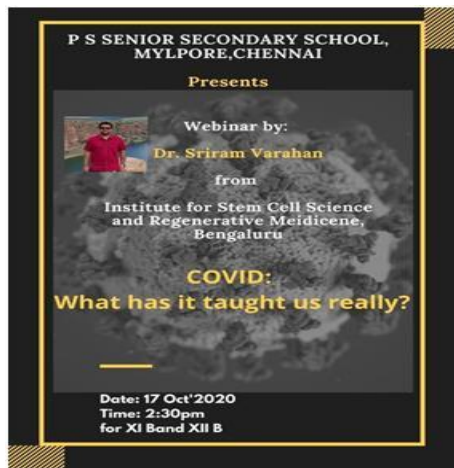


## An Outreach Talk with School Children

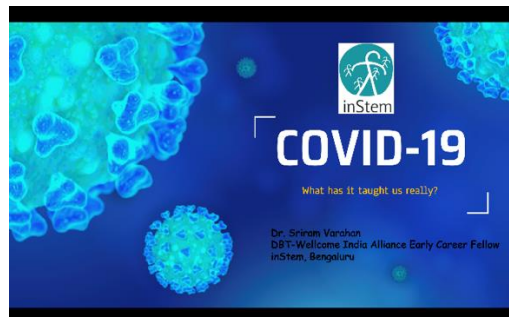
Dr. Sriram Varahan, a Post Doctoral Fellow at Dr. Sunil Laxman's laboratory, Institute for Stem Cell Science & Regenerative Medicine (inStem), Bengaluru and an Early Career Fellow of Wellcome Trust/DBT India Alliance presented a webinar titled '*COVID: What has it taught us really?*' to high school students of P.S. Senior Secondary School, Mylpore, Chennai on Oct 17, 2020.



He started his talk by speaking about the COVID-19 virus – a zoonotic pathogen whose primary hosts are bats and secondary hosts are unknown, followed by the mechanism of entry of the COVID-19 virus wherein the spike protein binds to the ACE2 receptor for entry. He also addressed about how physical boundaries between animals and humans are crucial and how then breach of these boundaries can expose to newer zoonotic pathogens.

Explaining the classic symptoms of COVID19 in his talk, Dr. Sriram also emphasized on the importance of wearing masks, hand sanitization and maintaining social distancing – the effective ways of minimizing virus spread in human population. Furthermore, he also spoke about asymptomatic carriage of the disease and how asymptomatic people can spread the disease, thus making the epidemic spread more complex in humans.

Not the least, Dr. Sriram emphasized on how testing is important and inevitable to find and curtail the disease spread and the efforts taken by all the countries across the world to develop a vaccine. While speaking to the curious minds about this, he discussed what a vaccine is, different kinds of vaccine, and the types being developed against COVID19.



Update on Using Hashtag #Unite2FightCorona: In the email dated Oct 08, 2020, DBT has requested the affiliated research organisations to use the hashtag #Unite2FightCorona in the various campaigns/posts on social media.

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