

Report on the Inauguration of the Council for Molecular and Computational Biology (CMCB)

On August 3, 2024, the Botany Department of St. Joseph's University, Bangalore, hosted the inauguration of the Council for Molecular and Computational Biology (CMCB) in De Nobilli Hall. The event commenced at 12:50 PM with a series of engaging activities, including a badge ceremony and a series of enlightening lectures by esteemed guest speakers.

The inauguration began with a soulful dance performance that set a vibrant tone for the afternoon. Dr. Jayaram Reddy, the event's chief organizer, delivered an introductory speech outlining the origins and evolution of the CMCB at the university. He provided an overview of the council's establishment, its growth over the years, and its current standing in the academic community.

The badge ceremony followed, where the newly elected office bearers of the CMCB were officially recognized. The ceremony was conducted with the guest speakers, the Head of the Botany Department, and the Postgraduate Coordinator of St. Joseph's University participating in the presentation of badges to the new officers. The office bearers are as follows:

Postgraduate Posts: President: Varghese Thomas Panicker, Vice President: Neha, Secretary: Arundhati, Joint Secretary: Ramya M, Treasurer: Pragathi, Event Heads: Krishna M, Vaishnavi M R, Asina.

Undergraduate Posts: President: S Naghul Krishna, Vice President: Mizba T, Secretary: Aniksha Kar, Joint Secretary: Kirupha Shree Varadaraj, Treasurer: Om Padalkar, PRO Head: Sharon Anisha Pereira, PROs: Inchara Ramprasad, M R Neha, Sumedha P Aithal, Event Head: Sahana A, Sponsorship Heads: Maryam Udyawar, Purbasha Borah.

Following the badge ceremony, the program continued with a series of lectures by the guest speakers:

1. Dr. Subburaman Senthilkumar - Dean, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirapalli
Dr. Senthilkumar's lecture focused on computational approaches in biological research. He discussed the challenges of understanding complex biological systems and the importance of creating detailed models that incorporate extensive experimental data. Emphasizing the role of machine learning, he explained how it is used to build and refine models for various biological fields, including genomics and disease research.

2. Dr. Krishna Kumar Sugumaran - Associate Research Scientist, Environment and Life Science Research Centre, Kuwait Institute for Research
Dr. Sugumaran shared his experiences of growing plants in extraterrestrial environments, specifically on the International Space Station (ISS). His talk covered the advancements in growing life in space, the challenges of microgravity, and the potential for using lunar and Martian soils to support plant growth. His insights highlighted how space research contributes to our understanding of biology and the adaptability of life.

3. Dr. Lalith Kishore - CEO, Startup Mentor, Technology Evangelist, TEDx Speaker
Dr. Kishore discussed pharmaceutical manufacturing, particularly focusing on India's challenges and opportunities. He shared his experience in working with the Indian government to produce COVID-19 vaccines at a significantly reduced cost and his vision for making India a leader in pharmaceutical manufacturing through his startup, SILVED.

For the Images of the Investiture Ceremony, kindly refer to the Photo Gallery: <https://www.sju.edu.in/gallery/101>