

Report on 3rd Biotechnology World Congress

INTRODUCTION

The 3rd *Biotechnology World Congress* was held from 10th – 12th February 2014 in Dubai Women's College, Dubai, UAE. Being the third of the series, the biotechnology conferences have gained momentum each year. The Organisers, *Higher Colleges of Technology* and *Eureka Science*, laid the red carpet to honor 4 Nobel Laureates, namely Prof. Ferid Murad (USA), Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn (France), Prof. Robert Huber (Germany) and Prof. Edmond Fischer (USA), besides the honorable Fellow of Royal Society (FRS) Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman to be a part of this scholarly convention. 3rd BWC gave privilege to a respectable congregation of eminent scientists, researchers, academicians and biotechnologists to present their revolutionary investigations delving deep into the remarkable technological challenges met at the biotechnological front.

Seeking to peep into the already well established and broadened horizon of the Biotechnology field, the proceedings of the 3rd BWC appeared quite promising, setting the stage for Plenary, invited and session lectures as well as Poster presentations along with an associated commercial exhibition. The 3rd Biotechnology World Congress provided eminent biotechnologists the opportunity to present the cutting edge advancements in the field of biotechnology.

MAJOR TRACKS

This three days conference presented a platform to the following disciplines.

1. **Pharmaceutical Biotechnology:** biopharmaceuticals discovery (CNS, cancer, cardiovascular, endocrine, immune); vaccines; antibodies; protein engineering.
2. **Plant and Environment:** transgenic plants and crops; bioremediation; microbial diversity; bio-monitoring; photosynthetic microorganisms, cyanobacteria and microalgae.
3. **Industrial and Manufacturing:** bio-fuels; energy crops (cellulosic ethanol industry); industrial enzymes; bioprocess engineering and optimization.
4. **Medical Biotechnology:** biopharmaceutical manufacturing; diagnostics; imaging; pharmacogenomics (personalized medicine); microarray technology; biomarkers.
5. **Business Development:** strategic alliances; partnering trends; product opportunities; growth; business models and strategies; licensing; merger and acquisitions; outsourcing; venture capital and financing; intellectual property.

6. **Regenerative Medicine:** stem cells, gene therapy; tissue engineering; cell based therapy; cell cultivation.
7. **Other areas:** Food; Marine; Bio-safety; Systems Biology, Clinical Research/clinical trials; bioethics; nanobiotechnology.
8. **Marine Biotechnology:** Environment applications of Marine Biotechnology; Marine Natural Products; Bioproducts and Bioactive Compounds; Marine Microbiology and Biodiversity; Marine-based Drug Discovery & development; Genomics and Proteomics of Marine Organisms; Aquatic Microbial Ecology.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

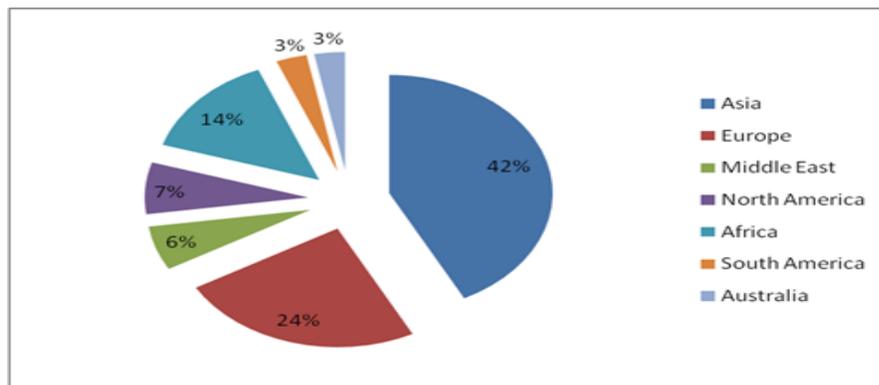
The inauguration ceremony of 6th International Conference on Drug Discovery and Therapy as well as of 3rd Biotechnology World Congress was jointly held on 10th February 2014 to mark the importance of these symposia of multidimensional importance, which have, since a few years, attracted the attention of scientists from all over the world to shed light on the latest research advances in the field of drug discovery, disease management and diagnosis as well as the translational nature of biotechnological research.



Prof. Ferid Murad, the Nobel Laureate and Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, the co-presidents of conferences, in their opening speeches gave an assurance that this meeting of scientists and researchers from around the world will bring out the best in drug discovery and therapy, besides biotechnology.

They discussed that the conferences aim to provide a diverse perspective on the rapid developments in new and emerging fields and how these are presenting new opportunities and challenges to scientists and researchers.

DEMOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION:



This significant scientific conference drew together most renowned and leading scientists and biotechnologists of the world, providing a platform to cultivate productive association and establish linkages of scientists in UAE with the rest of the world.

LECTURE SESSIONS:

The lecture sessions commencing from the morning of each day from 10th – 12th February 2014 were a regular feature of the conference, providing deliberations on diverse topics including medical biotechnology, stem cells, gene therapy, tissue engineering, bio-pharmaceutical manufacturing, cell based therapy, cell cultivation, diagnostics, imaging, pharmacogenomics, microarray technology, biomarkers, to name a few. Each day the proceedings began with 3 Plenary lectures (45 minutes duration for each) from Nobel Laureates as well as renowned scientists, followed by Invited and Session lectures conducted in three parallel sessions.



On the 11th and 12th of February 2014, one hour was allotted to intellectually enlightening Poster session. The attendees beheld the breakthrough developments on the biotechnological research front through well arranged, perceptively prepared poster presentations.

COCKTAIL MIXER

The first day of the conference wrapped up with a social mixer, basically a cocktail party that offered the participants a relaxing environment after a long, tedious, but enlightening day to mingle, socialize, and swap ideas with leading biotechnologists and researchers. The participants enjoyed a chat over cup of coffee or a glass of juice with a variety of snacks.



RENDEZVOUS WITH NOBEL LAUREATES:

The symposium arranged a stimulating interactive session of the Nobel Laureates namely Prof. Ferid Murad (USA), Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn (France), Prof. Robert Huber (Germany) and Prof. Edmond Fischer (USA), along with the honorable Fellow of Royal Society (FRS) Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman with the aspiring students of various colleges of Dubai. The students were too enthusiastic to have a one to one meeting with such renowned personalities, who they have only heard about or have just read about, but had never ever had a chance to meet personally.



Each Nobel Laureate first gave a brief introduction about himself, his academic life, his achievements, the shortcomings, his personal as well as professional life. The students lent a keen ear to their personal accounts and were mesmerized by the long, tedious but gratifying journey to the present day.

The students were then given the opportunity to seek answers to the number of questions in their mind about these eminent scientist's lives and also to learn from them on how to give a right direction to their aspirations.

POSTER PRESENTATION- CASH PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

The winding up of the conference presented the Cash Distribution Ceremony which was the most awaited event of this conference, rewarding the three best posters. A panel of judges including Dr. Paolo Benanti, and Dr. Laszlo Pusztai shouldered the responsibility to assess all the posters very critically, based on the arrangement of the poster, the stance, the research embarked on, the perspective of the poster presenter, his/her awareness of the subject matter of the poster presented, and most of all, his/her attitude when the poster was being assessed.



Considering all of the above, three best posters were selected and awarded cash prizes. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary conducted the prize distribution ceremony and awarded first, second and third prizes to Dr. Shayan F. Lahiji, Dr. Zaigham Abbas

and Dr. Jayasudha Nagarajan, respectively. The prize winners were extremely overwhelmed to be appreciated for their efforts, and so were the other delegates.

GALA DINNER:

The informative wind up of the conference did come about on 12th February 2014, however, it still offered the opportunity of social interaction by arranging a Gala Dinner for the delegates. It was the most enlivening episode of the conference to attend the gala dinner in the desert which proffered a chance to discover the subtlety and the tranquil environment of the desert, interrupted by the cool gentle breeze that whistled around. Under the open sky, the attendees relished the oriental food to the traditional Arabic music and conventional dance performance.



EXHIBITION

Another appealing aspect of 3rd BWC was the exhibition which proceeded in full swing at an area near the main auditorium. The exhibition zone offered poster presentations as well as the associated exhibition, which provided utmost opportunities to meet each other and prosper collaboration. The major exhibitors were the following:



SPONSORS AND MEDIA PARTNERS

The sponsors and media partners of 3rd BWC were the following:



3rd BIOTECHNOLOGY WORLD CONGRESS- ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Eureka Science and Higher Colleges of Technology, proudly hosted two magnificent conferences, the **6th International Conference On Drug Discovery & Therapy** and the **3rd Biotechnology World Congress**. The 3rd Biotechnology World Congress had the privilege of being held the third time to draw together most renowned and leading scientists of the world to nurture collaborations with scientists in UAE with those in the technologically and scientifically advanced countries, which has now adopted a success trend and so its success story continues.

Throughout the course of the three day conference, the participants had the opportunity to both network with and hear leaders from the international academic and corporate biotechnology communities.

3rd BWC outlined the revolutionary progress in the promising field of biotechnology, which has been so effectively proven and has opened doors for the anticipated success of future conferences coming up in the series.