

AAiPS

Newsletter

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENTISTS

P.O. Box 7244
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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- India signs Gatt agreement
- AAiPS starts DC Metro chapter
- President's Message
- Next Meeting – May 5, 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I would like to thank the executive committee and the membership of AAiPS for the opportunity to serve them for the second year. We had a very successful 2004. We had three regional meetings - The first dinner meeting for AAiPS was held on April 1st, 2004. The topic of the seminar was "The role of cellulose ethers in Formulation and Processing of Modified Release Solid Dosage Forms" by Dr. Thomas Durig. The second dinner meeting for AAiPS was held on June 3, 2004. The speaker for this meeting was Dr. Ajaz Hussain, Deputy Director, CDER, FDA. The topic of the seminar was "FDA's PAT Initiative: A Directional Vector for Pharmaceutical Quality in the 21st Century". The third meeting was held on September 9th, 2004 on personal finances and ways to manage a better financial future. We were fortunate to have a very knowledgeable speaker in that realm Ms. Padmagiriswaran from UBS Banking Services. Shoba came with two additional speakers Henry Dreyer and Merri Martinson. In addition to the investment talk, we had a presentation by Dr. Vasant M. Kelkar, on his recently published book titled - "Whence and Whither Humanity". The Annual Meeting was very successful and you can read about it in this edition. All the meetings were well attended.

AAiPS has a strong following and great roots. We should all be proud of our membership for their involvement in this and the parent organization (AAPS). In addition, to continuing our great tradition of regional meetings and one full meeting at the AAPS annual meeting, my goal will be to expand one of our regional meeting.

We should continue to work hard on both bringing in new members and renewing the annual members and finding a way to keep the interest of our life members. My goal will be to bring a little more energy and structure to the membership committee and make the AAiPS website more accessible and informative for the members. In addition, to find, study and provide more benefits to the member of AAiPS. I would further expand the website for open discussion on these subjects and other subjects such as the expectations of the membership and how we can accomplish them.

In 2004, we had established the DC Metro chapter. The organization started the efforts to expand our horizon in reaching out to other regions such as mid-west, west, south, etc. Our goal will be to expand the activities in this area by creating more chapters in other regions as long as some minimum requirements are met.

I am very grateful to both new and old sponsors for their support for making 2004 a great year. In the last two years, AAiPS have done an excellent job of expanding our sponsorship roll. Our goal will be, in addition to retaining the present sponsors, to bring back the old sponsors whom we have a lost over the past several years and adding some new sponsors to make the

organization strong.

Finally, I would thank the very hardworking and dedicated executive and working committees for their continued support. The executive committee is also looking for volunteers to help in several of AAiPS committees. I urge you to please come forward.

Please feel free to contact me either by email at schrai@att.net or telephone 609 462 6845 with your suggestions, ideas etc.

Suggy Chrai, Ph.D. M.B.

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AAiPS thanks the following sponsors for their support of this organization

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HIGHLIGHTS OF AAiPS 2004 ANNUAL MEETING IN BALTIMORE, MD

This is a continuation report on our 2004 annual meeting events...

The increasing worldwide importance of the AAiPS is apparent from the many persons from India who attended the last AAiPS Dinner at Baltimore, U.S.A.

The group included Mr. Subodh Priolkar, the President of the Indian Pharmaceuticals Association and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Bombay College of Pharmacy; Dr. V.S.V. Vadlamudi Rao, Director of the Bombay College of Pharmacy; Dr. Shailesh Nagarsenker, Senior Officer of the Indian Pharmaceuticals Association. Dr. Mangala S. Nagarsenker and Dr. Krishna Iyer, Senior Lecturers of the Bombay College of Pharmacy were also present.

The C.U. Shah College of Pharmacy, Mumbai, was represented by Dr. Sushma A. Mengi. Mr. Gopal Nair, Vice Chairman of the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering, India Affiliate, attended for the first time.

The group also included Prof. H. L. Bhalla, Advisor, SciTech Centre and Chairman Emeritus of the Controlled Release Society of India and Mr. Ajit Singh, Chairman, Associated Capsules Group, a Fellow and former Chief Guest and long time friend of the AAiPS.

