

## ARVO 2014 Report

The association for research in Vision and ophthalmology annual conference ARVO 2014 was held in Orlando, Florida from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. Blend of ophthalmologists from different part of world gathered under one roof.

Opening Keynote lecture was given by Nobel Laureates, Dr. Barry Marshall on "how curiosity driven research can lead to Nobel Prize". Dr. Marshall discussed the discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in peptic ulcer disease. Dr. Marshall explained that how they noticed certain kind of bacteria present in a variety of stomach biopsies and how their findings on *H. pylori* helped change the perception of peptic ulcer disease from its association with stress, alcohol, and genetics to the new knowledge that it was infectious. Dr. Marshall, in his lecture, mentioned that many new discoveries in science and medicine are blocked due to "the danger of the illusion of knowledge". He concluded his words by quoting Albert Einstein "Curiosity is more important than Knowledge."

Broad spectrum of research areas were covered in the conference. Each day was divided into different sessions like papers, minisymposium, workshops and plenary lectures. Minisymposiums were comprised of vast topics in ophthalmology providing glimpses of research work being carried out in different fields such as pathology, mechanisms of disease, novel approaches for retinal drug and gene discovery, analysis of retinal image motion,

ocular circulation technologies and applications etc.

There was a special session for progress of women in science entitled "Where are the women, exploring role in ARVO". Dr. Justine Smith (Oregon Health and Science University) presided over the session and various speakers emphasized on the role of female scientific community and different aspects which hinder the growth of women scientists. It was mentioned that 80% member in training registered for ARVO are women that means more and more women scientists are graduating but at the top positions the number is very low. The speakers reasoned that there is a leaky pipeline in the selection system due to which women do not reach at top positions. The speakers suggested the male colleagues to recommend the women scientists for top positions.

Each day delegates from different institutes all over the world presented their research in poster session. The poster session was the most interactive session in ARVO as there is no time limit, one can freely talk to the author regarding his/her research and clear doubts and troubleshoot the problems if he/she is approached by like-minded research scientists. Besides poster session there were exhibits displaying wide range of newly launched technologies stalled by various companies.

ARVO not only provided the opportunity to plunge into the ocean of knowledge but at the same time mesmerized the

delegates with social events. There were several social events organized like ARVO classical concert, karaoke etc to entertain the participants. Besides informative and comprehensive lectures in ARVO 2014 there was a special reception to welcome and encourage the delegates to participate in ARVO-2015 to be held in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Jean Bennett's lecture on retinal gene therapies marked the end of the ARVO-2014. She became the first women to deliver a Keynote lecture at ARVO Annual Meeting.

I got the opportunity to participate and represent in ARVO 2014, where I presented a poster related to my research work "Establishment of mouse model of Ischemia by Pterygopalatine artery ligation". This coveted opportunity gave me confidence to project myself in front of other people. The interaction during the poster session was very useful for my research work. Through this conference I became aware of what other people around the world are doing in my field. As a whole, the experiences from such a reputed conference will eventually help me in my academic career.

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