

# Third Global NCL Alumni Meet, January 25, 2014

## Minutes of the Meeting

The third Global NCL Alumni Meet was held at NCL Auditorium on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Thirty two NCL alumni converged at NCL to participate in the meet. One hundred JRF/SRF/RA/Research guide from NCL also attended the meet. We initiated this year Dr. K. Anji Reddy Memorial lecture in memory of the founder chairman of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, and an NCL alumnus, who passed away on March 15, 2013. The speaker of the first Dr. Anji Reddy memorial lecture was Prof. Goverdhan Mehta (FRS, National Research Professor and Lilly-Jubilant Chair Professor at the University of Hyderabad), another distinguished alumnus. Prof. Mehta was also the chief guest for the inaugural session.

Dr. Sourav Pal during his presidential address remarked that Prof. Mehta's lecture was timed to energise the alumni. He emphasized the need to strengthen the NCL Alumni Association (NAA) and the importance of generating a corpus fund to support various NAA activities. He pointed out Alumni contributions to alma mater in IITs and IISc as example. He extended all support from NCL and assured the creation of separate NAA office and secretarial assistance for activities.

During his inaugural address, Prof. Mehta recollected how his student days in NCL have brought about a personal transformation. The alumni culture is deep rooted in western countries particularly in great institutions like Harvard, Oxford etc. In India, IIT alumni have excellent alumni network. He hoped that NAA also will reach a similar state in future and assured his whole-hearted support for achieving this. Like in the other institutes, NCL has to extend the initial support for Alumni activities.

During the inaugural session, the following NCL Alumni were felicitated by the chief Guest, Prof. Goverdhan Mehta:

1. Dr. Gopakumar G. Nair: Founder Chairman, Gopakumar Nair Associates (Patent & Trademark Attorneys IPR Consultants & Advisors) & GNA Patent Gurukul<sup>®</sup> (IP/Patent Training Institute), Honorary Chairman, GNANLex Hermeneutics Pvt. Ltd. (LPO/KPO), vice-chairman, Publication Committee, IDMA (Indian Drugs, IDMA Bulletin). PhD from NCL (1962-67)
2. Dr. Dinesh Amalnerkar – Executive Director, C-MET. Dr. Amalnerkar after PhD from NCL (1978-1982) with Dr. APB Sinha, has been a part of C-MET (Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology) since its establishment in 1991. He is a member of Academic Council, Board of Directors & Board of Studies for State & National Universities & private institutions (I2IT, MIT & Vel-Tech), fellow of Maharashtra Academy of Sciences & recipient of MRSI Medal award.
3. Dr. S. Keshav – Director, Parma Earn Consulting. Dr Keshav after PhD from NCL (1980-1985) with Dr. AV Rama Rao, spent 34 years in pharmaceutical industry in various capacity as a inventor & leader and for successful commercialization of several antiviral, anticancer drugs and for bringing in awareness about education/research.
4. Dr. Anil Bhise – Entrepreneur (MD of Dr. Silviu Pharmachem Pvt. Ltd, Pune)

Dr. Badri Vishwanathan, Sr. Director, Formulations and Dr. Ch. Pravin, Principal Scientist, API R & D, both Alumni of NCL represented Dr. Reddy's Laboratory for Dr. Anji Reddy Memorial lecture. The program started with a video clip of Dr. Anji Reddy's (Late) comments on his association with NCL as Ph. D. Student with Dr. Doraiswamy. On behalf of Reddy's Laboratory Dr. Badri addressed the audience and assured his support in energizing NCL Alumni in Hyderabad region and making them part of the future events. They also gifted 15 copies of the book published by Dr. Reddy's Laboratory in 1984, on completion of 25 years, for distribution. He also promised to talk to his firm for contributing to the corpus fund for continuing the annual lecture as a part of the NCL Alumni Meet each year.

Dr. Sourav Pal in his introduction mentioned that Dr. K. Anji Reddy was an innovator and pioneer in the development of 'Affordable Health Care' to the society. While introducing Prof. Mehta to the large gathering in the NCL

auditorium, he pointed out the appropriateness of one of the most distinguished NCL alumni, Dr. Goverdhan Mehta, delivering the first Dr. Anji Reddy Memorial Lecture, in memory of another equally illustrious alumnus, who is no longer with us.

