An International Virtual Conference

on

"Current Advances in Rice Blast Research"

(CARBR-2020)

Organised by

Department of Biotechnology

National Institute of Technology Durgapur

India

during December 1 – 5, 2020

Web platform: Microsoft Teams

Registration link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RxhkE9Hn8QvttM3-AGNPNssyZ0j4J__xrgPFROJ5rsk/edit?usp=sharing

Patron: Prof. Anupam Basu, Director, NIT Durgapur

Chairperson: Prof. Surabhi Chaudhuri (Head, Department of Biotechnology)

Convener: Dr. Subhankar Roy-Barman

Members of the Advisory Committee:

Prof. A. K. Meikap (Dean, Research & Consultancy)

Prof. Indrajit Basak (Dean, Academics)

Prof. S. S. Thakur (Dean, Faculty Welfare)

Prof. Biswajit Halder (Dean, Students' Welfare)

Prof. Nilotpal Banerjee (Dean, Alumni Affairs & Outreach)

Prof. Nicholas J. Talbot (UK)

Prof. Yong-Hwan Lee (South Korea)

Dr. Naweed Naqvi (Singapore)

Dr. Richard Wilson (USA)

Prof. Apurba Dey

Prof. Sudip Chattopadhyay

Prof. Sudit S. Mukhopadhyay

Prof. Kaustav Aikat

Prof. Dalia Dasgupta Mandal

Members of the Organising Committee:

Dr. Debjani Dutta

Dr. Sufia Kazy Khannam

Dr. Monidipa Ghosh

Dr. Ashish Bhattacharjee

Dr. Nibedita Mahata

Dr. Sougata Saha

Dr. Oindrilla Mukherjee

Dr. Debojyoti De

Dr. Sudipta Mondal

Dr, Amita Barik

Contact details of the Convener:

Dr. Subhankar Roy-Barman

Cell: 09434789002

Email: subhankar.roybarman@bt.nitdgp.ac.in

About NIT Durgapur:

The National Institute of Technology, Durgapur is located at the heart of steel city of Durgapur, one of the fastest growing tier-II city, in the state of West Bengal. The Institute is located about 160 KMs north-west of Kolkata on the Howrah-Delhi Main Railway-Route and overlooking the National Highway No. 2 (the great Grand- Trunk Road). The Institute spreads over an area of 187 acres of land. It is fully residential and co-educational institute. At present, altogether about 5,000 students have been pursuing their Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. programmes, NIT, Durgapur.

The institute embarked upon its tireless journey in 1960 as a joint venture between Govt. of India and Govt. of West Bengal in the name of Regional Engineering College. Eventually, the institute got transformed into National Institute of Technology under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India in 2004. Over the last few decades NIT, Durgapur has evolved significantly bringing under its umbrella additional facets of education such as Technology, Science and Research, which are complementary. The institute has acquired a status of "Institute of National Importance" through implementation of NIT Act, 2007. The institute has been declared as one of the lead institutes under TEQIP programme of Ministry of Education, funded by the World Bank.

About the Department:

Department of Biotechnology at NIT Durgapur started its eventful journey in 2005 to cater to the biotechnological needs of the society. **B.Tech. and M.Tech. programmes in Biotechnology** started in 2005 and 2009, respectively. In the current academic year this department has started with a brand new programme of **M.Sc. in Life Sciences**. The department is steadily emerging as a leader in providing excellent education in both, undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to develop cutting-edge technology through research, training, scientific and technical innovations. The department is growing consistently since its inception and now has more than fifty research scholars working in various research projects. The laboratories of the department are equipped as per the needs of the UG, PG students and PhD scholars & faculty members.

