IAN 2013 in Allahabad

XXXI Annual Meeting of Indian Academy of Neurosciences was held at Vigyan Parishad & National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad between October 25th–27th, 2013 with the theme “Emerging Trends and Challenges in Neuroscience”. IAN meeting is an amalgamation of multi disciplinary neuroscientists and research students with immense potential for planning future course of action. The entire Neuroscience Research Lab, Department of Neurology was dedicated to join the conference. We reached the conference venue at 1:30 pm since our train got delayed and we had to manage our workshop on research audit within a very limited time frame. Pre-conference workshop was conducted on 24th Oct 2013. The Scientific Communication & Grant writing workshop was followed by workshop on auditing in research entitled “Implementing Research and Training Audits in Academic Research Institutions”. Research audit workshop was organized by Dr. Akshay Anand, Neuroscience Research Lab (NRL), Department of Neurology, PGIMER, Chandigarh with the goal to sensitize the students and faculty in maintaining quality standards of their research activities through GLP module being developed, modified and adapted by NRL for basic research. After welcome address of Dr. Akshay Anand, Dr. Deepak K. Aggarwal gave an introduction to GLP principles by defining the basic pillars of quality assurance. The talk by Dr. S. Srivastava explained fundamentals of GLP including resources, test item and test system in laboratory studies. Dr. S. Pillai talked about Raw Data & Data Analysis in GLP Studies and this workshop ended by detailed panel discussion and vote of thanks. It was reiterated in the panel discussion that GLP principles should be implemented in graduate and undergraduate courses for orienting students towards quality practices. It was resolved to add GLP module in the lectures, experiments and credits for PhD courses. It was agreed that the Journal editors should consider spelling out a declaration by authors if the studies submitted by them were GLP compliant or not. An intra institute peer review or quality assurance exercise should also be implemented. Feedback forms were obtained from the delegates attending the workshop and all of them recommended that the need of GLP module for basic biomedical research was imperative.

Early morning on 25th Oct, Neuroscience Research lab managed to go to Triveni Sangam at Prayag which was an unforgettable moment to see the confluence of three rivers, namely, Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati which meet at Sangam with three different colors. The point of confluence is a sacred place for Hindus and considered religious point where MAHA KUMBHA is organized every 12 years. Though river Saraswati is invisible now, it is a myth that it also joins the Sangam. We had a dip in the river considering it to be an auspicious occasion. First Day talks were organised at Vigyan Parishad, Allahabad, and inauguration was performed with the prayer of Saraswati, Goddess of wisdom, music, arts and science. The keynote lecture of Dr. P N Tandon of National Brain Research Centre on “Evolution of neurosciences” was inspiring. Dr. Michael Zigmond of Pittsburg University, provided insight on the life style and brain health in Parkinson’s Disease. The lecture endorsed the pitfalls of modern life style such as poor diet, low levels of social interaction, high levels of stress and little or no exercise, to be a factor of increased incidence of non communicable disorders. He illustrated the role of exercise in eliminating neurotoxins by highlighting studies showing protection of specific neurons in animal studies. Dr. Manas. K. Mandal of DRDO, New Delhi, ignited the interest of audience by providing evidence on hemispheric bias. Dr. U K Mishra’s talk on the role of CNS infection by Japanese Encephalitis in the manifestation of movement disorders was also very interesting. First day’s symposium with the theme of “Emerging Trends in Neurosciences” started with first lecture of Dr. S Bhattacharya, IISER, Mohali with his research interest of understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms that regulate the trafficking of metabotropic glutamate receptors. Dr. Vimlesh Kumar of IISER, Bhopal illustrated the mechanisms of kissing at the neuronal synapse using optogenetic tools. This talk was followed by two other talks of Dr. Rishikesh Narayanan and Dr. Saurav Banerjee on the symposia theme. First day’s poster session consisted of 72 posters in two categories of “Neuropharmacology & Neurotoxicity” and “Behavioural & Cognitive neurosciences”. I presented my poster in the latter category entitled “Evaluation of Dystrophin induced cognitive impairment and neuropsychological assessment of duchenne and becker muscular dystro-

phy patients.” The General body Meeting was held on 24th Oct and editor report was presented by Dr. Akshay Anand. He mentioned about the number of submission in Annals of Neuroscience which has been increased in five years from 3–4 submission in 2009 to 12–14 in 2013. It was announced that IAN will be bidding for IBRO 2018 meeting in India. The proposal for next IAN conference 2014 will be at NIMHANS, Bangalore. The day ended up with aesthetic cultural evening that was convened by Dr. Niraj Kumar from The National Academy of Science India, Allahabad.

On the second day, 26th Oct, the talk started by lecture of Dr. Mahendra K Thakur of BHU, Varanasi as a chairperson under B.K Bacchawat Memorial Life time Achievement Award talk by Dr. Shashi Wadhwa of AIIMS, New Delhi on “prenatal sound and the developing brain” addressed the question of how sound given prenatally can influence brain development. The K T Shetty memorial oration was given by Dr. Nihar R Jana, NBRC, Manesar on toxic protein aggregation in polyglutamine neurodegenerative disorders and the quality control system of E3 ligases, a ubiquitin ligase which suppresses protein aggregation. In the oral session, Dr. Akshay Anand’s talk on “Can Cheiro-mancy predict mean survival time or fatality of ALS patients” was a path breaking lecture. Ms. Phetcharat from Thailand presented her work of *Apium Graveolens* being utilized to enhance the memory. Second day’s poster session consisted of 72 posters for different categories such as Neuroendocrinology, Glial neurobiology, Neurooncology & epilepsy, brain plasticity & Neurogenesis, Developmental Neurobiology & Toxicology, Neurobiology of Alcoholism & Aging, Nutrition & Brain, Epigenetics, Evolutionary Neurobiology. All of the participants were enthusiastic in representing their research work through posters. We interacted with several neuroscientists in the conference including Dr. M.C Arunan who emphasized the need to network with other scientists in order to gain experience from the conference. We met Dr. Michael J Zigmond, Pittsburgh University, who shared his scientific and personal experience. After the conference on 26th Oct we went to meet Mr. Khushwaha, Assistant commandant, Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), to share our experiences. They provided

a warm reception to all the entire research group. Third day, 27th Oct, was our last day in the conference which started with the Tulsabai Somani Education Trust Award. Avijit Banik from Neuroscience research Lab, gave his presentation on "Efficacy of human umbilical cord blood derived Lin-ve stem cells in pre clinical mouse model of Alzheimer's disease." He showed that the rescue of amyloid beta induced spatial memory impairment through Lin Negative stem cell population. Since 5 of our team members had to leave to attend yet another conference at ASIA-ARVO, Delhi, we left the conference and went to bid them good bye. We also went to see the Quila made by Akbar where we saw some ancient heritage of

incredible India which included Ashoka Pillar (250 B.C) and Akshay Vat (immortal tree). Ashoka pillar was made by great Indian ruler ASHOKA, who later chose the path of peace through Buddhism. Akshay vat was supposed to provide shelter to Lord Ram, who immortalized the banayan tree after which it was named Akshay Vat. The interesting plenary lecture was delivered by Mark Rasenick, University of Illinois, Chicago on 'G protein signaling and membrane microdomains; cellular correlates of depression and therapeutic mechanism' and showed that Gsa in lipid raft is attenuated by chronic treatment with various antidepressant treatments that might serve as a biological hallmark of anti depressant activity. Lectures were

followed by various Award distribution and a valedictory ceremony and 5 travel fellowships were given to our group members. We gained from this conference and could also see the historical city of Allahabad, going way back from 250 B.C to the Neuroscience Research of 2013.

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