

Organisers



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# Drug Discovery & Development Workshop 2025

with Special Focus on Cell & Gene Therapy, ADCs & Bispecific Antibodies

28 August – 31 August 2025

Venue: School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad

The Complete Journey:  
From Laboratory to Market

Meet and Hear  
from Leading  
Industry Experts

Hear Current Platform  
Technologies Enabling Drug  
Discovery and Development

100+ Participants  
25+ Speakers  
7+ Countries



Register Now

• to be confirmed

## About the workshop

The workshop on “Drug Discovery & Development” was organized by FABA (Federation of Asian Biotech Associations) Academy (<http://biofabaorg.in/>) in collaboration with the Science Gurus (<http://sciencegurus.org/>), a US-based nonprofit organization and the University of Hyderabad (<https://uohyd.ac.in/>).

This comprehensive workshop fills with enriching content to provide an opportunity for the participants to learn different aspects of the drug discovery and development process including cell and gene therapies, ADCs, AI, drug repurposing, and intellectual property.

Drug discovery and development involve efforts carried out by a multidisciplinary team of experts in chemistry, biology, computational science, statistics, pharmacology, toxicology, clinical sciences, regulatory, manufacturing, and commercialization. Based on molecular insights, specific genes/proteins (targets) responsible for causing a disease of interest are first identified and validated. This follows the drug discovery process wherein small molecules or biologics that modulate targets' activities are identified and characterized at various levels. Once a drug candidate demonstrates potency, selectivity and therapeutic efficacy, the development process which includes clinical trials systematically evaluates the suitability of the drug candidate for human use, in terms of its potential therapeutic benefit, while minimizing the potential adverse side effects.

### Workshop Highlights

- 1. Discovery:** Target Identification and Validation, Including Molecular Modeling and Drug Design, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacology, ADME.
- 2. Pre-clinical Development:** Animal Models, Non-animal Models, Toxicology
- 3. Development:** Process Development, Formulation and Drug Manufacturing.
- 4. Clinical Development:** Clinical Trials, Regulatory Affairs.
- 5. The Next Frontier:** Emerging technologies like Cell and Gene Therapy, ADC, Personalized Medicine, and Drug Repurposing for Rare Diseases

This workshop is to be held **in-person**. Participants will have an opportunity to present and discuss case studies and interact with the experts from academia and industries.

## About Organisers

### Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA)

The Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) is a non-profit organization established in 2004 for providing a platform for academy, industry, and government bodies. FABA has launched the FABA academy to bridge the gap between academy and industry in human resources development by providing professional development programs to science graduates (<https://biofaba.org.in/>).

### Science Gurus

The Science Gurus is a non-profit organization that provides science-based education, training, and mentor platforms for the next generation of students to excel in STEM careers. Science Gurus promotes charitable activities supporting science education for deserving and needy students in the South Asian community and others in the U.S. and India (<https://www.sciencegurus.org>).

### University of Hyderabad

The University of Hyderabad is one of India's Institutions of Eminence, nationally-ranked public university founded in 1974 (<https://uohyd.ac.in/>).

## Organising Committee



Dr. Pallu Reddanna  
Senior Professor (Rtd.),  
SLS, Univ. of Hyderabad;  
Executive President, FABA



Dr. Jagath Reddy Junutula  
Board Chairman, Science  
Gurus; Co-founder, President &  
CEO, Aarvik Therapeutics Inc.



Dr. Surya Sankuratri  
Senior Advisor, EPOK Tx,  
CBO, Protima,  
Board Member, Science Gurus



Dr. Ajith Kamath  
Ex-Head,  
External R&D Pfizer



Dr. Raghunadha Rao  
Professor, MNJ  
Institute of Oncology



Dr. Chakk Ramesha  
CEO, Medhus Bio, LLC.



Dr. Uday Saxena  
Founder, IEFIR &  
Co-founder, Reagene



Dr. Ram Mandalam  
Founder and CEO, Citra  
BioConsulting, Inc.