Theme of the Conference:

On this Earth we have rising problems of growing population, global warming, limited natural resources and various abiotic & biotic stress factors. In agriculture, among the biotic stress factors *Magnaporthe oryzae,* rice blast fungus, the cereal killer alone causes so much of crop loss that can feed millions of people across the globe. In the age of the COVID pandemic, our thoughts of protecting staple food crops should not get obscured as today's food

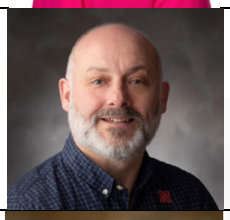
safety never ensures tomorrow's food security. However, numerous laboratories across the globe are working on various aspects of molecular plant pathogen interactions using various cutting edge technologies. The insights gained from these investigations will be useful toward resisting various diseases caused by viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens. This conference focuses on having a global view of the recent advances on molecular host-pathogen interactions especially, with reference to rice – blast pathosystem.

Objectives:

This symposium will enable participants to gain the knowledge about recent understandings on mechanisms of pathogenesis and molecular plant – pathogen interactions for the riceblast patho-system, which will enable us to develop genetically resistant crop cultivars for future generations to come. At the same time, they will also get exposure to various functional genomics technologies being used to unravel minute details of the molecular host-pathogen interactions. This meeting will stimulate and encourage interactions between the participants and world-renowned scientists. Understanding of when and how an interaction between a plant and a pathogen leads to disease development will open up new avenues for crop protection, control and prevention strategies.

Resource Personnel (Tentative):

Prof. Nicholas J. Talbot Executive Director The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich Research Park United Kingdom	
Dr. Yong-Hwan Lee Professor/Director Department of Agricultural Biotechnology Center for Fungal Genetic Resources Seoul National University South Korea	
Dr. Naweed Naqvi Senior Investigator Fungal Pathobiology Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory Singapore	

Dr. Thomas Kroj Group Leader CIRAD, France	
Dr. Miriam Oses-Ruiz The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich Research Park United Kingdom	
Dr. Richard A. Wilson Department of Plant Pathology University of Nebraska-Lincoln USA	
Dr. Martin Egan, Fungal Cell Biology Department of Plant Pathology University of Arakansas	
Dr. Rajesh Patkar Wellcome Trust / DBT Intermediate Fellow Division of Biological and Life Sciences Ahmedabad University Ahmedabad	

Course Content:

Dignitaries from renowned centres, institutes and universities from different parts of the world will deliver their talks in the area of "rice blast research" as relevant to understanding of molecular host – pathogen interactions using of various functional genomics tools.

Tentative programme schedule:

Speaker	Date and Time
Prof. Nicholas J. Talbot (Invited Keynote speaker)	Dec 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM
Selected speaker from the abstracts submitted	Dec 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Dr. Naweed Naqvi (Invited speaker)	Dec 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM
Dr. Min He (Invited speaker)	Dec 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM
Selected speaker from the abstracts submitted	Dec 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM
Dr. Yong-Hwan Lee (Invited speaker)	Dec 3, 2020 at 5:00 PM
Dr. Miriam Oses-Ruiz (Invited speaker)	Dec 3, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Selected speaker from the abstracts submitted	Dec 3, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Dr. Egan Martin (Invited speaker)	Dec 4, 2020 at 9:00 AM
Dr. Thomas Kroj (Invited speaker)	Dec 4, 2020 at 6:00 PM
Selected speaker from the abstracts submitted	Dec 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Dr. Richard Wilson (Invited speaker)	Dec 5, 2020 at 9:00 AM
Dr. Rajesh Patkar (Invited speaker)	Dec 5, 2020 at 6:00 PM
Selected speaker from the abstracts submitted	Dec 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Who can participate in the conference:

Under Graduate, Post Graduate students, Ph.D. Scholars, Post-Doctoral Fellows, Research Scientists & Faculty members. Abstracts can be submitted containing no more than 100 words including names of the authors, affiliations and contact details.

Registration fees: Nil

Selection of participants:

First 100 participants will be selected on a first come – first serve basis.

Important Dates:

Last date of online registration for participation in the conference: Nov 25, 2020

Last date of submission of abstracts (a maximum of 5 will be selected): Nov 25, 2020

Last date of notification of acceptance of abstract for oral presentation: Nov 27, 2020

E-certificates will be delivered to each and every registered participant via their email IDs.

***