

8th Mid-Year CRSI National Symposium in Chemistry held at CSIR-NEIST



1. Dr Sourav Pal, Director, CSIR-NCL & President, CRSI delivering his address at the inaugural session. 2. Release of the symposium souvenir by the dignitaries in the inaugural session. 3. Participants at the inaugural session. Prof S Sampath, IISc- Bangalore delivering the first lead lecture of the symposium on "Electrocatalysis using nanostructured transition metals, metal nitrides, carbides and chalcogenides". 5&6. Participants presenting posters during the poster session.

The 8th Mid-Year CRSI National Symposium in Chemistry was held at CSIR-NEIST during 10-12 July, 2014. The Symposium was held with an aim to provide a platform for exchange of knowledge and ideas and also to provide an exposure to the researchers, students and scientists to the recent developments and advancements in the field of Chemical research. Held as the first of its kind in the Institute, the mid-year meeting was organized jointly with Tezpur University, Tezpur. Eminent scientists and professors from various institutes and universities such as IISc- Bangalore, IIT-Mumbai, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Madras, IIT-Guwahati, IISER-Kolkata, IISER-Bhopal, IACS-Kolkata, BARC-Mumbai, JNCASR- Bangalore, Rajasthan University, Pune University, Gujarat University, etc. participated in the symposium along with a galaxy of students, research scholars and young scientists from across the country. The two-day programme kicked off with

an inaugural session held on 10 July, 2014 in Dr J N Baruah Auditorium. Dr S Pal, Director, CSIR-NCL, Pune & President, CRSI; Prof G Mugesh, Professor, IISc- Bangalore & General Secretary, CRSI; Prof S Chandrasekaran, Immediate Past President, CRSI; Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST & Chairman-Local Organizing Committee and Dr R C Boruah, Co-Chairman, Local Organizing Committee & Outstanding Scientist, CSIR-NEIST inaugurated the symposium by lighting the lamp. The Souvenir of the symposium which included all the abstracts of lectures and poster presentations was released by Dr S Pal, President, CRSI during the inaugural session. The 3-days Symposium covered a total of 6 lead lectures, 15 invited lectures and 141 poster presentations relevant to different branches of chemistry along with a thematic session on natural products based drugs. Besides that, the General body meeting of the Society and a brief cultural programme was also held during the symposium. The symposium concluded with a valedictory session held on 12 July, 2014.

Seminar/Conference/Workshop/Meeting attended

Dr B G Unni, Chief Scientist

- Attended a meeting with Ms. Selmin Lyngdoh, President, M/s Seng Kynjoh Shaphrang Ki Kynthei, NGO, West Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya on 14 July, 2014 at Field Office, Spice Board of India, Upper Nongthymmai, Shillong, in connection with a health camp to be organized in Jaintia Hills in collaboration with the NGO.

Project(s) contracted

Title: Mining the Metagenome for bacterial diversity in extreme areas of North East India.

Principal Investigator: Dr Ratul Saikia, Sr Scientist

Project cost: Rs.32.12 lakhs.

Funded by: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM).

CSIR-NEIST organized Health camp



Team from CSIR-NEIST led by Dr P K Baruah (seen seated), Head – Clinical centre, CSIR-NEIST conducting the health camp.

Under the on-going 12th Five Year Plan Project, “S&T interventions to combat malnutrition in women and children”, CSIR-NEIST organized a Health camp on 1 July, 2014 at the CSIR-800 Techvil in Tezpur, Sonitpur (Assam) in collaboration with the Institute of Integrated Resources Management (IIRM), Tezpur. Free medical check-up and consultations were provided to the targeted malnourished population. Blood samples of 95 persons (women & children) were collected for clinical examination and biochemical testing. Free medicines were distributed free to the people and also free tests on Blood Pressure, Blood sugar and Eye were conducted. The camp was organized by a team led by Dr P K Baruah, Head, Clinical centre, CSIR-NEIST and Dr S P Saikia, Nodal Scientist of the project.

Colloquium held

Prof S Chandrasekaran, Dept. of Organic Chemistry, IISc, Bangalore & immediate past president, CRSI delivered a talk entitled, “Organic Synthesis: Quo Vadis” on 14 July, 2014 at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium. In his talk, Prof Chandrasekaran spoke elaborately about the developments that have taken place in Chemistry in the past, while pondering about the present and what can be done in future. Prof Chandrasekaran gave substantial illustrations



Prof S Chandrasekaran, Dept. of Organic Chemistry, IISc, Bangalore & immediate past president CRSI, delivering his lecture.

on Organic Synthesis, Total Synthesis and Semi-Synthesis besides highlighting the contributions of eminent past scientists. It may be noted that Shri M P Bezbaruah, IAS and Member-NEC, Shillong visited CSIR-NEIST on 14 July, 2014 who also attended the lecture delivered by Prof Chandrasekaran.

