

## **CSIR-IICB Organizes National Conference on “Open Access: The road to Freedom”.**

The Society for Information Science (SIS), an all India professional body formed in 1975, is devoted to encourage interactions among IT professionals, scientists, researchers, librarians, managers and users. As a part of its activities, the Society brings out publications and organizes Annual Conferences on different themes and short-term courses every year. This year the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the SIS and Conference on, “*Open Access: The Road to Freedom*” was organized jointly with CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (CSIR-IICB), during 7- 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at CSIR-IICB, Kolkata to brainstorm about issues surrounding Open Access to scholarly communication.

The main objective of the Symposium was to discuss on various important and relevant issues like Scholarly Communication & Open Access Publishing, Predatory Journals, Open Data Initiatives, etc. The conventional research publications do not reach a wide audience even among the scientific community, affecting both its visibility and impact. Hence, publishing in Open Access journals and setting up institutional archives/repositories are important for scientific advancement. As it provides much greater visibility, it also improves impact for research work. Open Innovation has advantages such as faster time to market, reducing R&D and product development costs, tapping a global pool of experts, getting new product ideas, uncovering readymade solutions and sharing risk with others. The Conference was intended for the motivation of scientific and technological community at the national level for their active involvement in this direction.



The two days’ meeting was attended by knowledge resource personnel nationwide from different institutions and libraries and also personnel from different international publishers. There were more than 130 registered participants including young researchers. The Conference in reality turned into an international one through the participation of the professionals from Bangladesh, and an invited talk delivered by Kathleen Shearer, Executive Director, Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), Canada through video conferencing. Apart from that, about 15 eminent personalities delivered invited talks during the Conference. A significant number of experts from various disciplines participated in the Conference.

The Conference was inaugurated by Prof. Samit Chattopadhyay, Director, CSIR-IICB, who advocated the importance of Open Access in communicating public funded research. Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET, Dr Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Director General,

RRRLF and National Library, Kolkata, Dr. Naresh Kumar, President, Society for Information Science (SIS), Dr. Manoj Kumar Patariya, Director, CSIR-NISCAIR, New Delhi and Dr. P. Jaisankar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IICB were among the key speakers. All the participants and dignitaries observed silence in the fond memory of Prof. Eugene Garfield, to pay tribute to the great information scientist.

During the two days' conference, 57 research papers were presented in seven different sessions including Garfield Session. On the second day, there was a panel discussion on a very pertinent and timely topic titled '*Subscription Journals, Open Journals and Prepublication Archives: Do Ways of Science Communication Influence Progress of Science?*'.



The Conference and the Annual Convention of the SIS came to an end with the presentation of certificates to the participants. Dr Narayan Chandra Ghosh, Organizing Secretary, SIS-2017 conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to everybody involved in the Conference directly or indirectly for the fruitful deliberations, and successful, completion with a meaningful resolutions.

All the participants in the Conference had very interesting discussions and interactions among themselves. The Conference concluded with the resolution that initiatives at the national level for more open access to scholarly literature which is stimulating open science and ultimately open innovation. It enables organizations to expand their reach to the global brain comprising scientists, researchers, students, faculties, research institutes, inventors, consulting firms, small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs. Scientific and technological community and publishers should come forward in this direction. In this context, the necessity to set up institutional archives/repositories was highly encouraged for future scientific advancement.