Guest speaker: Professor Alok Dhawan, Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research

Topic:Impact of Environmental&Chemical and Human Health

Department of Medical Education, AIIMS, Rishikesh scheduled a Guest Lecture on 8September 2017 delivered by Guest Speaker Professor Alok Dhawan, Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research.

Professor Alok Dhawan is currently Director, CSIR- Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow. He also served as Founding Director, Institute of Life Sciences and Dean, Planning and Development, Ahmedabad University, Gujarat. Professor Dhawan started the area of nanomaterial toxicology in India and published a guidance document on the safe use of nanomaterials. His group elucidated the mechanism of toxicity of metal oxide nanoparticles in human and bacterial cells. Professor Dhawan has also contributed in the area of flow-cytometry especially with respect to toxicology and in particular nanomaterial toxicology.

He established a Centre for Innovation and Translational Research (CITAR) in 2017 to provide and industry-academia interface which a novel concept in the country as it a pre-incubator for industry and budding entrepreneurs who can work with scientists at CSIR-IITR.

Session started with signing of a memorandum of agreement between two Institutes by the respective Directors. Director, Professor Ravi Kant expressed his hopes for a fruitful scientific and research collaboration. In very illuminating talk given by Dr Alok stressed on Impact of Environmental and Chemical agents on Human Health. In his talk, Dr Alok Dhawan outlined how humans and animals have always been exposed to chemicals. However, dramatic increases in industrialization over past three centuries have dramatically changed both qualityand quantity of human exposures, to both natural and synthetic chemicals. He spoke about Occupational Health Hazards, and its components exposure assessment; hazard identification; dose/response assessment; and risk characterization. He outlined many successful ventures by his group and

explained how studiesaffected health issues involved. His talk focused on Genetic damage leading to health issues with substances like lead toxicity.


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