



HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

Kishinchand Chellaram College

Dept. of Life Sciences, Biotechnology,

Microbiology and Chemistry

Under the aegis of DBT Star Status

Presents



'MERCK LABS-A VIRTUAL TOUR'

The Department of Life Sciences, Biotechnology, Microbiology and Chemistry, K.C. College, HSNC University under the aegis of DBT Star Status, organized an informative and interesting '**MERCK LABS-A VIRTUAL TOUR**' on 2nd February, 2022 on the Blue Jeans platform. The session was conducted by two esteemed resource people, Dr. Ankur Gautam, Lab Services Manager, Merck High-End Skill Development Centre, CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh, India and Dr. Kirthana Sindhe, Commercial Marketing Manager, Customer Experience Lab, Merck. The virtual lab tour was attended by 211 students along with the faculty members of Department of Life Sciences, Biotechnology, Microbiology and Chemistry from K.C. College and various other colleges of Mumbai. The aim of this session was to make the students learn and understand about the capabilities of Merck Laboratories extensively. Dr. Ankur thoroughly fulfilled the objective of this session with his phenomenal expertise in this discipline and elucidative explanations.

The session was inaugurated by our Dr. (Ms.) Aashu Vajpai, Assistant professor, Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College, HSNC University who warmly welcomed the resource people and the participants attending the session. Dr. Ankur commenced the session by briefly introducing the students to Merck, a vibrant team of specialists in Healthcare, Life Sciences and Performance Materials which is purely dedicated to solve the toughest problems of Life Sciences by collaborating with the global scientific community. Sir mentioned that Merck is known to build Life Sciences skills in the country to enhance scientific competency and advanced technologies. Sir then introduced the participants to the two laboratories of Merck in India i.e. Merck Innovation Lab at Bangalore and Merck High End Skill Development Laboratory at CSIR-IMTech, Chandigarh. Dr. Ankur elaborated about the working areas of Customer Experience Lab which includes molecular biology, recombinant DNA technology, proteomics (biomarkers), cell biology, functional genomics, etc. Talking about the hands-on skill development key programs at Merck, sir mentioned the various topics that are covered during this phase i.e. mammalian cell culture, immunoassay platforms, gene editing, real-time PCR, preparation of SDS-PAGE gel electrophoresis, immunoblotting, etc.

Dr. Ankur briefly explained the participants, the functions of each major equipment present in Merck Laboratories including Luminex 200, Auto2D Gel Electrophoresis, SNAP i.d. 2.0, MAGPIX-Biomaker quantification, etc. Furthermore, sir informed the participants that Merck has been instrumental in supporting COVID-19 vaccine research i.e. Zydus Cadilla, Patanjali-Immune booster development, National Institute of Nutrition-Anti Inflammatory research, St. John's-Neonatal research, etc. Dr. Ankur also recalled the experience of meeting Dr. Harshvardhan, Former Health Minister, Government of India during the minister's visit at the Merck High End Skill Development Laboratory, Chandigarh, India. Dr. Ankur then took the participants to the virtual visit of Merck Innovation Lab at Bangalore and Merck High End Skill Development, Chandigarh separately through his meticulous and detailed videos. Sir showed the participants, the cell culture laboratory, conference room, multiplexing room, Nanodrop, CellASIC, Scepter 3.0, qPCR, etc.

Furthermore, a session called as '**Career Opportunities in Life Sciences**' was conducted by Dr. Kirthana Sindhe, Commercial Marketing Manager, Customer Experience Lab, Merck. Ma'am emphasized on the fact that having a grand vision is of utmost importance while planning any career. Dr. Kirthana elaborated about the career opportunities in Life Sciences through explaining the career road map, current job market scenario, etc. Ma'am concisely explained the participants that a true career satisfaction is achieved through perfect amalgamation of one's skills, interests and values. The main takeaway from this session was that the path and the destination of each and every individual might be different and what fuels the path may also differ, but what remains constant in every person is the energy and enthusiasm with which they plan to proceed the entire path. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session where the resource people patiently answered several questions in detail thereby ensuring that the participants doubts are properly clarified. Dr. Sagarika Damle, Head of Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College, HSNK University gave the concluding remarks and expressed her gratitude to Dr. Ankur for enlightening the students with his noteworthy knowledge and expertise.

Feedback:-

Dr. Ankur with his remarkable knowledge very concisely explained all the equipments present in the Merck Laboratory in an extremely elucidative manner. The extensive knowledge and experience of the illustrious resource person, Dr. Kirthana not only stimulated the student's interest in the arena of Life Sciences but also helped them understand the important aspects, to be successful while deciding one's career. All the participants felt that communication with the speakers was at ease and they patiently responded all the questions and clarified the doubts of the students. The virtual lab visit as a whole was splendid, as Dr. Ankur was an excellent orienteer and had keen knowledge of his work. The session was well organized and the information was effectively delivered and also the time allotted was sufficient. Many participants conveyed their gratitude along with the hope and wished to attend more such empirical and elaborate session on this subject. Altogether, the virtual lab visit to Merck was a delightful investment of time and it was a great success.



Dr. Ankur Gautam
providing an
interesting
**‘Virtual Tour to
Merck Labs’**