Honour/Recognition/Nomination

Dr B G Unni, Chief Scientist

- Nominated to review a research paper for the International Journal of Biochemical Research Review.

Dr S B Wann, Principal Scientist

- Nominated to review a research paper for the International Journal of Environmental Research.

Visit

- A group of 80 students of class X along with 5 teachers from Ponka Rupram Hazarika High School, Golaghat, Assam visited CSIR-NEIST on 1 July, 2014.
- A group of 50 students of class IX along with 5 teachers from Buralikson High School, Golaghat, Assam visited CSIR-NEIST on 2 July, 2014.

CSIR-NEIST scientist selected for CRSI Bronze Medal

Dr D K Dutta, Chief Scientist, has been selected for CRSI Bronze Medal by the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI) in recognition of his contributions to research in Chemistry. The medal will be presented in the forthcoming annual meeting of the Society to be held at CSIR-NCL, Pune during 5-8 February, 2015, as per official communication from CRSI.



Dr D K Dutta,
Chief Scientist

Training imparted

Ms.Chandrika Buragohain, M.Sc (2nd Semester) in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Tezpur University, Tezpur has undergone 2 months hands-on training and completed a mini project work entitled "Molecular aspects related to specific gene expression studies and other functional activities" during June-July, 2014 under the guidance and supervision of Dr B G Unni, Chief Scientist & Area Coordinator, Biological Sciences.

Seminar/Conference/Workshop/Meeting attended

Dr B G Unni, Chief Scientist

- Attended Valedictory function of the Annual meeting of the principals of colleges of North East region held at University of Science & Technology (USTM), Meghalaya on 23 July, 2014.

Papers published

International peer reviewed journals

- Barua Chandana Choudury, Talukdar Anindita, Phukan Bhargavi, Hazarika Snigdha, Gohain Barua Acheenta, Baishya Gakul: Phytochemical screening and in vitro antioxidant activity of ethanolic extract of *Homalomena aromatica* (Araceae) root, *Der pharmacia lettre*, 2014, 6(1), p: 128-138.
- Karmakar R, Pahari Pallab, Mal D: Phthalides and phthalans: Synthetic methodologies and their applications in the total synthesis, *Chemical Reviews*, 2014, 114(12), p: 6213-6284.
- Saikia Pallabi, Kaishap Partha Pratim, Prakash Rashmi, Shekarrao Kommuri, Gogoi Sanjib, Boruah R C: A facile one-pot synthesis of 7-substituted pyrazolo [1,5-a]pyrimidines by base

induced three-component reaction, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 2014, 55 p: 3896-3900.

- Das A M, Ali Abdul A, Hazarika Manash P: Synthesis and characterization of cellulose acetate from rice husk: Eco-friendly condition, *Carbohydrate Polymers*, 2014, 112 p: 342-349.
- Saikia Pallabi, Gogoi Shyamalee, Gogoi Sanjib, Boruah R C: An efficient route for annulation of pyrimidines to steroids and non-steroids via a base catalyzed one-pot three component reaction, *Steroids*, 2014, 88 p: 1-6.
- Saikia Ujwal Pratim, Baruah Diganta, Pahari Pallab, Borah Manash Jyoti, A Goswami, Konwar D: A facile microwave assisted synthesis of spiro-1,3-oxazines from N-(2-(cyclohex-1-en-1-yl)ethyl) amides, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 2014, 55 p: 4328-4330.
- Radhapyari Keisham, Khan Raju: Amperometric immuno-sensor for detection of toxin aflatoxin B1 based on polyaniline probe modified with Mc-IgGs-a-AFB1 antibodies, *Advanced Materials Letters*, 2014, 5(8), p: 435-440.

Book Chapter

- Dutta D K: Metal Nanoparticles for Catalytic Applications, In-Handbook of Functional Nanomaterials, Ed by Z.A. Niknam, NOVA Science Publishers, Inc. USA, 2014(Chapter-5), p: 135-158.

Honour/Recognition/Nomination

Dr B G Unni, Chief Scientist

- Nominated as Member, Monitoring Committee for the project, BSC-0111 by the Director, CSIR-IITR, Lucknow for the term up to 2017.

Farewell

The following member(s) of the staff have retired from Council's service on superannuation/VRS from CSIR-NEIST while others have been transferred to other CSIR lab during July, 2014.

1. Shri Gobin Chandra Borah, PTO.
2. Shri Apul Chandra Phukan, Assistant (G).
3. Shri Vakil Singh, Lab. Assistant (retired on VRS).
4. Mrs Pramila Majumder, Sc (transferred to CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi).
5. Mr Santosh Kumar, Section Officer (G) (transferred to CSIR Headquarter, New Delhi)