

DBT/ THSTI

THSTI conducts basic course on cellular and molecular immunology

By Sunderarajan Padmanabhan

New Delhi, April 01: The third basic course on ‘Overview of Cellular and Molecular Immunology’ was held at DBT-Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad, from March 16th to 18th, 2020. This basic course brought together scientists, academic research fellows, Ph.D. scholars and M.Sc. students under one roof wanting to learn more about the basics of cellular and molecular immunology. The three-day course included an overview of immunology as the inaugural session and several lectures by eminent scientists on topics covering the cellular and molecular aspect of immunology.

The course was organized by Dr. Amit Awasthi and Dr. Deepak Kumar Rathore from THSTI with the help of an assistant, Mr. Manas Tripathi. Dr. Shiv Pillai, Professor of Medicine and HST, Harvard Medical School, Ragon Institute of MGH, Harvard and MIT, gave the keynote address on 16th March 2020 at the inaugural session of the basic course. He took several lectures on the first day talking about an overview of Immunology and Innate Immunity I, Innate Immunity II and Antibodies, Antigen presentation, and Immune Diversity and Lymphocyte development. This was followed by the discussion to solve the doubts raised by the students.

The second day of the basic course, 17th March 2020, began with a recap of Day one by a student. It was followed by lecture series by Dr. Shiv Pillai, Professor of Medicine and HST, Harvard Medical School, Ragon Institute of MGH, Harvard and MIT on the T cell activation and T-B collaboration. In the third lecture of the day Dr. Dipankar Nandi, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore talked about T cell Co-stimulation and checkpoint Inhibitors. The second day ended with the talk by Dr. Amit Awasthi, Associate Professor, Translational Health Science, and Technology Institute, Faridabad on Helper T cell subsets in health and disease. A discussion session was held at the end of the second day of the basic course.

On 18th March 2020, the lectures of Day two were recapped by a student. The day began with the lecture on CD4 + T cell subsets by Dr. Shiv Pillai, Professor of Medicine and HST, Harvard Medical School, Ragon Institute of MGH, Harvard and MIT. Furthermore, he talked about CD8 + T cells and NK cells, Immune effector functions and disease, Modern approaches to investigate the immune system in human’s disease - metabolic changes and epigenetic alterations in the following lectures. The last lecture of the three-day course was given by Dr. Vijay Kuchroo Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA on Autoimmunity & Tissue Inflammation over skype followed by the discussion and doubt session.

Note: All necessary precautions were taken while conducting this workshop to make sure students were seated at a distance.

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