

Professor Jose Mechery



Dr. rer. nat. Jose Mechery (1932 – 2015), an illustrious teacher, researcher, and academician at St. Thomas' College, Trichur, built up and headed the Research Department of Chemistry for nearly quarter of a century. A galaxy of chemical scientists, researchers and academics were inspired during their studies at St. Thomas, by the scholarship and craft of this scientist-cum-professor. Dr. Mechery was on a silent but very fruitful campaign for excellence in teaching and research in Chemistry.

Dr. Mechery completed his Master's in Chemistry (1955) at the Victoria College, Gwalior, with First Rank and First Class, and joined the Dept. of Chemistry, St. Thomas' College, Trichur, as Lecturer in 1955. In 1957 he moved to the University of Münster, West Germany, and started doctoral research at the Physiological Chemistry Institute, on Biosynthesis of the Transformylase system in *Neurospora Crassa* and published two research papers, together with Prof. H. M. Rauen, in *Hoppe Seylers Zeitschrift für Physiologische Chemie* in 1959.

As a research scholar of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, he continued his research work in the Organic Chemistry Institute of the Technical University of Munich, under the supervision of Prof. F. Weygand, and synthesized suspected intermediates of the biosynthesis of folic acid and tested them biologically, and was awarded doctoral degree in 1962. During 1964-'65, Dr. Mechery was attached to the Physiological Chemistry Institute, and then to the Hygiene Institute, of the University of Münster. Government of India appointed him a Scientist-Officer to the Scientists Pool during 1965-'67. The University of Erlangen-Nurnberg invited him in 1971 to be a 'Scientific Co-Worker' to Prof. H. J. Bestmann at the Organic Chemistry Institute at Erlangen, where he also underwent training in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

THIRD PROF. JOSE MECHERY ENDOWMENT LECTURE

29th January 2018, 10:30 am
Menachery Hall

By

Prof. Meledath Govindan

Professor of Chemistry
Chair of the Department of Biology and Chemistry
Fitchburg State University, USA.



Organized by
Research & PG Department of Chemistry

In association with
Dr. Jose Mechery Foundation

ST. THOMAS' COLLEGE (Autonomous)
THRISSUR, KERALA

Programme

Date: 29 January, 2018

Time: 10:30 am

Venue: Menachery Hall

Welcome:	Dr. Joby Thomas K Head, Department of Chemistry
Presidential Address:	Dr. Jenson P O Principal, St. Thomas' College, Thrissur
Inaugural Address:	Msgr. Thomas Kakkassery Vicar General, Arch Diocese, Thrissur
Felicitations:	Rev. Dr. Martin Kolambrath , Vice Principal & Bursar Dr. K P Johny , President, Chemistry Alumni Association
Endowment Lecture:	Prof. Meledath Govindan Fitchburg State University, USA
Vote of Thanks:	Dr. Joseph Joly V L Convener

The Third Dr. Jose Mechery Endowment Lecture
"Bioactive Marine Natural Products"
by
Professor Meledath Govindan

For thousands of years natural products have played a key role in the development of cures for diseases. Extensive literature reviews by Gordon Cragg and David Newman of the U.S. National Institutes of Health and others have shown that over 60% of all drugs sold in the market are of natural products origin. In the area of cancer chemotherapy this figure is close to 67%. Even though many of these are of terrestrial plant or microbiological origin, marine organisms have become targets of drug discovery efforts since 1960's. With the advent of SCUBA and availability of sophisticated separation and structure elucidation technologies the field of marine natural products has blossomed in the past few decades. The marine flora and fauna remain largely unexplored. Approximately 71% of the molecular entities listed in the Dictionary of Marine Natural Products have novel molecular

structures compared to ~40% of those in the Dictionary of Natural Products. In the National Cancer Institute (U.S.) preclinical cytotoxicity screen, marine organisms show higher incidence of anti-tumor potential: 1% vs. 0.1% for terrestrial organisms. Number of new marine compounds reported each year is increasing >1000 compounds. An overview of various marine-derived drugs available in the market, clinical trials and/or going through developmental stages as potential drugs will be given.

Prof. Meledath Govindan, one of the prestigious alumni of this institution, is currently a Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Department of Biology and Chemistry at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts, USA. His research interest is in natural products chemistry, especially marine natural products. He has conducted extensive research on marine natural products with funding from the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute, USA. He has been collaborating with the Biomaterial Sciences and Engineering Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. He has been active in developing new teaching methodologies and techniques, such as POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning) and CPR (Calibrated Peer Review). Dr. Govindan serves as the pre-medical advisor for his university and guides students towards admission to various health professional programs. He served as elected member of the Nashoba Regional School Board. Dr. Govindan has been active in the North South Foundation which supports the college education of economically disadvantaged but meritorious students in India.

1st Lecture

13 Nov 2015

Prof. E D Jemmis
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore

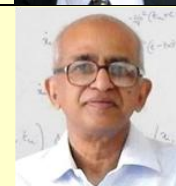


Title:
A Structural Chemistry for Boron:
Huckel $4n+2$, Wade's $n+1$ and mno
Rules

2nd Lecture

7 Feb 2017

Prof. K L Sebastian
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore



Title:
Molecular Motors