

β-Herald

A Newsletter from the
Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology



Issue-03, April 2020

In the Issue 03 of B - Herald, we can use the word "Covidiot", if need be, coined post the Corona virus pandemic. It is a blessing that we fall in the category of people who understand the science of this pandemic, of whatever is known, as a lot has yet to be studied of the virus. Millions have been infected, lakhs have recovered, thousands have died and it is a situation that none comprehended. Every country is fighting a battle against a virus that sees no caste, creed or religion. Overpowering is this fundamental that we are all same and yet some of us have succumbed. Is the casualty more because of ignorance, or because of compromised immunity and a lifestyle that is not healthy. There are questions and these need to be answered. However, amidst all the fake forwards and fear created, you and I, who know a few things about viruses, can dispel unnecessary fear and instil the belief that this too can have a remedy. Moreover, one thing that definitely stands out is the importance of having strong immune system.

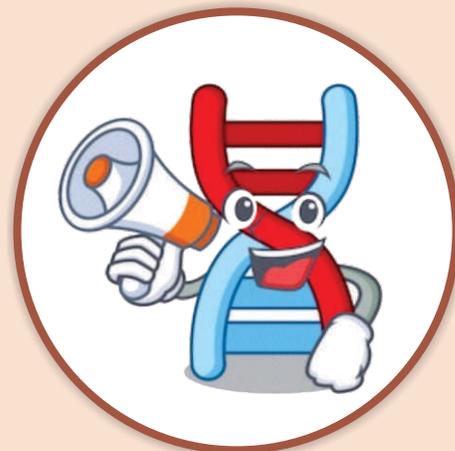
Let us together pray for the departed souls and for the well being of everyone. Let us thank all those who are working days and nights in the service of people.

Dear Blumini Members!

A Bugle Call

B Herald is an initiative to connect with you all. As mentioned in our earlier issues, we wish to have you contributing to the newsletter. It may be about what you are currently into, or an article, or a snippet or a poem or even a picture that you have clicked or a picture of yours. We share our Newsletter with the current graduating batch and you can be an inspiration to them.

We will definitely try to share with you the activities of the department, achievements of our students and faculty, new beginnings etc.



A moment framed in time for the family that grows every year 😊

The department organized its annual state level Biosciences fest, β ioCALyX 2020



Plenary Talk by Ms. Kenalee Patel, Dy Manager (Quality Control), Zydus Hospira



Welcoming our esteemed Guests of Honour, Dr Hyacinth Highland, Dr. Linz Buoy George and Ms. Kenalee Patel



Students engrossed in the Street Play



The Maze created by MSc Biochemistry students to study cognitive functions

Biocalyx, a state level Bioscience festival has been organized by the department to foster not only competitive spirit among students but also inculcate leadership qualities, scientific temper, knowledge creation and to nurture the inquisitive gene in students across the state. The 5th β ioCALyx was held on February 22, 2020. Every year, β ioCALyx has a theme which is relevant to the current trends. This year the theme of β ioCALyx was 'Dunk the Junk' which focused on getting rid of unhealthy life style and gaining an insight into prevalent lifestyle disorders. The event having an encouraging footfall of 179 participants from several colleges across the state was a cognizance of this endeavour becoming a platform for sharing of knowledge, new ideas and creativity. Another plus of this event is that the organizing team comprises students from all years, plunging into action right from deciding the theme to looking at all details before the event, during the event and after the event. This makes the event even more alluring.

The event began with a Plenary Talk by Ms. Kenalee Patel, Dy Manager (Quality Control), Zydus Hospira. Her talk was an eclectic mix of statistical analysis of the world's status of lifestyle disorders, the measures taken by organizations to get impunity from these rising set of disorders, the happiness quotient, the fitness quotient of nations, the status of India, Gujarat and Aapnu Amdavad . She urged that we Amdavadis should move from 7500 steps in a day to 10000 footsteps within a year to improve the fitness quotient of the city.

