

Report of National Seminar RACS - 2017

The Postgraduate Department of Chemistry, Sree Sankara College Kalady, organized a National Seminar entitled “Recent Advances in Chemical Sciences (RACS – 2017)” during 13 – 14 December 2017. The two days long meeting started on 13th morning with the inaugural ceremony at the college seminar hall where the honourable managing director of the college Mr. K. Anand did preside over the proceedings. The meeting started with a welcome note by the programme convenor Mrs. Manjula Krishanan followed by the presidential address of Mr. K. Anand. The formal inauguration of RACS – 2017 was done by the guest of honour Prof. Dr. Muhammed Afzal Pasha (HoD of Organic Chemistry, Bangalore University) by lighting the traditional lamp. In the brief inaugural address of Dr. Pasha, he stressed the need and relevance of Green Chemistry – main theme of the seminar – in today’s world. The college principal Dr. K. A. Ajith Kumar and HoD of Chemistry Mrs. R. Lekha gave felicitations and the meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by the programme coordinator Mrs. Seena K. Thomas.

The scientific session started with the keynote address by Dr. M. A. Pasha on the topic “Use of ultrasound in organic synthesis: a green chemistry approach”. Dr. Pasha in his exemplary and vibrant way of presentation, gave a detailed account of an emerging trend in synthetic organic chemistry, i.e. using ultrasonic sound waves to enhance the speed and yield of reactions. He has shown numerous examples where the ‘sono-chemistry’ improves the conventional synthesis with the aid of simple and less-expensive ultrasound chambers. The lecture was followed by an interactive session where the participants too actively contributed. The afternoon session was started with the invited talk by Dr. Simi Pushpan (Asst. Prof. U. C. College Aluva) titled “Antibiotic Apocalypse: superbugs vs human” followed by Dr. Teena Thomas of St. Peter’s College Kolenchery on the topic “Bio-based polymers and its applications”. The opening day was concluded with the contributory oral presentations by the young researchers.

The final day of the seminar opened with the much awaited plenary talk by Prof. S. Murugan, Retd. HoD of Chemistry, S. T. Hindu College Nagarkovil, on the topic Microscale experiments in Chemistry. In his well-crafted lecture, he categorically explained how one can dramatically cut down the amount of chemicals needed for various fundamental chemistry experiments. He emphasized the need of implementing such minimalistic methods in the analytical laboratories in order to minimize the wastage of materials without compromising on the results. Following the lecture, Prof. Murugan went on to demonstrate conducting the experiments in a very small scale which indeed received well by the audience and generated very positive responses. Post lunch session started with the invited lecture by Dr. Bindu Sharmila of Maharaja’s College Ernakulam covering various applications and active research areas of Graphene. Following, in the oral presentation, Mr. Midhun Dominic C. D. talked about ‘green composites derived from natural rubber and cuscuta reflexa microfiber’ and Dr. Navya Antony of Moring Star Home Science College discussed about probing chemically synthesized functionalized polypyrrole as support for enzyme immobilization. A poster presentation session was conducted in parallel and finally, the two-day seminar RACS – 2017 came to an end with a brief valedictory function where Prof. S. Murugan delivered the valedictory notes. The prizes for the best oral and poster presentations were given away in the function.