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Editors
Abhijit Chakrabarti
K. Dharmalingam
Utpal Tatu

Website: http://www.psiaapo2016.org/
Dear Members,

The year 2016 has been eventful for PSI till April. The first issue of the Newsletter of 2016 brought you articles on various meetings, workshops and celebration of The Proteomics Day. This issue of the Newsletter elaborates on the mini-symposium on Metabolomics held in NCCS, Pune and the annual meeting of The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in Seattle, Washington.

December would bring more excitement of Proteomics and Metabolomics activities. The website is launched for the 8th Annual Meeting of the Proteomics Society, India (PSI), combined with the 3rd meeting of Asia Oceania Agricultural Proteomics Organization (AOAPO) and International Conference on Functional and Interaction Proteomics, Application in Food & Health, New Delhi December 14-17, 2016. This meeting would also be associated with a Indo-US workshop and three different hands-on workshops in and around Delhi.

We would all look forward towards a tremendous success of the meetings.

With Best Wishes

Editors

PS: Please send your contributions for the Newsletter to abhijit.chakrabarti@saha.ac.in
From the President, PSI

Dear Members,

We started the year with a bang with several local meetings in the first quarter of the year. Midyear has been again busy with planning for the upcoming 8th Annual meeting of the Society in New Delhi. Dr. Subhra Chakraborty and her team have put together an intellectual feast for us. The front page summarizes what you should be expecting this December. Students in particular must take advantage of the Education Day program and the specialized workshops.

Journal of Proteins and Proteomics (JPP), the official journal of the Society, is on schedule with the efforts of the Chief Editor of Dr. Suman Kundu. Members are requested to visit the journal website www.jpp.org.in and contribute manuscripts of their research work to our own journal.

We encourage PSI members from University Colleges to come forward to host/organize smaller events in their Institutions. PSI will support your activities with some financial aid as well as resource persons to conduct lectures/demonstrations.

We look forward to meeting you in Delhi in December.

With Best Wishes

Dr. Surekha Zingde
(surekha.zingde@gmail.com)
Proteomic Society, India (PSI)

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The annual meeting of The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, abbreviated as ARVO, is one of those extra-large meetings with more than 8000 people attending the conference for 4 to 7 days. This year the meeting was held in Seattle, Washington.

Participants who are interested in eye science and research from all over the world attended this meeting. Apart from the conference itself, workshops and education programs preceded the meeting. This is truly a marathon event since even trying to absorb the contents of sessions of your interest could be taxing. The sessions were parallel and more than one topic of interest was discussed at the same time in multiple locations located in different buildings. The poster sessions were manageable since one has time to talk to the people concerned and the posters were left for reasonably long duration. This meeting serves another, perhaps more important, purpose of networking among interested participants. Particularly younger investigators have plenty to gain from this meeting. One can definitely benefit if he or she works out in advance the sessions to attend and the posters to see. Homework is the key word.

Many new and emerging technologies were discussed. Genome editing is one such major attraction since correction of one of the eye disorders using this technology and a clinical trial is also underway. Proteomics also was discussed in many sessions as a new avenue of exploration in eye research. Some of the award lectures were outstanding and discussed path breaking research by young investigators.

One clear a shortcoming is the selection of abstracts for oral presentation. Certain amount of arbitrariness in the decision can be seen clearly. Perhaps this is unavoidable because there is no hard and fast rule to discriminate abstracts for poster vs oral presentation. A good number of Indian researchers attended the meeting. In my view this meeting is an eye opener for me since the sheer amount of information disseminated in these five days is tremendous.

K.Dharmalingam
Aravind Medical Research Foundation,
Madurai- 625020
The mini symposium on "Metabolomics and Volatomics towards disease markers" was organized at National Centre for Cell Science, Pune on 16th May 2016. This event was funded by New INDIGO program of the Department of Biotechnology.

The symposium was formally inaugurated by Dr. Shekhar Mande, Director NCCS. It was followed by a welcome address by Dr. Surekha Zingde, President, Proteomics Society, India. She highlighted the necessity of having lecture workshop on Metabolomics and Volatomics, where the current status in the field could be shared with the new researchers and they get an opportunity to meet and discuss with experts in the field.
On behalf of NCCS Pune and the organizers Dr. Srikanth Rapole, Convener of the mini symposium, welcomed the eminent speakers, authorities and the delegates of the symposium and briefed the importance of Metabolomics and Volatomics field and idea behind organizing this event. He explained that the symposium was arranged to highlight the concept and scope of metabolomics to the students and faculty from research and academic institutions. He discussed about the advances in mass spectrometry technology and how it enabled researchers to identify thousands of metabolites with high accuracy in a single experiment. Metabolomics and Volatomics approaches enable the discovery of metabolic signatures for various diseases using non-invasive sampling methodologies.