Dr. Bindu Madhav  
Professor, Univ. of  
Hyderabad



Dr. M K Arunasree  
Professor, Univ. of  
Hyderabad

## Team



Dr. Jagadeesh Gandla  
Chief Operating Officer, FABA



Dr. T N G Sharma  
Senior Manager, FABA



Ms. Divya Telidevara  
Manager, FABA



Ms. Hema Shree  
Management Trainee, FABA

## Sessions & Topics

*In-person Workshop*

28th August 2025 – Drug Discovery		
09:00 AM – 09:30 AM	Welcome & Inaugural Address	FABA, Science Gurus & Chief Guest
09:30 AM – 10:20 AM	Introduction to Drug Discovery, Target Identification & Validation, Small Molecules, Biologics	Dr. Ajith Kamath, Ex-Head, External R&D Pfizer
10:20 AM – 10:40 AM	Tea Break	
10:40 AM – 11:30 AM	Cell & Gene Therapy : From Mutation to Therapeutics: iPSCs, Organoids & CRISPR in Drug Discovery	Dr. Narasimha Swamy Telugu, MDC Berlin–Buch
11:30 AM – 12:20 PM	Target Identification and Validation: Psoriasis as a Case Study	Prof. Nooruddin Khan, Professor, University of Hyderabad
12:20 PM – 01:10 PM	Hit and Lead Identification (including CADD/SBDD, AI)	Dr. Ramesh Sistla, Founder & CEO, thinkMolecular Technologies
01:10 PM – 02:10 PM	Lunch	
02:10 PM – 03:00 PM	Lead Optimization	Dr. Raghava Reddy Kethiri, Co-founder & CEO, Aryastha Life Sciences
03:00 PM – 03:50 PM	Biochemical Pharmacology	Dr. Dhanalakshmi Sivanandhan, CSO, TheraIndx Lifesciences
03:50 PM – 04:10 PM	Networking Break	
04:10 PM – 05:00 PM	Pre-clinical Safety Studies	Dr. K S Rao , Subject Matter Expert – Safety Assessment, Eurofins Advinus (Adgyl Lifesciences)
05:00 PM – 06:00 PM	Participant Presentations	
29th August 2025 – Drug Development		
09:00 AM - 10:00 AM	In Silico Screening Tools for Drug Discovery	Dr. Raghu Rangaswamy, CEO, Molecular Solutions
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Formulation/Drug product Research	Dr. Ravi Shekar Ananthula, CSO & Executive Director, PharmaDEM
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Networking Break	
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Non – animal Tools for Drug Discovery & Development	Dr. Uday Saxena, Founder, Utopia Therapeutics
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM	Lunch	

## Sessions & Topics

*In-person Workshop*

### 29th August 2025 – Drug Development

01:30 PM - 02:30 PM	Clinical Trial Design and Operations	Dr. Mahesh Bhalgat, CEO, Veeda Clinical Research
02:30 PM - 03:30 PM	Clinical Trials Case studies	Dr. Raghunadha Rao, Professor, Medical Oncology, MNJ Cancer Hospital
03:30 PM - 04:00 PM	Networking Break	
04:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Regulatory Affairs	Dr. PBN Prasad, Former Drugs Controller General of India
05:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Participant Presentations	

### 30th August 2025 : IP and Commercialization

09:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Intellectual Property & Patents	Mr. K M Gopa Kumar, Legal Advisor and Senior Researcher, Third World Network
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Drug Manufacturing	Dr. Srinivas Oruganti, Director, DRILS
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Networking Break	
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Collaborating, Licensing, Divesting, M&A	Dr. Surya Sankuratri, CEO, EPOK Therapeutics, Board member, Science Gurus
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM	Lunch	
01:30 PM - 02:30 PM	Personalized Medicine	Dr. Ajith Kamath, Ex-Head, External R&D Pfizer
02:30 PM - 03:30 PM	Biosimilars	Dr. Bala Reddy, Founder, Provis Bio
03:30 PM - 04:00 PM	Networking Break	
04:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Rare Diseases & Drug repurposing	Dr. Shridhar Narayanan, CSO Peptris Technologies
05:00 PM - 06:30 PM	Participant Presentations	
7:00 PM Onwards	Networking Dinner	