From its inception in 2015, every year a new event has been added to the existing number of events, and it has grown to 5 events this year. These include Poster Presentation, Quiz, Crossword, Painting a science concept and a Street Play based on the theme. Competitions are held focusing on exploring multiple intelligence. The winners and first runner up are given shields.

We take this opportunity again to thank Dr. Hyacinth Highland and Dr. Linz Buoy George, who have supported us all through these years. They judge the poster session and their quality interaction is able to nurture the inquisitive gene in students.

Two more highlights of this event are worth a mention. Under the able guidance of our faculty, Shital Doshi, a group of students set up a counter for anthropometric measures like BMI for students across the college. Second, our MSc Biochemistry students created a maze and carried out a study to assess certain cognitive functions in different age groups.

CadAgro captivates students' attention to Plant Biotechnology

She wished that the students of BSc Biotechnology experience the application of Plant Biotechnology. Priya Vijayan, one of our faculty, included it as a teaching module, and rallied to make possible a study tour to an Agribiotech company. Cad Agro of the Cadila group not only agreed to the study tour but had several sessions planned for the students. Priya Vijayan and Sonal Thakur with more than 50 students were witness to a success story. The industry infrastructure for production of lakhs of tissue cultured plantlets was a sight to behold. What they learnt in theory was observed to be in practice.



B HeliX Colloquium Talks

Dr Tapan Shah, our alumni gave a talk on Post transcriptional gene regulation of Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2 during cardiovascular calcification. Dr Tapan is currently serving as a Technical Support Scientist, Advanced Cell Diagnostics, Newark, California.

He, through his presentation, reflected on how subject experts need to integrate to bring out with solutions. He gave an insight into his own journey from his undergraduate days to now and stressed that every area of Biochemistry and Biotechnology today has relevance,



He also personally interacted with some of the students who were keen on pursuing higher studies and guided them. This is something that the department looks forward to from all our alumni. Their inputs can orient our current batch of students.

With the burgeoning Covid cases around the world and Covidiots unknowingly hastening the spread, the Department beckoned the MSc students to give an extensive talk on Corona Virus to the students of the department. Nisarg Patil took up the responsibility and delivered a very detailed presentation. The talk definitely gave more clarity on the prevailing situation, and most who listened to the talk realized that if the globe has been able to tackle more deadlier viruses, this too can be tackled. He also busted myths, and that was a big welcome.

Our students continue to shine 😊

GIBION, a state level bioscience competition organized every year was held on February 2, 2020 in PP Savani College, Kosamba, Surat. A team of 18 students of our department was selected through an elimination process to participate in 7 events. In this neck to neck competition, Raghav Worah, a second year student stood second in Scientoon and Akshit Jain won the third prize in extempore speech. Hearty accolades to all the participants and special appreciation to Dr Kinjal Bhatt who mentored the students and Dr Yogesh Baravalia who motivated and accompanied them in this journey.

There has been a flurry of participation by our students in both extracurricular and co curricular activities. Some of the highlights are as under.

Dhriti Seth, Drashti Mehta, Mishika Shah of third year BSc Biotechnology participated in a poster presentation competition and won 2nd position in Chiasma at Ahmedabad University, Gujarat. In the same fest, Brindali Patel won first prize in Beat Busters (solo). Many of our students also attended workshops conducted during the fest.



In the Indus Science Fest 2020, Shreya Thakkar and Jay Bhatt of Semester IV Biotechnology won the first prize in Oral presentation. Arpita Verma and Radhika Kathiriya of third year BSc Biotechnology were awarded outstanding achievement in Oral presentation in the same event.

Science Manthan, 2020 is a science competition organized by Charusat, Anand. About sixteen of our MSc students, participated. Anthara Thakur, Yesha Upadyay, and Kruti Aghara won third prize in poster competition and Dhruva Trivedi won second prize in photography.