The title of Prof. Mehta's talk was "Inventing a Sustainable Future: Chemistry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", and covered the history of Chemistry from Robert Boyle (1623-1691) who is believed to have coined the word 'Chemistry' to the present and the future. His talk was loosely divided into five sections—Serenading Chemistry – an omnipresent science, Chemistry – art & craft of molecular creation, Reflections – messages and inspirations, A peek into a drug discovery foray and At the cross roads – concerns and future.

The post lunch session started after a group photo of all the participants. Dr. K. R. Srinivasan talked about the initial days of NAA. Dr. Balu Uphade in his talk, presented a good statistics of the NCL Alumni after their PhD— the type of professional activities, the geographical distributions. Dr. B. D. Kulkarni, Vice-President, NAA since its inception in 1990s summarized the activities in the past years. He observed that the activity of NAA strongly depended on the local /nearby people and it is the workforce at the ground level that gives dynamism to the activities. He also emphasized the need for fresh members and suggested that we enrol maximum number of alumni around Pune to make the future events highly successful and sustainable.

Dr. Goverdhan Mehta and Dr. Gopakumar Nair, both senior alumni of NCL, agreed that the association with NCL has brought about a transformation in their life. Dr. Goverdhan Mehta opined that the alumni culture needs to be deeply rooted in NCL, like in IITs, IIMs and western countries. NCL needs to understand this, foster and strengthen the Alumni-Institute linkage. Dr. Nair commented that they were all so different persons during their time in NCL. He likes the person he was at that time much better than the person he is today. Dr. Nair also announced a donation of Rs. 100000/- towards the NAA corpus fund in line with the announcement of Dr. Uphade. Dr. Uphade had committed a personal donation of Rs. 100000/- towards NAA corpus fund within the next three months, during the morning session. Dr. Amalnerkar considers himself still as a proud student of NCL. Dr. Keshav Sathye, and Dr. Anil Bhise were of the opinion that NCL is renowned world-wide and they have benefitted from that. Dr. Bhise also commented that NCL made him think differently.

The current students of NCL presented a slide-show on their activities which took the alumni back to their days in NCL. This was followed by a brief interactive session between the students and the Alumni. Most of the queries from the students were directed towards Alumni entrepreneurs.

There was a discussion on the way-forward. Prof. Mehta, based on his vast experience in academic institutions with strong alumni network, came forth with a number of pragmatic ideas to strengthen the NCL Alumni network. Some of these are:

- We MUST enrol many alumni and the drive must come from the young alumni.
- In the growing stage, NCL support is a prerequisite and NCL should act as a facilitator
- Requested NCL to provide link on its official website and provide marquee message. This will attract the attention of the alumni visitor to NCL web-page and entice them to connect and participate in the events.
- Provide tax exemption to the donors that contribute to the corpus fund. Till that is achieved, route the donations through NCL RF.
- Alumni funds must swell by initial contributions by NCL
- NCL needs to have a separate office for alumni

Dr. Ulhas Kharul said that the things have changed in last two decades or so and we as senior alumni should pass our experience to the young generation. He promised to offer his services to NAA activities.

Dr. Jayant Khandare said that he has formed a yahoo group that has a database of around 750 alumni and assured of active participation in the future events. Further he said, "Even today my day does not end without travelling through the front or back gate of NCL". At that point Dr. Badiger and Dr. Mayadevi announced the start of a 'linked in' group for NCL Alumni by Dr. Pankaj Doshi, who is a young scientist in NCL. Dr. Doshi has volunteered his time / services in helping the Association.

Dr. Bhagyashri Gadgil said that the students should study problem thoroughly before jumping into the experimentation.

**The following decisions were taken:**

1. The next alumni event will be held on January 10, 2015
2. Dr. Sourav Pal agreed to provide a separate office and a secretary assistant for NAA
3. NCL Director will make it mandatory to all the students at NCL to participate in the future events, therefore, going forward participation will not be a problem.
4. It will be made mandatory for those NCL students submitting their PhD thesis to become life members of NCL Alumni Association. Director mentioned that he will request the NCL Students Affairs Committee Chairman to look into this.
5. A core committee in/around Pune to be formed that will meet 2-3 times prior to the event starting from March/April to structure the event, plan the program well in advance to make the future events more successful. Dr. Jayant Khandare, Dr. Anamitra, to become part of the new team along with Dr. Kharul and Dr. Pankaj Doshi from NCL.
6. Dr. Sourav Pal said that NCL will assure of tax exemption certificates to corpus fund contributors