## Sessions & Topics

*In-person Workshop*

31st August 2025: Special Topics – Cell & Gene Therapy, ADCs & Bi-specific Antibodies		
09:00 AM - 09:45 AM	Gene Therapy	Dr. Suresh Poda, President, Laurus Labs
09:45 AM - 10:30 AM	Cell Therapy	TBD
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Networking Break	
11:00 AM - 11:45 PM	Cell & Gene Therapy	Dr. Ramkumar Mandalam, Founder & CEO, Citra BioConsulting
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Q&A Session	
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	Lunch	
1:15 PM - 02:00 PM	ADCs being developed by Sun Pharma Advanced Res Center	Dr. Nitin Damle, EVP, Sun Pharma Advanced Res Center
02:00 PM - 02:45 PM	Bi-specific Antibodies	Dr. Murali Ramachandra, CEO, Aurigene Oncology
02:45 PM - 03:30 PM	ADCs: Past, Present and Future	Dr. Jagath Reddy Junutula, Board Chairman, Science Gurus; Co-founder, President & CEO, Aarvik Therapeutics Inc.
03:30 PM - 04:00 PM	Q&A Session	
04:00 PM - 04:30 PM	Networking Break	
04:30 PM - 05:30 PM	<p>Panel Discussion on Innovative Drug Discovery – Challenges for Indian Companies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Dr. Uday Saxena, Founder, IEFR &amp; Co-founder, Reagene</li> <li>• Dr. Supriya Kashikar, CEO, GeNext Genomics</li> <li>• Dr. Raj K Shirumalla – Mission Director, National Biopharma Mission</li> <li>• Prof. Ullas Kolthur Seetharam*, Director, CDFD</li> <li>• Mr. Naveen Gullapalli*, Managing Director, AMGEN India</li> <li>• Ms. Padmaja Ruparel*, Co-Founder, Indian Angel Network</li> </ul>	
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Concluding Session	

*\*to be confirmed*

## Call for Posters

We invite participants to present posters highlighting innovative work in Drug Discovery & Development. Posters may cover themes including target identification, lead optimization, ADCs, bispecific antibodies, cell & gene therapies, AI applications, rare diseases, and drug repurposing.

### Awards:

- 5 Best Posters will be selected.
- Each award carries a cash prize of ₹10,000.
- Winners will be announced during the concluding session on 31 August 2025.

Eligibility: Open to students, researchers, and industry professionals registered for the workshop.

Submission Details: <https://forms.gle/mc9pwdWZ6Jj89Z189>

Poster dimensions and submission guidelines will be communicated upon registration.

## Registration Details

Registration Fee (Inclusive of GST)	INR
Students (Graduates/Postgraduates/Ph.Ds)	3000
Postdocs/Faculties	6000
Industry Professionals	12000



Register Now



## Sponsorship Details

	INR	Visibility on materials	Speaker slot	Complementary Registrations
Title	Rs. 5,00,000	✓ All	✓	15
Platinum	Rs. 3,00,000	✓ Brochure, Banners, Social Media	✓	10
Gold	Rs. 2,00,000	✓ Brochure, Banners	✓	5
Silver	Rs. 1,00,000	✓ Brochures		2
Institutional	Rs. 1,00,000	✓ Brochure, Banners, Social Media	✓	10

All sponsorship amounts are exclusive GST\*

## Stall Details

Benefits	Premium Stall (₹1,00,000)	Standard Stall (₹50,000)
Stall Space	3 m X 3m	2 m X 2m
Complimentary registrations	4	2
Prime location near main hall/entry	✓	-

**Bank Account Details:** Federation of Asian Biotech Associations,  
Indian Overseas Bank, Rajbhavan Road  
Account number 118001000010387, Savings Bank, IFSC Code IOBA0001180,  
MICR Code 500020016, BSR Code 0271173, Bank Address R.V.S. Kamala Castle,  
Raj Bhavan Road, Somajiguda, Hyderabad 500082

(\*Donations are exempted from paying income tax upto 50% under Section 80(G) of Income Tax Act)

**For more details contact:**

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