SciTech Centre remains the nodal agency in India for AAiPS members visiting India. Those who need any assistance, introductions or would like to give a lecture to the Indian Pharmaceutical Community should contact Professor H. L. Bhalla at SciTech Centre, 7, Prabhat Nagar, Jogeshwari West, Mumbai 400 102, India, Tel: 2678 0127-30; Fax No.2678 0131; Email: scitech@bom5.vsnl.net.in

AAiPS DC METRO CHAPTER HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING

The first 2005 event for the DC Metro Chapter of AAiPS was the Dinner Meeting on March 12, 2005 held at Madras Palace in Gaithersburg, MD from 6 pm to 9 pm. About 25 participants showed up and the meeting was a grand success! A noted presence was Dr. Vinod Shah, former AAPS president and founding member of AAiPS and we were all pleasantly surprised by the presence of AAiPS President Dr. Suggy Chrai, who came down from New Jersey specifically to attend this gathering! We appreciate Dr. Chrai for attending the meeting. There was a lot of interaction amongst all the participants and provided good opportunity for networking. The highlight of the evening was the lecture by the guest speaker, Mr. V.V. Rao, Counselor for Commerce, Education and Culture, Embassy of India. Mr. Rao was able to spend considerable time with us and gave an informal, but extremely interesting talk on India - US trade and commercial relations which touched upon Indian Pharmaceutical Industry towards the end. There was a lot of lively exchange and discussion with Mr. Rao who invited everyone to participate in certain recent initiatives of common interest between us and the Indian Embassy. The meeting concluded with business discussion of the Chapter functioning and future activities. There was a lot of support and

active participation from everyone. Stay tuned for our next report.

Mehul Mehta, Ph.D.

Chair

AAiPS DC Metro Chapter



Mr. Mehul Mehta Chair, Metro DC Chapter presenting the plaque to the speaker Mr. V.V. Rao



Dr Suggy Chrai, President AAiPS and Mr. Mehul Mehta Chair, DC Metro Chapter discussing the success of the first Chapter meeting



Vice President Barry Fox presents the Speaker Dr. Ali Reza-Rajabi-Siahboomi with a plaque



Mr. Mehul Mehta Chair, DC Metro Chapter discussing the future Chapter meetings with the membership

FIRST REGIONAL MEETING HELD ON FEB. 10TH, 2005

Our first Regional dinner meeting of 2005 was held in Moghul Restaurant in Morristown, NJ on Feb. 10th, 2005

Dr. Ali Reza-Rajabi-Siahboomi, Global Technical Director, Modified Release Technology at Colorcon gave an excellent talk "Modified Release Oral Drug Delivery: Monolithic or Multi-Particulates". In his talk Dr. Rajabi, discussed the recent advances in modified release technology leading to better clinical management of the patients. He also discussed various factors like material sciences, formulation design and physiological factors including GIT and their effects on drug release. The key parameters that influence formulation scientist to choose monolithic versus multi-particulate systems were clarified in his talk.

The Seminar was very well attended by representatives from the NY/ NJ /Conn / PA area. The regional dinner meetings provide an excellent opportunity for members to get together in an in-formal session, and network with the local peers. The food served by Moghul was very well appreciated, and the meeting was a great start for the New Years up- coming meetings.

--Dilip Wadgaonkar

INDIA NEWS

India's patent law passes Lower House

India's new patent law, that will prevent domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers from making low-cost generic copies of in-patent drugs - has finally been passed by the lower house of the country's parliament, *writes Phil Taylor.*

The news has been welcomed by international pharmaceutical companies, but drawn criticism from international aid groups which say the new law will deprive millions in the country of access to life-saving medicines.

Last month, it was reported that around 12,000 patent applications have been filed by multinational pharmaceutical companies for their patented drugs that are sold in India as generics, and companies that have built their business on copying in-patent drugs for the domestic market are expected to be hit hard.

India has passed the bill in order to comply with the requirements of the World Trade Organization, whose ranks the country recently joined. The legislation still needs to go in front of the upper house, but is expected to be rubber stamped and in force soon. It will replace the current patent law, which allows patented drugs to be copied, as long as a different manufacturing process is used to make them.

The aid agencies, including Oxfam in the UK and France's Medecins Sans Frontieres, are particularly worried that the law will affect not only the people of India, but also those of other countries around the world who have come to rely on affordable generic medicines made by Indian companies for a host of diseases, including HIV and cancer.

And while the Indian government as a whole is backing the new law to the hilt and says it has the power to intervene if prices rocket, some Ministers are also concerned about the impact it will have on the country's drug industry.

These Ministers have called for a waiver that would allow compulsory licenses for patented products to be retained for three years, allowing the government to sidestep patents in cases of public health need.

The government believes that patent recognition is an essential evolution for India's drug industry as it moves towards more in-house R&D and the creation of partnerships with overseas companies.