There is such a vibrant buzz of activity and such a contagion is welcome. Congratulations to all, who have moved out of their comfort zones to face challenges.

All that glitters is not gold, they are our students

- Khushbu Goswami Participated in Chem Cho.
- Brindali Patel participated in a dance competition held in Nirma University and won first prize.
- Anjali Surana, Simar Kaur Tuteja, Sweny Jain, Jay Bhatt, Shreya Thakkar participated in a street play and were conferred the First Prize in another competition.
- Nainika Babbar participated in the Times of India public speaking competition.

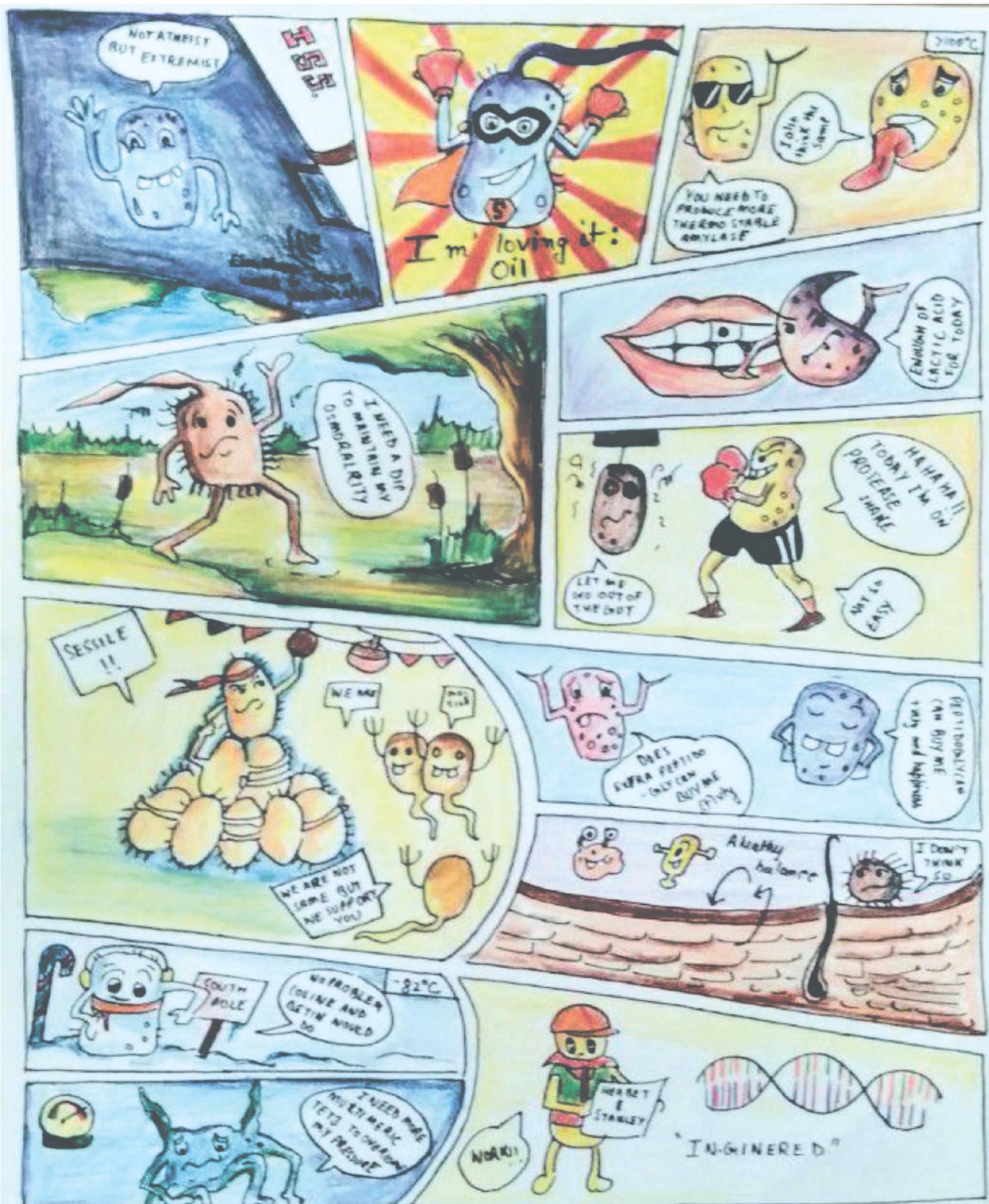
Getting Skilled!

