Brief Report on

'Webinar on Hit identification and Lead Optimisation to design novel molecules'

A 'Webinar on Hit identification and Lead Optimisation to design novel molecules' was organized by 'Faculty of Pharmacy' under the aegis of 'Integral Information and Research Centre (IIC)', Integral University, Lucknow in collaboration with Zastra Innovations on January 31, 2022.

The session started with introductory remarks by Prof Syed Misbahul Hasan, Dean Faculty of Pharmacy, Integral University, who highlighted the significance of computational methods in drug discovery and how they are becoming more relevant in current scenario of drug research, he also thanked the collaborators for joining hands in enriching students with current trends in industry. This was followed by inspiring words from Dr Tariq Mahmood, Head, Department of Pharmacy, who stressed on the increasing need and applicability of modern computational methods not only for Medicinal chemistry but also for interdisciplinary research, and welcomed speaker for the session. The moderator Mr. Ranjan Kumar, Assistant Professor Faculty of Pharmacy, then introduced the speaker to all the attendees followed by a very interactive session delivered by Dr Girinath G. Pillai, Chief Scientific officer at Zastra Innovations.

Dr Pillai started with a brief introduction of the basics of drug receptor interactions, factors involved, and then discussed the process of drug discovery with important milestones. He then delivered an in-depth session on the role of molecular docking and Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship (QSAR) software with pictorial representations and live demonstrations during the session. The session was flooded with questions by students and all the questions were responded well by the speaker. The session was extended by 10 minutes to accommodate all the queries. The event was organized on zoom platform in online mode, was well received by audience and total 110 participants registered for the session in an online google form circulated with the event poster. The faculty members and students were appreciative of the capabilities and knowledge of the speaker and expect more such sessions to be organized in the University.

Session concluded with vote of thanks presented by moderator Mr Ranjan Kumar. Assistant Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, Integral University, who congratulated speaker for the wonderful session, summarized the contents of session for the participants in a nutshell, thanked collaborators Zastra Innovations for co-organizing the session and expressed desire to have more such sessions in the future. He also thanked Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, Integral University and Dr Tariq Mahmood Head, Department of Pharmacy, Integral University for providing this opportunity and for organizing such a fruitful session



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