This was followed by 14 lectures arranged in four sessions.

**Session I** – “Metabolomics Towards Biological Mechanisms & Biomarkers” was chaired by Dr. Surekha Zingde & Dr. Anjali Shiras.

The opening talk by Dr. Harsha Gowda, from Institute of Bioinformatics, Bangalore entitled ‘Untargeted and targeted metabolomics to identify biomarkers and understand disease mechanisms’ was very impressive as he discussed how the advent of mass spectrometry based metabolomics has enabled identification and quantitation of metabolites in a high-throughput manner and these studies can be carried out by employing both targeted and untargeted approaches which are useful to understand disease mechanisms and identify biomarkers.

The second talk ‘Identifying metabolite markers for coronary artery disease using an untargeted metabolomics approach’ by Dr. Shantanu Sengupta, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, was highly informative. He discussed on the early detection of coronary artery disease (CAD), the largest cause of mortality and morbidity in developing countries using an untargeted metabolomics approach. Using the untargeted metabolomic approach 32 candidate metabolites were identified that show altered levels in CAD patient’s plasma and have potential as disease markers.
The third talk ‘Understanding proteo-metabolomic networks modulating nutrient response and immunity in plant’ was delivered by plant proteomic expert, Dr. Subhra Chakraborty, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi. Her work elaborated on how the proteo-metabolomic approach was used to determine the cellular circuitry that operates in plant immunity during fungal disease. Oxalic acid, a small molecular weight metabolite, was recognized as a food toxin which plays dual role in fungal pathogenicity in a concentration dependent manner. The role of acid homeostasis and the translational and metabolic reprogramming during non-host resistance was revealed.

Session II: “Metabolomics Of Infectious Diseases” was chaired by Dr. Musti V. Krishnasastry & Dr. Shantanu Sengupta.

First talk of the second session ‘Transcriptomic, proteomic and metabolomic analysis of sexual stage development in Malaria’ by Dr. Utpal Tatu, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore was highly educative; Dr. Tatu explained how the malarial parasite responds to stress during its growth. Global profiling of gene expression, proteomic and metabolomic profiling together revealed a network of transcription factors, their targets and specific metabolites being activated and/or upregulated upon redox stress. The study was useful in understanding the intricate biology of parasite life cycle.

Next, Dr. Sanjeeva Srivastava, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Mumbai presented his work entitled, ‘Comparative proteomic and metabolomics analysis of severe and non-severe cohorts of Malaria patients for identification of potential prognostic serum biomarkers and understanding pathobiology of disease’. He explained how serum samples from patients across different endemic regions of India were examined using quantitative proteomics platforms like DIGE and iTRAQ and a metabolomics approach using LC-MS to identify markers of disease severity.

Third presentation was by Dr. Sharmistha Banerjee on ‘Understanding mycobacterial pathogenesis and Mycobacteria-HIV coalition through comparative proteomics and metabolomics’ from School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. Dr. Sharmistha presented her work with focus on
proteomic and metabolomics analysis in deciphering the coalition between two major human pathogens: Mycobacterium tuberculosis (the tuberculosis causing bacteria) and HIV. She elaborated on the use of proteomics to understand the molecular events involved and identify differentially regulated proteins during mycobacteria-HIV co-infection.

Fourth presentation in second session entitled ‘Metabolic phenotyping of pulmonary tuberculosis patients at diagnosis and during treatment’ was delivered by Dr. Ranjan Nanda, Translational Health Group, International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi. He explained how infection induced metabolic alterations may reflect in host biofluid metabolic phenotypes. Differential analyses of deregulated urine metabolites and exhaled breath volatile organic compounds of Active-TB and Non-TB subjects at diagnosis and during therapeutic intervention were discussed. Long term goal of his work is to develop an easy to use point of care TB screening tools in eNOSE format and to identify important host metabolites that could be useful as candidates for TB adjunct therapy.

Session III: “Metabolomics Of Diabetes & Other Diseases” was chaired by Dr. Subhra Chakraborty & Dr. Mohana Krishna Reddy.

In third session, Dr. R. Srinivas, senior faculty from Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, presented his work entitled ‘HR LC/MS study on vitamin D metabolites in coronary artery disease and type 2 diabetes in south Indian patients’. His work revealed that lower vitamin D levels were linked with metabolic diseases like type 1 diabetes, obesity, insulin resistance, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer. Patient sample analyses carried out using LC/APCI/HRMS approach to determine levels of six vitamin D metabolites revealed association of vitamin D and metabolites with type 2 diabetes and coronary artery disease.