Skill development and keeping abreast with the latest development in the field is a prerequisite for a good professional career and students have always been encouraged to go that extra mile to ensure that they are better than good. Bhargavi Solanki of MSc participated in a seminar cum workshop on HPTLC and its applications on Feb 13, 2020 conducted by the GU. Payal Varandani, Brindali Patel, and Siyona undertook training in cell culture and advanced molecular techniques at Gujarat University to equip them in their research project.

Dhruvi Senjalia, Mosmi Baldania, Kruti Aghara, Ayushi Pareek, Blessy Chako, Parvez Panjwani, Sachin Gupta, Sengar khushboo, Savla Divya, Maherban Muhammadali Palsania, Sabdarali Sunasara, Atamahmmmed Gulamhammad Chaudhary participated in a one day seminar on 'Diabetes A to Z' organized by The National Academy of Science, Ahmedabad Chapter and Department of Zoology, Biomedical Technology and Human genetics, GU on February 15, 2020.



Raghav Worah's Scientoon



Artistry in the Department ☺

Another creation for the scientoon competition

Stroke of Genius

The Manaxi Lalit Science Award (*may ring a bell for many of you!*) is considered a prestigious science competition organized by Gujarat Science Academy in conjunction with the Department of Botany, Gujarat University.. Among the several students who participated, Sonal Kumar was awarded second prize in UG Biotechnology category, while Shah Darshi Samir, Patel Nandini Alpeshkumar, Shah Priyanshi Paragkumar, Pillai Anjaly Radhakrishna, Jain Akshit, Matani Pavan, Varandani Payal Jitendra, Panchal Kajal Dhiren, Salvi Khushi Rahul, Joshi Rutvi Harish, Shah Darshi Keshav, Junarkar Sanjan Ajay, Darshita Pandya were given merit certificates.

Some of our students (as in the Table) also qualified in some of the competitive exams, taking them a step forward towards higher education at premier institutions of the country.

Name	Subject	Year of Graduation	Exam Cleared	Score (Position in the Country)
Sonal Kumar	BSc Biotechnology	Pursuing	JAM/TIFR	333
Darshi Shah	BSc Biochemistry	Pursuing	JAM	512
Pavan Matani	BSc Biotechnology	Pursuing	JAM	738
Akshit Jain	BSc Biotechnology	Pursuing	JAM/TIFR	822
Mini Nazkani	BSc Biochemistry	Pursuing	JAM	1148
Mariya Nagdawala	BSc Biochemistry	Pursuing	JAM	1323
Kajal Panchal	BSc Biotechnology	Pursuing	TIFR	

It is heartening to see our past students Rushab Shah, Kalgi Shah, Hrimkar Buch, and Jignesh Prajapati qualifying the GSET exam. Our alumni Jignesh Chariya, who is currently working with a pharmaceutical company too has qualified CSIR NET and looks forward to an academic career in future. The department wish all of them all the best for their future endeavors.

Faculty Corner

Our staff members, Dr Avni Divatia, Ms Sonal Thakur and Dr Kinjal Bhatt attended an International Conference held at Gujarat University

A work carried out in the department has been acknowledged by Anchrom India Ltd for standardizing an HPTLC protocol.



β -Herald is for private circulation only. We beg your pardon if we may have missed mentioning some of the achievements. Help us document your achievements, big and small.

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