

REPORT ON 1st BWC

INTRODUCTION

The 1st *Biotechnology World Congress* marked the initiation of the first of its series in February 2012 in Dubai. It was a two day conference held on 14th -15th February, 2012 at Dubai Men's College, UAE. Being the first of its series, the 1st BWC still proved to be a larger event, turning out much grand than it was anticipated with 115 talks delivered over 6 thematic sessions besides 150 poster presentations and an associated commercial exhibition. The 1st Biotechnology World Congress set the stage for biotechnologists from all over the world to delineate upon the breakthroughs in the various fields of biotechnology. A highly venerated congregation of a number of Nobel Laureates and leading researchers to Dubai was cordially welcomed to share their explorations with the biotechnology community. The Nobel Laureates who honored the event were: *Prof. Ferid Murad* (USA), *Prof. Hartmut Michel* (Germany), *Prof. Harald zur Hausen* (Germany), *Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn* (France), *Prof. Robert Huber* (Germany) and *Prof. Mario Molina* (USA) in addition to the honorable Biotechnologists in the field including *Mr. Ron Zimmerman* and *Mr. John Hadden* and the respectable Fellow of Royal Society (FRS), *Prof. Atta ur Rahman*.

MAJOR TRACKS

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.
3. Industrial and Manufacturing: bio-fuels; energy crops (cellulosic ethanol industry); industrial enzymes; bioprocess engineering and optimization.
4. Medical Biotechnology: stem cells; gene therapy; tissue engineering; biopharmaceutical manufacturing; cell based therapy; cell cultivation; 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. Other areas: Food; Marine; Bio-safety; Systems Biology, Clinical Research/clinical trials; bioethics; nanobiotechnology.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The magnificent opening ceremony of 1st Biotechnology World Congress and 4th International Conference on Drug discovery and Therapy was jointly held on 12th February 2012. His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan delivered his address highlighting the importance of education and significance of latest research advances in the field of drug discovery, disease management and diagnosis as well as the translational nature of biotechnological research.

Subsequently, the Nobel Laureate and co-president of 1st BWC, Professor Ferid Murad's delivered his speech anticipating that this congress would provide distinguished scientists the prospects to put forth their cutting edge researches in the field of biotechnology and its applications in medicine.

The address by Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, the co-president of the conference gave an assurance that this meeting of scientists and researchers from around the world will bring out the best in Biotechnology. He discussed that the conference aims to provide a diverse perspective on the rapid developments in new and emerging fields of biotechnology and how these are presenting new opportunities and challenges to biotechnological scientists and decision makers.

COUNTRIES- IN ATTENDANCE:

Algeria	Australia	Azerbaijan	Bahrain
Bangladesh	Belgium	Brazil	Bosnia And Herzegovina
Bulgaria	Canada	China	Columbia
Croatia	Czech Republic	Cuba	Egypt
Ethiopia	France	Georgia	Germany
Greece	India	Iran	Iraq
Italy	Japan	Jordan	Latvia
Lebanon	Lithuania	Malaysia	Mauritania
Morocco	Mozambique	Pakistan	Poland
Qatar	Russia	Saudi Arabia	Slovenia
South Africa	South Korea	Spain	Switzerland
Taiwan	Tanzania	Thailand	Tunisia
Trinidad and Tobago	Turkey	Ukraine	United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom	United States Of America	Yugoslavia	Zimbabwe

This significant scientific conference drew together most renowned and leading scientists and biotechnologists of the world, providing a platform to nurture collaborations and establish linkages of scientists in UAE with those in the advanced Western countries.

REGULAR SESSIONS:

Both the days of the conference commenced with Plenary lectures from the Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Ferid Murad and Fellow of Royal Society Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman on the 14th of February 2012 and from the most respectable biotechnologists Dr. Ron Zimmerman and Dr. John Hadden on the 15th of February 2012. The regular sessions of Invited and Session lectures were conducted in 4 parallel sessions on both days. All the sessions on each day of the conference were favorably attended by the participants and were genuinely appreciated and ended at 5.00 pm on 14th while they concluded at 3.30pm on the 15th.

