

PREFACE

This special issue of the *Indian Journal of Biotechnology* comprises the selected peer-reviewed papers presented in the International Conference on Genomic Sciences: Recent Trends (*ICGS-2010*), VII Convention of The Biotech Research Society-India (*BRSI*) and Indo-Italian Workshop on Industrial and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology (*IIWIPB*). The conference was held at Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai during November 12-14, 2010 and focused on recent developments on the frontier areas of Genomic Sciences. The conference brought together a multinational body of scientists and experts to deliberate on global developments in various fields of Genomic Sciences and their applications in industrial, medical, environmental, food and agriculture sectors. A large number of active researchers from all over the world participated in it. The conference not only provided a unique platform to the participants from the industries and academic institutions to share their thoughts and views, but also served the purpose of global networking among them and helped in creating a nucleus of interface research. The conference covered genomic information on a wide variety of microorganisms, including viruses, and also focused on new technologies to be developed and improved in the areas of functional genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics, as well as more sophisticated experimental genetics, biochemistry, immunology, systems biology, mathematics and physics methods are included in this meeting.

The scientific programme of the conference involved plenary and invited lectures from the internationally eminent experts and poster presentation by contributory authors. Topics of special interest were functional genomics and applications. Contributory papers were considered for poster presentation. These were covered under five different sub-areas: 1) Genomics and Industrial Biotechnology, 2) Genomics of Infectious Diseases, 3) Plant Genomics and Agriculture, 4) Human Genomics and Pharmacogenomics, and 5) Genomics in Environmental Protection. In addition to these, the conference discussed contemporary topics in the areas of Industrial Biotechnology, Food and Agricultural Biotechnology, Environmental Biotechnology and Medical Biotechnology.

The organizing committee of the ICGS-2010 would like to thank the invitees and delegates for their overwhelming response for the conference and participating in the discussions actively. Thanks are also due to the session coordinators, session chairs, poster evaluation juries, members of national and international advisory committees and local organizing committee for their strong efforts and help in smooth conduction of the conference. We gratefully acknowledge the support and participation of national and international organizations and agencies, which extended sponsorship to the event. Without their support and participation, it would have not been easy to make suitable arrangements for the conference.

We are grateful to the Director, NISCAIR, New Delhi, and Dr K Y Kavathekar, the former Editor and Dr M A A Khan, the Editor of Indian Journal of Biotechnology who graciously agreed to our proposal to bring out this special issue of the journal based on the peer-reviewed papers. We acknowledge our sincere gratitude to the reviewers who evaluated the manuscripts in a timely fashion. We are also thankful to all others at the Editorial Office associated with bringing out this special issue.

P Gunasekaran
Ashok Pandey
Luciano Saso
(Guest Editors)