Second talk in third session entitled ‘ESI-MS/MS studies on methylated and AGE products of metabolites: Candidate biomarkers of diabetes’ was delivered by Dr. S. Prabhakar, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. He described use of the mass spectrometry techniques to study Advanced Glycation End (AGEs) products of metabolites at protein/DNA level. Analyses of methylated
metabolites, characterization of all possible mono, dimethylated amino acids and betaines for generation of biomarker were the highlights of the talk. He also stated the future plan for generation of database for methylated molecules.

Next was a very intriguing talk entitled ‘NMR based metabolomics: Biomarker discovery and understanding of disease pathology’ by Dr. Koel Chaudhury, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Kharagpur. She elucidated the current status in metabolomic investigations involving two complementary tools - NMR and chromatographic separation (gas chromatography or liquid chromatography) followed by mass spectrometry. Mass spectrometry was more sensitive and NMR was more robust and reproducible, and can be used to analyze intact biofluids with little or no sample preparation. She explained that Carr Purcell Meiboom Gill (CPMG) pulse sequence was used for suppression of resonances from high-molecular weight species, facilitating the observation of low molecular weight metabolites (≤1500kDa) and how this was utilized towards understanding of pathophysiology and biomarkers identification of various women’s health related disorders.

The last talk in the third session was delivered by Dr. Soumen Kanti Manna from Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata. His talk entitled ‘Metabolomics: Expanding the Horizon’ elaborated on how targeted and untargeted metabolic profiling contributes in identifying potential biomarkers for exposure, diseases and disorders. Advances in chromatography and mass spectrometry have enabled an ever richer view of the biochemical landscape largely unexplored so far. He talked about application of metabolomics in liver diseases, colorectal cancer, lung cancer and breast cancer and how unprejudiced knowledge of chemistry can help in unravelling novel metabolites and metabolic pathways.

Session IV: “Metabolomics &Volatomics Towards Disease Markers” was chaired by Dr. R. Srinivas & Dr. Sanjeeva Srivastava.

The first presentation of fourth session entitled ‘Investigation of metabolomic, lipidomic and volatolic alterations towards potential biomarkers in Breast Cancer’ by Dr. Srikanth Rapole, National Centre for Cell Science, Pune. His work encompassed comparative analyses of the metabolome in Breast cancer study. He talked about comparative analyses of normal, benign and malignant serum, urine and tissue samples for a better understanding of the molecular events in tumor development. Analysis of serum and tissue samples was done using LC-MS and GC-MS platforms. For phospholipid profiling, lipids were analysed by in house MRM based approach using AB Sciex 4000 QTRAP LC-MS/MS. He also talked about the development of urinary metabolomics biosignatures of breast cancer patients and healthy
individuals (control group) and to explore the VOMs as potential biomarkers in breast cancer diagnosis at an early stage.

‘Potential of saliva volatomics for the non-invasive profiling and discrimination of cancer - preliminary studies with breast and lung cancers’ by Dr. Jorge A. M. Pereira, University of Madeira, Portugal was second presentation in the fourth session. He talked about saliva volatomics having a remarkable potential for the non-invasive characterization of cancer development. His work involved use of dynamic headspace solid phase microextraction (HS-SPME) followed by Gas Chromatography coupled to Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) for screening of saliva samples from breast and lung cancer patients.

The last talk of the day entitled ‘Breath analysis: A promise to non-invasive clinical diagnosis?’ by Pritam Sukul, Rostock University Medical Center, Germany. He presented data of how different breathing patterns are obtained with changes in postures and forced respiratory manoeuvres in spontaneously breathing healthy human subjects to induce physiological effects onto the composition of exhaled breath. He also talked about how advanced real-time mass-spectrometric techniques such as SIFT-MS, and different PTR-MS in association with online end-tidal (alveolar) sampling have significantly lowered many confounding factors like environmental, dietary intake or bacterial emission and clinical contaminations that are contributing to VOC patterns equally as pathophysiological conditions or biological processes.

Overall, all the scientific talks of symposium were highly informative and motivating for the participants. Young scientists Dr. Amol Suryawanshi from Institute of Life Sciences, Dr. Jagadeshwar Reddy from Central Drug Research Institute, Dr. Mohana Krishna Reddy from Indian Institute of Chemical Technology also actively participated. The event was formally concluded by vote of thanks from Dr. Jyoti Rao, Scientist, NCCS.
Upcoming Events

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Registration is ongoing and abstract submission deadline is 30th Sep. 2016

MEMBERS DO HURRY UP AND REGISTER!!!