

**Press Release
for
AstraZeneca Oration Award and Academic session 2019**

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, FNASc., FASc., FNA, DST J C Bose National Fellow - Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, received the AstraZeneca Research Endowment Award for the year 2018 during a ceremony today i.e. on July 31, 2019. National Institute of pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), S A S Nagar, instituted AstraZeneca Research Endowment Award in the year 2009. The Award is bestowed upon to an eminent researcher in the field of neglected and communicated diseases. Since its inception, the award has been bestowed to Dr. V.M. Katoch, DG – ICMR in 2009; Dr. T.S. Balganes, Distinguished Scientist - CSIR in 2013; Dr. Ganesh Pandey, Director, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in 2014; Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, DG - ICMR in 2016; and Dr. Madhu Dikshit, Director, Central Drug Research Institute, CDRI-Lucknow in 2017.

The Session started with Prof Raghuram Rao Akkinapally, Director, NIPER giving an introduction and achievements of NIPER, SAS Nagar to the new students. He motivated the students to learn from their seniors and reap maximum benefits from the facilities at NIPER. He also mentioned that NIPER has 3000 alumni spread all over the world. He encouraged the students to carry forward the legacy of their predecessors.

Dr S Chandrasekhar also inaugurated the New Academic Session-2019 at the Institute and welcomed the new students. A total of 268 students have joined NIPER in the session 2019-20 which includes 207 masters students and 17 PhD in various disciplines and 44 MBA students.

Dr Chandrasekhar started his AstraZeneca Oration Award lecture by motivating students for a promising future. He praised NIPER, S A S Nagar for being the premier institute in pharmacy education. Dr Chandrasekhar, exhorted the students that they should understand and expect their responsibility towards nation and fellow Indians. He further said that being a student doing well in academics only is not enough and students should endeavor to be smart enough to understand and tackle problems in health care delivering the products. Dr Chandrasekhar expressed that students are future hopes of the present generation who can change the country for good. He requested to the young researchers to keep science as a passion and not as a job. With this kind of mindset only science can progress at a pace where it can deliver to humanity.

For his AstraZeneca Oration Award lecture he chose the topic “Molecules that Changed Life”. He discussed about targeted therapy and personalized medicine to be the future of drugs. During his presentation he touched various old as well as new drug compounds which have proved to be the ‘wonder molecules’. He talked about Aspirin and penicillin to be the well known molecules. Halichondrin, he said, is derived from a marine sponges and are promising against many kinds of cancers. He discussed about rapamycin and cyclosporine which are immune-suppressants and are used during organ transplant. But rapamycin has proved its potential as anti cancer molecule and in pain management also.

Galantamine was another molecule which is studied as a treatment for Alzheimer's disease and other brain disorders.

After the lecture, Dr Chandrasekhar was honored with the AstraZeneca Award carrying plaque of honor and a cash reward by Prof Raghuram Rao Akkinapally, Director, NIPER and Prof Rahul Jain, Dean, NIPER. The function concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Arvind Bansal, Dean (Academics)