

## **REPORT ON WEBINARS ORGANISED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC BY MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA, MUMBAI UNIT:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when lockdown was imposed in different parts of the World including India, all activities including academics remained suspended for a very long time. To fulfill the academic aspirations, everywhere a trend of organizing web seminars through virtual mode started. During this difficult period Mumbai Unit of Mycological Society of India came forward and started organizing Webinars to begin with from Mumbai itself and then in collaboration with different Institutions of higher learning situated in the State of Maharashtra. In the webinars organized the scientist working on various aspects of mycology were requested to deliver their presentations by virtual means, which turned out to be a altogether new but learning experience for the presenter as well as the listeners. This highly interactive platform provided equal opportunity to the young researchers, aspiring scientists, and teachers to share their information, ask queries and clear their doubts for better understanding of the subject. The Webinars organized received overwhelming response, in some of which the attendance crossed even 1000 number. So far in the Webinars / Workshop organized under the banner of Mycological Society of India, Mumbai Unit as many as 23 Lectures have been delivered by the Mycologists of National and International repute. The list of topics on which Webinars were given and respective Resource Person is given below.

### **I. Independent Webinars Organized by MSI Unit Mumbai during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

1. Technological Uses of Fungi: Some Modern Approaches by Dr. T. S. Suryanarayanan, (Chennai), on May 11, 2020.
2. Wide spectrum mycopesticides: Concept to commercialization by Dr. M. V. Deshpande, (Pune), on May 18, 2020.
3. Nanotechnologies in the detection of human fungal diseases and their treatment by Dr. Vandana Ghormade, (Pune), on May 25, 2020.
4. Mycorrhizal Fungi for Sustainable Agriculture by Dr. D. J. Bagyaraj, (Bangalore), on June 1, 2020.
5. Marine fungi: A potential source of future Cosmeceuticals by Dr. Sunil K. Deshmukh, (New Delhi), on June 6, 2020.
6. The current approach to identification and taxonomy of Microfungi by Dr. D. Jayram Bhat, (Goa), on June 17, 2020.
7. Fungal endophytes: Structural and Functional Diversity by Dr. R. N. Kharwar, (Varanasi), on June 22, 2020.
8. Mushrooms in Human Nutrition and Health by Dr. K. R. Sridhar, (Mangalore) on July 1, 2020.
9. Mycoenzymes in the generation of Health-promoting prebiotics by Dr. Navin Gopal Kango, (Sagar) on July 1, 2020.
10. Current use of DNA sequence data in fungal taxonomy: Impact and future perspectives by Dr. Rajesh Jeewon, (Mauritius) on July 6, 2020.
11. Frontiers in Mycoherbicide research, recent developments, Future perspectives and Commercialization by Dr. Praharaju Laxminarayana, (Hyderabad) on July 6, Jul- 2020.

### **II. Webinars organized in collaboration with different Institutions**

1. Rare fungal Spores as trace evidence and intelligence in forensic investigations by Professor David L. Hawksworth, CBE (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) on July 25, 2020 in collaboration with **Satish Pradhan Dnyanasadhana College, Thane**
2. Prospects of Culture Collections in Research and Developments with Special Reference to NFCCI by Dr. S. K. Singh, (Pune ) on August 29-Aug- 2020 in collaboration with **SIES College Mumbai (as a part of the Diamond Jubilee year).**
3. Thraustochytrids: the saga of discovery and production of DHA, the essential PUFA of human nutrition. By Dr. Seshagiri Raghukumar, (Goa), on September 20, 2020 in collaboration with **SIES College Mumbai (as a part of the Diamond Jubilee year).**

4. *Trichoderma virens*- A tale of two mutants by Dr. P. K. Mukherjee, (BARC, Mumbai), on October 30, 2020 in collaboration with **SIES College Mumbai (as a part of the Diamond Jubilee year)**.
5. Medical mycology in India. by Dr. H. C. Gugnani, (New Delhi), on November 8, 2020 in collaboration with **SIES College Mumbai (as a part of the Diamond Jubilee year)**.
6. Diversity and Taxonomy of Fungi. by Prof. C. Manoharachary, (Hyderabad), on 6-Dec-2020 in collaboration with **SIES College Mumbai (as a part of the Diamond Jubilee year)**.
7. Diversity of Marine Fungi and their Biotechnological Potential by Dr. V. Venkateswara Sarma, (Pondicherry) on December 6, 2020 in collaboration with **SIES College Mumbai (as a part of the Diamond Jubilee year)**.

### **III. Online Workshop on Fungal Systematics and Technological Advances organized in collaboration with Shri Shivaji Science College, Amravati, on November 29- 30, 2020**

1. Fungal Systematics: From morphological to molecular markers and beyond by M.K. Rai, (Amravati).
2. Fungal Endophytes and Resilience of Plants to Climate Change by Dr. T. S. Suryanarayanan, (Chennai).
3. Taxonomy of Hyphomycetous Fungi by Dr. S. K. Singh, (Pune).
4. Morphological and Anatomical parameters for Characterization of Lamellate Mushroom by Prof. N.S. Atri, (Patiala).
5. Systematics and diversity of Polypores with particular reference to North-West India by Dr. Avneet Pal Singh, (Patiala).

### **IV. Future Programs**

In future, this series of Webinars will continue with the involvement of eminent mycologists from India and abroad. It has been planned to arrange lectures on advanced topic in mycology. Along with workshops will also be organized so as to train the young mycologists in modern research techniques, research paper writing, patent filing and framing proposals for funding from different funding agencies.

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Dr. Sashirekha Suresh Kumar, Secretary, MSI Mumbai-Unit  
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