

One-Day Workshop on Biomedical Innovations

An Awareness Program for the Empowerment of Female Students

27 Sep 2024



Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology
(An Institution of National Importance, DST-GOI), Thiruvananthapuram
&
National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) – Kerala Chapter



The *One-Day Workshop on Biomedical Innovations: An Awareness Program for Empowerment of Female Students*, held on September 27, 2024, at the Biomedical Technology Wing, was organized by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram in association with National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) – Kerala Chapter. The workshop aimed at empowering female students across Kerala by enhancing their awareness of the advancements in biomedical sciences and innovations, as well as providing guidance on opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and medicine (STEM) fields. The event successfully brought together 50 female students from 10+2, UG, PG, and PhD levels, alongside project staff, for a full day of expert talks, interactive sessions, and lab visits.

The core objective of the workshop was to:

- bridge the knowledge gap in biomedical innovations among female students.
- promote diversity and inclusivity in biomedical field by fostering interest among women.
- empower participants by showcasing career opportunities for women in STEM.
- provide practical exposure through visits to state-of-the-art laboratories at SCTIMST.

Key highlights of the workshop include:

- *Expert talks:* The workshop featured insightful talks on cutting-edge topics such as biomedical innovations and career opportunities for women in STEM. Speakers, Dr. Jayasree RS (SCTIMST, Trivandrum), Dr. Maya Nandkumar (SCTIMST, Trivandrum) and Dr. Sarika AR (KSCSTE, Trivandrum), shared their experiences, discussed global trends, and inspired the participants to explore new opportunities in research and innovation.
- *Laboratory visits:* The participants were taken on an exclusive tour of some of the state-of-the-art laboratories at the Biomedical Technology Wing. They gained exposure to high-tech equipment and advanced technologies in biomaterials and medical device development. The lab visits were highly appreciated, and the students showed keen interest in learning more about practical applications in biomedical sciences.
- *Interactive session:* The interactive session, with PhD scholars Ms. Linju MC, Ms. Reshma Murali, Mr. Joseph Xavier, Mr. Rahul G Nath, Ms. Kripamol R, Ms. Resmi AN, on career pathways gave participants a chance to ask questions directly, in a friendly platform. The session highlighted the importance of networking, internships, and research opportunities to build a strong career foundation in STEM.
- *Inclusion of female participants:* This workshop was designed exclusively for female students from diverse educational backgrounds. This inclusive approach empowered the participants and encouraged them to take a more active role in STEM fields.

At the end of the workshop, the feedback was collected on various aspects of the program. Based on the feedback collected through a structured form, the participants found the workshop highly informative and engaging. They mentioned that the workshop increased their awareness of career opportunities in biomedical innovations. Many students expressed their gratitude for the unique focus on empowering women in STEM and appreciated the supportive environment created by the organizers. The positive feedback from the participants highlights the importance of conducting more such programs in the future.

The organizers express their gratitude to Director, Head BMT, Associate Head BMT, Dean, HODs, SIC-TIC, SIC-CAF for the support and encouragement. We extend our thanks to all the expert speakers, the support team and the organizing team for the valuable contribution in making this event impactful. Also, we express heartfelt thanks to the *NASI Headquarters* as well as *Kerala Chapter*, especially *Dr. Vijayan Menon (President)* & *Dr. Deepu Mathew (Secretary)*, for their support in organizing this program. NASI's commitment to fostering scientific knowledge and promoting inclusivity in education, especially for female students, has been instrumental in making this event a success. Their support enabled us to provide a platform for young women to explore cutting-edge advancements in biomedical sciences and to inspire the next generation of leaders in STEM. We are deeply grateful for their continued dedication to empowering students and advancing science in India.





Warm regards
 Dr. Naresh Kasoju (Organizing Secretary) &
 Dr. Renjith S (Co-Organizing Secretary)