii. Title of the Technical sessions: "DNA Breaks and Repair: implications in Cancer Therapy"
- 8. Chairperson of the technical session: Prof. Raj Kumar Joshi (Head, Department of Biotechnology)

9. Resource persons (Details):

Dr. Sathees C Ragavan, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

10. Participants Details (Indicate Numbers only)

- i. Scientists/Faculty/Members of industry: 8
- ii. Ph. D. Scholars: 15
- iii. Students: 77

11. Outcomes of the Event:

The 10th Rosalind Franklin series titled "DNA Breaks and Repair: Implications in Cancer Therapy" was an enlightening experience which provided information about role of G-quadruplex DNA : HOX11, one of the non-B DNA structures in the generation of chromosomal translocations in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Dr. Raghavan discussed his findings about the role of Recombination activating gene (RAG) as a structure-specific nuclease leading to genomic instability and cancer. The seminar highlighted homologous recombination mediated DSB repair is important for maintaining continuity of mitochondrial genome when DNA breaks are induced. The role of a small molecule inhibitor, (SCR7) in cancer therapeutics was discussed. SCR7 can abrogate nonhomologous DNA end joining, both in vitro and ex vivo in a Ligase IV dependent manner and can also be used in CRISPR Cas9 mediated precise genome editing. The characterisation findings of a novel BCL2 inhibitor, Disarib was also highlighted. At the end of the event, students were equipped with knowledge about role of DNA structure and characterization of factors responsible for generation of chromosomal translocations in various types of cancer. The event ended with concluding remarks by Prof. Raj Kumar Joshi on DNA damage response signalling pathways and targets for radiotherapy in cancer.

12. Recommendations (if any):

The organizing committee was very pleased with the overall execution of the event in a smooth and successful manner.



13. Selected Photographs : Enclosed

Dr. Sathees C Ragavan delivering the lecture on "DNA Breaks and Repair: implications in

Cancer Therapy



Audience during the event



Felicitation of esteemed speaker Dr. Sathees C Ragavan by Prof. Raj Kumar Joshi, Prof. Sasmita Mohanty and Dr. Sanjay Kumar Raul.

ATTENDANCE SHEET

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Event name : ROSALIND FRANKLIN SEMINAR SERIES

Date : 16.12.24

Speaker : Sathees C Raghavan, Indian Institute of Science

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15.	Jignyasarani Bagh (UG 2nd Yr)	Jignyasarani Bagh
16.	Anamika Mohanty (UG 2nd Yr)	Anamika Mohauty.
17.	Anushobhini A. Pradhan (UG 2nd Yr)	Anushabhim Asterha Pradhay
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