Concluding Programme of the Year-Long Celebration of DBT's 30th Anniversary by the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani

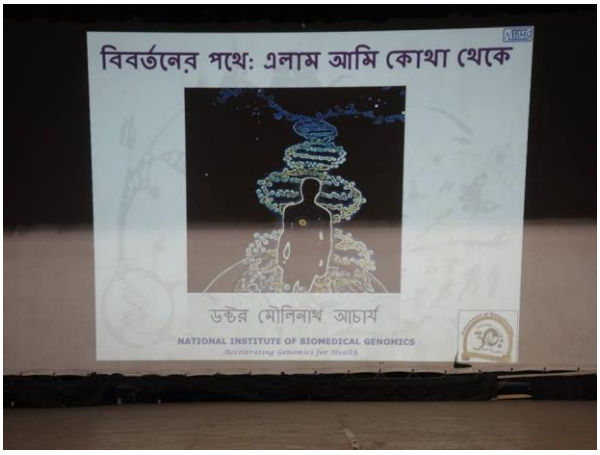
March 14, 2016

A Public Outreach Programme on "*Gene, Gene Defects and Health*" was jointly organized by the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani and *Bijnan Darbar*, Kanchrapara, on 14th March, 2016 (Monday) at Ritwik Sadan, Kalyani. This programme was organized for secondary level (classes IX & X) students of schools around Kalyani.

Over 650 students from seven schools participated. The schools were (1) Majherchar Satya Priya Roy Smriti Vidyapith High School, (2) Bidhan Chandra Memorial Govt. Girls' High School, (3) Ghoshpara Saraswati Trust Estate Vidyapith, (4) Kalyani University Experimental High School, (5) Pannalal lnstitution, (6) Sprindale High School, and (7) Kalyani Sikhsyatan.


The programme emphasized the role of genetic factors in the determination of various parameters of health and disease, with the overt objective of enthusing school students to take genetics and biotechnology as course option in their academic career. The entire programme was conducted in *Bangla*.

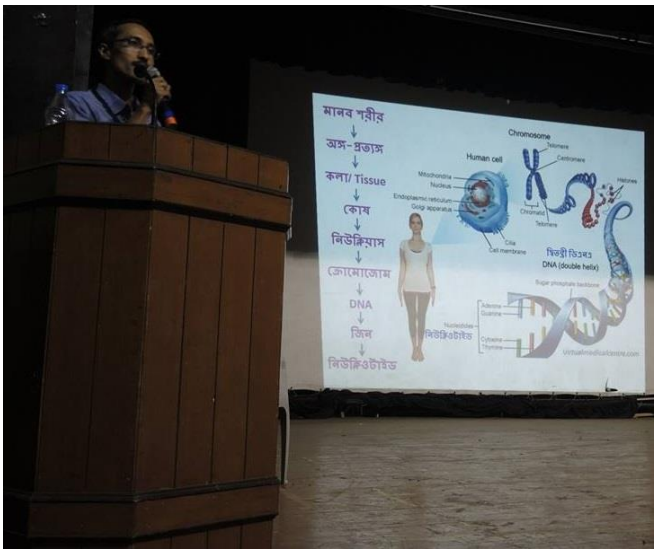
Mr. Arupratan Bagchi of NIBMG introduced the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics and its various activities in the field of genetics and genomics in health and disease. He also mentioned about the role that NIBMG is playing in making Kalyani a "knowledge hub" of science under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. He introduced the speakers of the programme and gave a brief outline about the topics of their lectures.



The first speaker was Dr. Moulinath Acharya, Assistant Professor, NIBMG. The title of his talk was "The Evolutionary Path: Where Did We Come From?" Dr. Acharya described how genes and genomes evolve. He provided examples to

show how genome evolution has resulted in the evolution of new species. Finally, he described how human evolved and the evolution of human intelligence. Overall, this talk provided a holistic view biological evolution.

The next speaker was Dr. Srikanta Goswami, Assistant Professor, NIBMG. He delivered a talk titled "The role of genomics in health science." He spoke on the purpose, key features and the main achievements of The Human Genome Project. He then exemplified how diseases were caused by chromosomal disorders (Down syndrome), single gene defects (sickle cell disease, thalassemia, etc.) and multi-gene defects (common diseases, such as, diabetes, cardio-vascular disease, etc.). He also provided concepts of pharmacogenomics using examples of response to warfarin, imatinib, etc.



Finally, he emphasized the role of genome sequencing in personalized medicine.

The programme ended with a vibrant question and answer session. NIBMG provided food packets to all the participants.