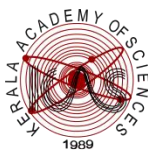


# KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

(www.kas.org.in)



## ANNUAL REPORT

(March 2021 - March 2022)

Honourable President, Vice Presidents, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Council Members, former office bearers, respected Fellows and Life Members of the Academy;

The last Annual General Body Meeting of KAS was held on 18<sup>th</sup>, December, 2021, at Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF), University of Kerala, Karyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram.

Hereby, with great pleasure, as the General Secretary of the academy, I am reporting the activities of the Academy for March 2021 - March 2022, for discussion and endorsement by the General Body of KAS.

### 1. Membership

The Academy has 13 Hon. Fellows, 68 Fellows and 624 Life Members till 31.03.2022. During the reporting year 36 new life members joined the Academy and I am happy to welcome all the new Life Members to the Academy and urge their continuous support in the activities of KAS.

### 2. Science Popularization Activities

The Academy has continued its pursuits towards science popularisation in the State through conducting several programmes including outreach programmes to school students, international seminars on specialised topics, important science and technology day observations, commemorative programmes and facilitation programmes. The academy could collaborate with several leading national R&D institutions as well as with academic institutions in organizing the programmes.

- I. KAS has partnered with the Department of Zoology, University of Kerala in organizing an International Webinar on the 'Relevance of Omics and Regenerative Medicine in the Pandemic Situation- Fifth Edition', on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. An array of stalwarts in the field

including Prof. Dr. Subhash Chauhan, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; Dr. Sanjeeva Srivastava, IIT Bombay; Dr. Arvind Kumar, CSIR- CCMB, Hyderabad; Dr. Nixon M Abraham, IISER, Pune; Dr. Sarah S. Cherian ICMR-NIV, Pune and Dr. Maya Nandkumar A, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram made presentations in the online programme.

- II. A National Webinar was organised by KAS on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, on the topic ‘COVID-19- Learning from the evidence gathered so far’. The renowned medical researcher, writer and speaker Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Sunrise Hospital, Kochi, gave the theme presentation. The programme was presided over by Prof. (Dr.) G. M. Nair, President, KAS, while Dr. M. Shaneeth, Vice President, KAS, gave the welcome speech. Dr. L. Divya, EC Member, KAS introduced the speaker and Dr. K. B. Rameshkumar, General Secretary, KAS extended the vote of thanks.
- III. The World Environment Day-2021 was observed by organizing a Webinar on the theme ‘Ecosystem Restoration’, on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2021. Dr. Manoj P. Samuel, Director, KSCSTE-CWRDM, Dr. A. G. Pandurangan, Former Director, KSCSTE- JNTBGRI and Prof. (Dr.) Oommen V. Oommen, Former President, KAS delivered the theme presentations, while Prof. (Dr.) G. M. Nair, President, KAS presided over the function.
- IV. International Webinar on ‘Phytochemistry- Impacts and Applications’ and Prof. (Dr.) A. Hisham Endowment Award Ceremony-2021’, was organised on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Chandrabhas Narayana, Director, RGCB, TVPM, and the President, KAS Prof. (Dr.) G. M. Nair presided over the function. Prof. (Dr.) P. R. Sudhakaran, Former President, KAS delivered the special address in the inaugural function. Prof. (Dr.) Mohamed M. El-Shazly, German University, Cairo, Egypt; Prof. (Dr.) M. Fawzi Mahomoodally, University of Mauritius, Mauritius; Dr. K. V. Radhakrishnan, CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram and Dr. Kajal Chakraborty, ICAR-CMFRI, Cochin delivered invited talks on various topics related to Phytochemistry in the webinar. Dr. Kholis A. Audah, Swiss German University, Indonesia delivered the Prof. (Dr.) A. Hisham Endowment Lecture on the topic ‘Indonesian Biodiversity Based Drug Discovery: A Closer Outlook’. Prof. Hisham Endowment Award-2021 was handed over to Dr. Meenu M. T., Research Fellow, CSIR- NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram by Prof. (Dr.) Oommen V. Oommen, Former President, KAS in the function. Prof. (Dr.) V. Unnikrishnan Nayar, former Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Kerala delivered the Valedictory Address. Around 250 registered delegates participated in the webinar, of

which 82 have presented their research findings in the webinar through online oral presentations.