To ensure that the participants do not miss out the poster sessions, one hour was allotted each day to the poster sessions after the lectures. A number of poster presenters displayed their delicately crafted and dedicatedly prepared posters, which attracted a huge number of delegates to appreciate the efforts of the presenters.

EXHIBITION

Another appealing aspect of 1st BWC 2012 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:

- AlphaBeta Pharma
- Bentham Science Publishers
- Integrated Gulf Biosystems (IGB)
- HANA MEDICAL SUPPLIES L.L.C, “HMS”
- Cfm Oskar Tropitzsch e.K
- Iris BIOTECH GMBH
- Pharm Research MD
- Science Alert
- Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT)
- Eureka Science
- Arabian Gulf University
- Dubai Women’s College (DWC)
- Dubai Men's College
- MIND - EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN NEUROSCIENCE AND MEDICINE
- Swiss Biotech Association (SBA)
- Bachem
- Eu2P
- HVD LifeSciences
- xpanBio
- Actavis

GALA DINNER ON DHOW CRUISE:

The most enlivening episode of the conference was the ‘Gala Dinner on Dhow Cruise’ which proffered a chance to ingeniously glide through the creek on the traditionally decorated wooden boat to derive thorough pleasure from the true beauty of Dubai around. The major landmarks which proved to be the most endearing sights in the moonlit night from the cruise were the National Bank of Dubai, Dubai Chamber of Commerce, Sheikh Saeed's house, and the Heritage Village. This memorable evening on the cruise offered a buffet dinner of continental and oriental cuisine, with soft drinks and traditional coffee, served with traditional Arabic background music. Buses set off with the delegates for the The Dhow Cruise dinner at 6.30 pm which lasted for 2 hours from 7:30-9:30pm. After the dinner, the guests were dropped at their respective hotels.

POSTER PRESENTATION- CASH PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

The winding up of the conference presented the Cash Distribution Ceremony which was the most sought after event of this conference, rewarding the three best posters. A panel of judges including Dr. Bruno Mougin, and Dr. Subramanian Sivakami 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. Masahiro Kusama, Dr. Dana Ashoor and Dr. Tanzeel Huma, respectively. The prize winners were extremely overwhelmed to be appreciated for their efforts, and so were the other delegates.

SPONSORS AND MEDIA PARTNERS

Sponsors 2012

- AlphaBeta Pharma
- Nature Middle East
- The Michelson Prize & Grants in Reproductive Biology
- SRI International
-

International Marketing Partner

- Global Information, Inc

Media Partners

- MDPI.com
- Technology Networks
- Indian Journal of Novel Drug Delivery
- Natural Standard
- Pharma China
- Manuscriptedit

1st BWC- A HOME RUN:

Eureka Science and Higher Colleges of Technology proudly announced to host two magnificent conferences, **4th International Conference on Drug Discovery & Therapy** and **The 1st Biotechnology World Congress**, to be held from 12th – 15th February 2012 and 14th-15th February, respectively at Dubai Men's College. These conferences presented an eminent platform to renowned scientists and researchers from the scientific community to expound their inventions in their own specialized fields.

A number of eminent Nobel Laureates paid homage to these august events. Based on plenary lectures, invited and session talks and through poster presentations, the symposia delineated not only on the ground-breaking advancements in drug design and discovery, but also the burgeoning field of Biotechnology. This facilitated enlightenment in the extremely diverse field of medicine to cater to the treatment of debilitating diseases surreptitiously invading the entire humanity as well as shed light on the appreciable advancements in the Biotechnological front.

The **1st Biotechnology World Congress**, the first of its series, appeared quite promising, providing eminent biotechnologists the opportunity to present the cutting edge advancements in the field of biotechnology. The Co-Presidents, *Prof. Ferid Murad* and *Prof. Atta-ur- Rahman*, FRS envisioned the 1st BWC to be a mega event in the region, shedding light on the biotechnological findings which has been so effectively proven and has opened doors for the anticipated success of future conferences coming up in the series.