

Emerging Issues on the use of botulinum neurotoxins as therapeutics get highlighted

- Twelfth International and Interdisciplinary Symposium, New Bedford, MA

On August 15 to 17, the 12th Annual Symposium on Botulinum Toxins attracted a very distinguished international scientific group gathered at the Wamsutta Club in New Bedford, Massachusetts to promote research and create better understanding of the botulinum neurotoxins. The National Botulinum Research Center (BRC) is one of the major academic and research units of the Institute of Advanced Sciences (INADS).

In this symposium about 40 scientists from academia, government agency like Army and CDC, and industrial partners attended the three-day meeting. The Major attractions of this year's event were presentations from Dr. Bahman Jabbari (Yale Medical School) and Dr. Keith Foster (IPSEN Bioinnovations Ltd, UK). Dr. Jabbari presented the distinguished Dr. DasGupta Memorial Lecture entitled: "New Indications of Botulinum Toxin Therapy in Movement Disorders", whereas Dr. Foster presented the Distinguished Banquet Lecture entitled: "The Original Story of Designer Therapeutic Botulinum Neurotoxins". Both the speakers painted very optimistic view about the use of the toxin to relieve patients from pain and muscle disorders.

Another star presenter was Dr. Andy Pickett of Toxin Science (UK) who presented on "Why Evolution of BoNT ISN'T Important?" Several scientists also made their platform and poster presentations at the event. The uniqueness of this gathering includes, friendly atmosphere, including music and food, to discuss scientific and commercial aspects of the botulinum toxin scientist discussed various aspects of botulinum toxin research including their therapeutic applications and strategy for any bioterror threats. Two area high school (Dartmouth and Taunton) students, interning with INADS also presented their research results.

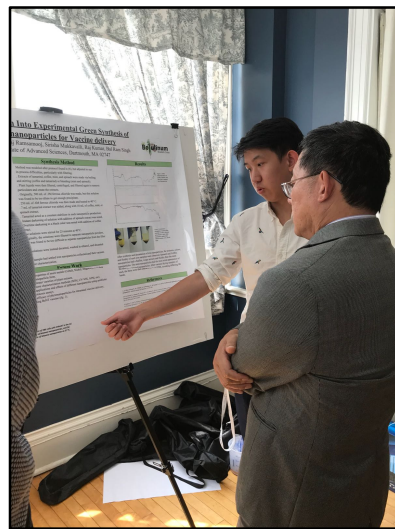
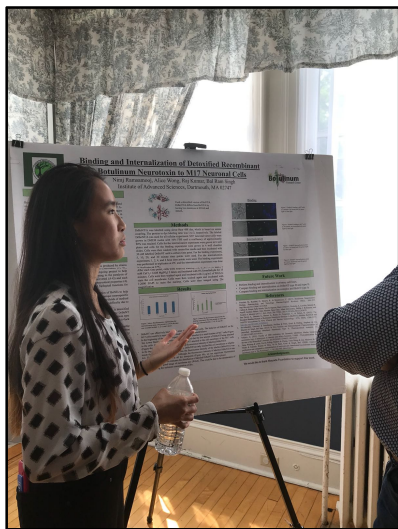
The BRC has an international advisory board consisting of scientists from the UK, Japan, Italy, Germany and the US. The role of this advisory board to promote the center's activity and provide the suggestions to lift the center as an important research organization to benefit both academia and industry.

Global botulinum toxin market is predicted to reach \$7.3 billion by 2025, and scientific contributions from Botulinum Research Center at INADS in advancing the importance of botulinum toxin cannot be underestimated. "This meeting provides an important forum to discuss new ideas the field", said Keith Foster.

This is the fifth year that the Botulinum Symposium was held at the Wamsutta Club which is situated in historical district of New Bedford, MA. The club was first established in 1865

as an athletic club for the new baseball sport. And between 1890 and 1925, the club was an important rendezvous for the area businessmen in the textile industry. More than a century later, in this mid-summer of 2018, the club now hosts the Botulinum neurotoxin group for the interdisciplinary discussion to explore the new advanced applications, novel detection tools, and the future directions for the industry.

Botulinum Research Center was first established in 2003 at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth under the leadership of Dr. Bal Ram Singh, Professor of Biophysical Chemistry at UMass Dartmouth (1990-2015). Since August 2013 BRC moved to INADS located at 86 Faunce Corner Mall Road in Dartmouth, MA, USA. "Researchers and industry leaders come here year after year attracted by collegiality in discussion and the serene venue of SouthCoast' opined Singh, Director of BRC.



{01 - Alice Wong (Taunton High School) ; 02 Andrew Zhu (Dartmouth High School)
Presenting their work at the symposium}