- V. The academy has associated with SCTIMST Thiruvananthapuram in organizing Nobel Laureate S&T Seminar Series and the 11<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Science and Technology Seminar, on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram. Eminent scientists including the Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine (2018), Prof. Tasuku Honjo, Japan has made online presentations and interacted with students from selected schools across the State.
- VI. Prof. Thanu Padmanabhan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) George Varghese, former Director of Kerala State Council for Science, Technology & Environment (KSCSTE), Thiruvananthapuram, on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, as a prelude to the Annual General Body meeting-2021, at Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF), University of Kerala, Karyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram.
- VII. KAS observed the National Science Week- 2022, in association with the Dale View College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The programme was inaugurated by His Excellency Sri. P. S. Sreedharan Pillai, The Honourable Governor of Goa and the Presidential Address was delivered by Adv. G. Steephen, MLA, Aruvikara Constituency. Dr. M.K.C. Nair, Former Vice chancellor, KUHS was the Guest of Honour and Dr. R. Prakashkumar, Director, JNTBGRI, Palode and Dr. K. B. Rameshkumar, General Secretary, KAS addressed the gathering. Dr. P. Manoj Kumar, Principal, Dale View College of Pharmacy & Research Centre, Mrs. Deena Das C. S., Chairman, Dale View College of Pharmacy & Research Centre and Dr. Shaiju David Alfi, Managing Director & CEO, Dale View College of Pharmacy & Research Centre also graced the occasion.
- VIII. The academy observed the National Science Day-2022 on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, at EK Janaki Ammal Hall, Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF), University of Kerala, Karyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram. Prof. Dr. G.M. Nair, President, KAS delivered the Keynote Address, followed by Science Day Lecture by Dr. Suresh Das, Former Executive Vice President, KSCSTE, Thiruvananthapuram, on the topic 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'.  
The programme was associated with felicitating 'Kerala State Young Scientist Awardees-2022', by Prof. (Dr.) P. R. Sudhakaran, Former President, KAS. The Young Scientist Awardees Dr. Anoop. C. S, Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram; Dr. Jayanarayanan. C. R., Indian Institute of Technology, Palakkad;

Dr. Niladri Sekhar Chatterjee, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin; Dr. Ramiya A. M., Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram made short presentations of their work during the programme. Prof (Dr.) Annie Abraham, Joint Secretary, KAS extended the vote of thanks.

- IX. Kerala Academy of Sciences has joined with St. Xavier's College, Vaikom, Kottayam in organizing 'National Science Week- 2022' from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The programme consisted of National Science Day Theme Talk by Prof. Dr. Kuruvilla Joseph, Outstanding Professor and Dean, IISST, Thiruvananthapuram, Science Day Message by Prof. Dr. G. M. Nair, Webinar on the topic, 'Start-ups in Herbal Technology- Scope for future India' by Dr. K. B. Rameshkumar and various science related competitions.
- X. Kerala Academy of Sciences, along with the Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod and the Dale View College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram has organised an International Webinar on "Emerging infectious diseases, Molecular Diagnostics, Vaccines and Future Medicine" on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in hybrid mode at the Dale View College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University, Kasaragod, Prof. (Dr.) H. Venkateswaralu presided over the function, while Padmashri M. C. Dathan, Scientific Mentor to the Chief Minister of Kerala inaugurated the function. Prof. (Dr.) G. M. Nair, President, KAS delivered the introductory remarks. The Key Note address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Gagandeep Kang FRS, former Executive Director of Translational Health Sciences and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad and Professor of Microbiology, CMC, Vellore. Lead lectures were delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Linfa Wang, Duke- NUS Medical School, Singapore; Dr. Vinod Scaria, IGIB, New Delhi; Prof. (Dr.) Shyam Sharma, NIPER, Mohali; Dr. Anugya Bhatt, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram and Dr. Ruklanthi de Alwis, Duke- NUS Medical School, Singapore.

### **3. Other activities**

In addition to the programmes mentioned above, the President, Vice-Presidents, General Secretary and other office bearers and EC members and other respected fellows and members of KAS have actively participated in different science popularization programmes throughout the State, during the reporting period.

#### 4. Acknowledgements

The Academy acknowledges gratefully the generous support and co-operation in organizing various programmes by Research/Academic Institutions such as Central Laboratory for Instrumentation and Facilitation (CLIF), University of Kerala, Karyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram; Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod; Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram; Dale View College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, St. Xavier's College, Vaikom, Kottayam, Department of Zoology, University of Kerala, Karyavattom and various schools across the State for their participation in various outreach programmes during the period.

KAS is much indebted to the former Office bearers especially Prof. Dr. Oommen V. Oommen, Prof. (Dr.) P. R. Sudhakaran, and Dr. K. G. Ajithkumar for their constant support and advice throughout. A special mention to the efforts by Dr. Shaiju David Alfi, Managing Director & CEO, Dale View College of Pharmacy & Research Centre, Thiruvannthapuram and Dr. P. Sreejith for their untiring support to KAS activities.

The Academy fondly acknowledges all the invitees in various international, national and regional programmes and thankful for their words of wisdom that enlightened the scientific community. The academy also acknowledges the gracious presence of students, research scholars, faculties, scientists and general public in various programmes organized during the period, and for their valuable suggestions and recommendations.

Let me conclude the report, with a humble gratitude to the President, Vice Presidents, Jt. Sec., Treasurer, EC members and all the fellows and members of KAS for their guidance and active participation in the activities of the academy, so that the programmes became meaningful, taking the academy to greater heights, visibility and fame.

I place this annual report for discussion and approval of the Annual General Body Meeting-2022.

Prof. (Dr.) G. M. Nair  
President, KAS

Dr. K. B. Rameshkumar  
General Secretary, KAS

Dr. K. Vijayakumar  
Treasurer, KAS