

Report on Interactive Session with Dr. Jayashree on Drug Discovery and Development

On Friday, 26th May, the Aryaans pupils had the privilege of attending an online interactive session with Dr. Jayashree, an esteemed molecular biologist and the Associate Director at Novartis, Hyderabad. With her extensive knowledge and experience in the field, she provided us with invaluable insights into the intricate world of drug discovery and development.

Dr. Jayashree began the session by introducing us to the drug discovery process, emphasizing the complexity and challenges involved in bringing a drug to market. She explained how the process starts with the identification of a potential drug target, followed by extensive research and screening to find a suitable molecule for further development. This funnel-like approach highlighted the rigorous nature of drug discovery and the careful selection required to advance a compound to the next stage.

One of the key takeaways from the session was the emphasis on ethical practices in clinical trials. Dr. Jayashree explained the importance of conducting trials in an ethical manner, ensuring the safety and well-being of participants. It was reassuring to learn that the pharmaceutical industry maintains high standards in this regard.

As Dr. Jayashree delved deeper into the drug development process, we were astounded by the scale of the operation. She outlined the significant number of technologies, scientists, and various other staff members involved in each step. This eye-opening revelation showcased the collaborative nature of the industry and the immense effort required to turn a scientific discovery into a viable treatment option.

Furthermore, Dr. Jayashree shed light on the stringent quality control measures implemented within the pharmaceutical industry. She highlighted the role of regulatory affairs in ensuring transparency and meticulous attention to detail throughout the drug development process. It was fascinating to learn about the stringent standards and protocols that are followed to ensure the safety and efficacy of medications.

Overall, Dr. Jayashree's interactive session was truly enlightening. Her story from humble beginnings to such staggering heights in the drug development industry is simply amazing and an inspiration to all her expertise and passion for molecular biology shone through as she navigated us through the intricacies of drug discovery and development.

We are grateful to Sir VPD and the Aryaans staff for exposing us and making it possible to gain firsthand knowledge from such distinguished professionals. The session broadened our understanding of the pharmaceutical industry and left us with a profound appreciation for the dedication and precision required in the pursuit of groundbreaking medical advancements.

Written by Ethan Faleiro (Class 11)