

## Dr. Ambedkar College, Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur.

## **DACN World CRISPR Day 2024**



## Report on World CRISPR Day Celebrations 2024 <u>Organised By</u> Department of Biochemistry & Biotechnology Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024

The Department of Biochemistry & Biotechnology at Dr. Ambedkar College, Nagpur, celebrated World CRISPR Day on October 21, 2024, through an online guest lecture by Dr. Khushboo Agrawal, a distinguished researcher in CRISPR and gene editing technologies. The event highlighted CRISPR's transformative potential, ethical implications, and applications in genome editing and disease control. Dr. U.J. Dongre, Head of the Department, inaugurated the session with an emphasis on responsible innovation and the ethical challenges of gene editing, such as biodiversity preservation and preventing misuse for creating "designer babies." Dr. D.N. Begde introduced Dr. Agrawal, outlining her significant contributions as a DST Inspire Fellow and her expertise in molecular biology and neurodegenerative disorders.

Dr. Agrawal provided a detailed explanation of the CRISPR-Cas9 mechanism, its components, and its applications, including precision genome editing and its use in diagnosing and controlling diseases. Dr. Kushboo emphasized upon essential details of the CRISPR mechanism, its Nobel Prize recognition, and its applications in genome editing and diagnosis. A notable segment of her lecture focused on the use of gene drive strategies to replace wild mosquito populations with genetically modified ones, offering a promising approach to combat mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and Zika. She explained the technical aspects of homology-directed repair (HDR) and the role of zymogen activation in designing genetic assets to control flavivirus transmission.

The event also addressed the challenges and ethical considerations of CRISPR applications, particularly in preserving natural ecosystems while implementing effective disease control measures. Dr. Agrawal emphasized the importance of collaborative research, public engagement, and regulatory frameworks to ensure CRISPR technology's responsible use. She concluded with a call for continued research and development to refine these techniques for real-world application. Post the Q&A session student participants were asked to record their live feedback during the online session, wherein most of the participants were seen to respond positively for the content delivered during the session.

The celebrations successfully highlighted the promise of CRISPR in revolutionizing science and medicine while underscoring the need for ethical governance. The department extends its gratitude to Dr. Agrawal for her enlightening lecture and to all participants for their enthusiastic involvement, reaffirming its commitment to fostering awareness and innovation in cutting-edge biotechnologies.



## **Glimpses of the online event**



