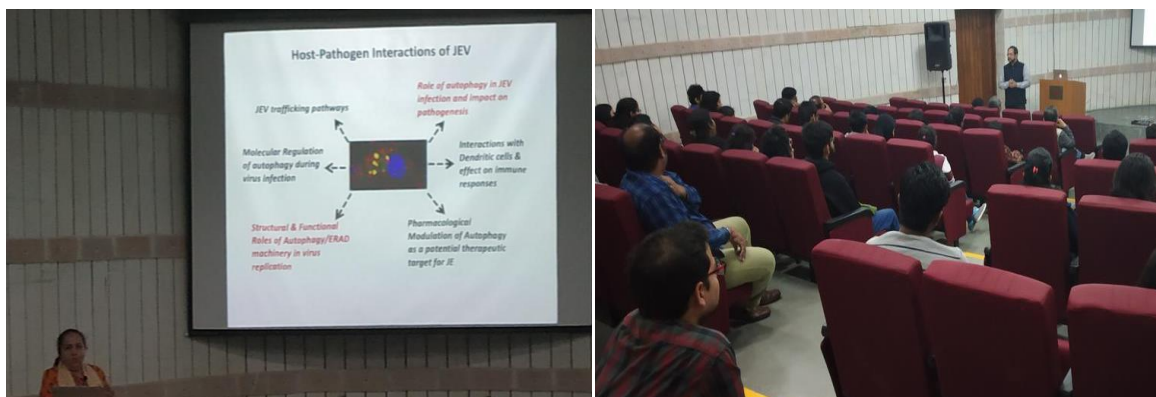


NBRC, Manesar hosts NCR biotech cluster seminar series

By Dr. Bilqeesa Bhat

The seminar series hosted by the National brain research center's NCR biotech cluster on 26th February 2020 brought together scientists working in biotechnology and allied areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) to discuss the scientific findings from their respective laboratories. The aim of such meetings is to initiate collaborations and translate them into meaningful outcomes which will be of societal benefit. This round of seminar series was conducted under theme, "virus-host interactions, from basic biology to translational research". Seminar was attended by four eminent scientists working in virology, who presenting their work and discussed the new ideas and key findings of their work.



First speaker, Dr Soumen Basak from the National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi presented scientific findings related to how "*Chandipura Virus*", a deadly virus propagates the disease which is transmitted by sand flies. The second speaker Dr Manjula Kalia from Regional Center for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad discussed her findings related to how "*Japanese Encephalitis Virus*", a diseases at the cellular level in brain cells and spread by mosquito bite. The third speaker, Prof. Pankaj Seth from NBRC spoke about how HIV-1 (the virus causing AIDS) affects brain cell function by using "Brain-like structures" made in his laboratory. The final speaker Dr. Guruprasad R. Medigeshi from the Translational Health Sciences and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad emphasized on how the micronutrient zinc plays an

important role in multiplication of dengue virus which is the causative agent of dengue disease every year and is transmitted by mosquito bite.

The seminar series was highly relevant especially with the current threat caused by newly emerging viruses causing life-threatening diseases. Seminar series will facilitate new collaborations and solutions among students and scientists working in the Department of Biotechnolog (DBT) institutes.

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