<http://in-pharmatechnologist.com/news/ng.asp?id=58962&n=dt83&c=tqqowxnfjivvfaz>

Zydus to sell drugs in US

Zydus Pharmaceutical Inc, the US arm of Indian Pharma company Zydus Cadila has entered into a 5 year strategic alliance with Mallinckrodt Pharm Generics a business unit of Tyco Healthcare to market generic products in US. The generic products will be developed and manufactured at the US-FDA approved plant in Ahmedabad

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE...

If you know any changes in your career please contact us ...

Ramesh Raikar has joined Pliva Pharmaceuticals; he was formerly with Shire.

Sudhan Marathe has joined Pfizer, Inc., Morris Plains NJ; he was formerly with Hoffman-LaRoche Inc.

Dr. Dwarke has joined Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Collegeville; he was formerly with Sanofi-Aventis Inc.

Dr. Anees Karnachi joins Johnson & Johnson in Titusville NJ; he was formerly with Novartis Inc.

DRS. BAICHWAL ENDOWMENT LECTURES HELD AT UDCT MUMBAI

Dr. R. S. Baichwal and Dr. M. R. Baichwal endowment lectures were held at the University Dept of Chemical Technology on December 30, 2004. This endowment was established at the UDCT with contributions from UDCT alumni and AAiPS.

This is the second fellowship seminar at which Dr. Shreedhar Swamy, Vice President, Biological Sciences of Nicholas Piramal Research Institute, Mumbai, India spoke on Metabolic Diseases and Diabetics.

AAiPS 2006 OFFICE BEARER ELECTION PROCESS INITIATED

In accordance to the By-laws of the Constitution Article III Section 3 , the President in consultation with the Executive Committee have appointed a three (3) member Nomination Committee for starting the election process. The members of the Nomination Committee Elections 2006 are Sampat Singhvi, Mukund Yelvigi and Vijai Kumar.

In accordance to the By-laws of the Constitution Article III Section 4 , the Nomination Committee shall seek nomination at least three months before the forthcoming Annual Body Meeting for election in the form of a newsletter or a special mailing. The nominated slate will be presented to the general membership about six weeks before the Annual Meeting if there is more than one candidate for any position. The Nomination Committee will conduct the election. The nomination committee will present the slate of elected officers to the EC for approval at least one week before the Annual Meeting.

The AAiPS Newsletter is published by the American Association of Indian Pharmaceutical Scientists.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers:

While Sudhan Marathe who has been Editor and keeping you well informed all this time is preoccupied with many other responsibilities at this time, I am chipping in for him. I know I can not be that computer savvy as Sudhan and that is what you will be missing.

Sudhan thanks for your dedicated contribution all these years to the news letter. As an Editor, I request all of you to send me articles of interest to our readers.

Thanks

Mukund Yelvigi

ABSTRACT

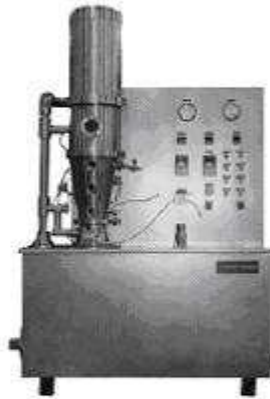
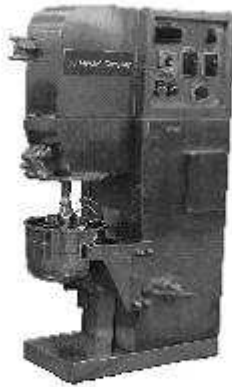
Interfacing nanoscale materials with bioactive molecules is important for the design of therapeutics, sensors and functional composites. This talk will describe our efforts to design potent nanoscale therapeutics and novel nanostructured materials. We are designing potent inhibitors of anthrax toxin based on the concept of polyvalency – the simultaneous binding of multiple ligands on one biological entity to multiple receptors on another. Since the major symptoms and death from anthrax are due primarily to the action of anthrax toxin, the toxin is a prime target for therapeutic intervention. We will describe the design and characterization of polyvalent inhibitors that are several orders of magnitude more potent than the corresponding monovalent inhibitors and can neutralize anthrax toxin in vivo . We will discuss strategies for designing inhibitors based on biofunctionalized nanoparticles. We are also investigating the structure and function of biological molecules immobilized onto other types of nanoscale scaffolds, such as carbon nanotubes. While it is well known that interfacing biological molecules with nanomaterials may influence nanomaterial properties, we have found that the nanoscale environment can also influence protein function. We are studying the stability of enzymes immobilized onto carbon nanotubes. Incorporating enzymes on carbon nanotubes has opened up opportunities for making novel biomaterials with applications ranging from biosensors to self-cleaning surfaces. Functionalization with biomolecules also provides a method for controlling the assembly of nanomaterials. We will discuss these and other approaches for organizing nanomaterials into macroscopic structure.

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