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Experts discuss on latest advances in Translational research at a Symposium held in Bangalore



Bangalore, 2016 – MedGenome, the leader in genomics based diagnostics and research in India, today organized a guest lecture at NarayanaNethralaya, Bangalore, by Dr. S.P. Thyagarajan, Professor of Eminence & Dean (Research) at Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai.

Dr. Thyagarajan has served as Vice Chancellor of Madras University, and has published more than 280 research papers and many books in the area of infectious diseases. He has served as member of expert committees of government bodies and ministries, and has mentored and guided numerousPh.D students. Dr. Thyagarajan’s research works have won him 19 national and international awards, including the Consultant Epidemiologist Award of the Glasgow University, United Kingdom, and the ICMR award in Virology. He has also developed and got patented a nutraceutical by the name VIROHEP, which is used in the treatment of chronic jaundice.

In his talk, titled “*Translational Research – The need of Today’s Medical Research*”, Dr. Thyagarajan spoke of the significance of translational medicine, and its role in providing the connect between basic research and patient care, often referred to as “Benchside to bedside, and community”. Pharmaceutical R&D is of strategic importance to meet healthcare needs in India, and the focus on this has increased considerably in the past decades. Conventional drug development programs can range from 10 to15 years, which makes them an uphill battle. He spoke about the value of Reverse Pharmacology, a method of drug discovery that may take as less as 5-6 years, which involves the use of genomics, proteomics and metabolomics extensively.

Genomics is making a paradigm shift the clinical research process. The traditional method focused on identifying drug targets based on large scale screening programs and by serendipitous events. But the application of genomics to identify targets have increased the probability of success of these trials, leading to more efficient research outcomes. The decline in the cost of Next Generation sequencing and advances in technology and interpretation algorithms have led to greater adoption of genomics in research as well as diagnostics.

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