

The Ramanbhai Foundation 7th International Research Symposium Advances in New Drug Discovery and Development gets underway

Ahmedabad, 02 February 2015

The Ramanbhai Foundation 7th International Symposium on ‘Advances in New Drug Discovery and Development’ got underway at YMCA today. Over the next two days, internationally acclaimed scientists, researchers and academicians from India and across the globe will be addressing the various aspects related to New Drug Discovery - with a focus on diabetes, cardiometabolic diseases, NASH, inflammation and infectious diseases.

At the opening session today, the Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine for the year 2012 and Distinguished Group Leader in the Wellcome Trust / CRUK Gurdon Institute, Cambridge, UK, Sir John Gurdon, delivered the keynote address. Sir Gurdon’s pioneering breakthrough resulted in the discovery that mature cells can be converted into stem cells.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pankaj R. Patel, Chief Patron of the Ramanbhai Foundation 7th International Symposium and Chairman and Managing Director, Zydus Cadila, said, “We have been committed to the path of innovation and discovery and this knowledge sharing forum forms an important part of this endeavour. Our pharma innovation and bioinnovation journey has been very heartening in our attempt to look at differentiated medicines for the future. From APIs to vaccines, biosimilars and niche technologies, we have been exploring different ideas and concepts that can bridge unmet healthcare needs.”

New drug discovery and development tools and technologies derived from biotechnology, genomics, molecular modelling, and computational chemistry promise significant reductions in costs and development time required to bring new drugs to the market.

The symposium which will provide an insight into various aspects of drug discovery has an eminent panel of speakers such as **Dr. Jeff Kelly**, Chairman, Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine, The Kelly Group, The Scripps Research Institute La Jolla, USA, **Dr. Gregory L. Verdine**, Erving Professor of Chemistry, Harvard Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology, Harvard University, USA, **Dr. Richard DiMarchi**, Standiford H. Cox Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Linda & Jack Gill Chair in Biomolecular Sciences, Indiana University, **Dr. Rahul Singhvi**, ScD COO, Global Vaccine Business Unit, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Inc. USA, **Dr. Philip Larsen**, Global Head of Diabetes Research and Translational Science, Sanofi Aventis, **Dr. Shaukat M. Sadikot** President-Elect, International Diabetes Federation 2013-2015, President of Diabetes India, Consultant Endocrinology, Jaslok Hospital and Research Center, **Dr. Matthias H. Tschöp**, Alexander-von-Humboldt Professor, Research Director, Helmholtz Diabetes Center, Director, Institute for Diabetes and Obesity, Helmholtz Zentrum München Chair, Division of Metabolic Diseases, Department of Medicine, Technische Universität München, **Dr. Dhavalkumar D. Patel**, Head, Novartis Institute of Biomedical Research Europe, Basel, Switzerland, **Dr. Charles F. Burant**, Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Professor of Metabolism, The Burant Lab, University of Michigan Medical School, USA, **Dr. Shashank R. Joshi**, Consulting Endocrinologist, Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai, India, **Dr. Walter Wahli**, Professor, Center for Integrative Genomics, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Professor of Metabolic

Disease, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Imperial College London & Nanyang Technological University, Singapore General Hospital, Singapore, Dr. **Naga Chalasani, MD, FACC**; Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Indiana University School of Medicine, USA to name a few.

Nearly 500 delegates from India and abroad are participating in the symposium which is being held under the aegis of the Ramanbhai Foundation.

The Ramanbhai Foundation international symposium has been bringing together experts from both the academia and industry across the world to share their insights on the latest developments in pharmaceutical research.

The theme of the first international symposium in 2003 was Drug Discovery – the journey from Mouse to Man. In 2005, the focus was on the Role of Genomics and Proteomics and in 2007 it was on the Advances in Diabetes Therapy. In 2009, the symposium looked at new advances in Cardiometabolic disorders. In 2011, the topic was advances in Translational Research and Medicine and in 2013 the theme was Advances in New Drug Discovery Technologies And Translational Research.

Zydus Cadila is an innovative, global pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of healthcare therapies. On the path of innovation, the group employs over 16,500 people worldwide. Zydus' Innovation programme is spearheaded by 1200 researchers across 19 sites. In 2013, the group was the first to identify and develop Lipaglyn™ (Saroglitazar) and launch India's first NCE in the market. Recently, the group launched Exemptia, the world's first biosimilar for Adalimumab, the largest selling therapy worldwide for inflammatory arthritis.
