

Report on JSS SNCI-CON 2025 – International Conference on Sustainable Brain Health: Advances in Neurochemistry & Neuropharmacology & 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neurochemistry, India (SNCI)

The JSS SNCI-CON 2025, held at JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru from 17th to 19th November 2025, brought together leading experts, researchers, and academicians to discuss significant advancements in neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, and sustainable brain health. The conference began on 17th November 2025 with a series of focused symposia on neurodegenerative mechanisms, therapeutic innovation, and molecular neuroscience.

Day 1 opened with sessions on synaptic actin cytoskeleton and Alzheimer's disease by Dr. Reddy Peera Kommaddi(IISc Bangalore), emphasizing cytoskeletal remodeling as a promising therapeutic target. This was followed by Dr. Bikas Medhi(PGIMER Chandigarh) discussing current and emerging pharmacotherapies for Alzheimer's, including challenges in BBB penetration and disease-modifying strategies. A formal inauguration ceremony highlighted global collaborations in neuroscience and the establishment of the new Center of Excellence in Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Neuroscience Research.

The prestigious Prof. K. Subba Rao Oration delivered by Dr. Nihar Ranjan Jana highlighted major advancements in neurochemical research. Subsequent sessions addressed membrane cholesterol's role in GPCR regulation (Dr. Amitabha Chattopadhyay, CCMB Hyderabad), autophagy in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease (Dr. David Rubinsztein, Professor of Molecular Neurogenetics and a UK Dementia Research Institute, UK DRI), epilepsy-induced synaptic deficits (Dr. B. S. Shankaranarayana Rao, NIMHANS), and innovations in MRI contrast agents (Dr. Anurag Gautam MRU, Hyderabad). Later talks included alcohol-mediated modulation of pain pathways (Dr. Sulie Chang, Seton Hall University, USA), finasteride-induced depression mechanisms (Dr. B. N. Srikumar, NIMHANS), differential actions of anti-seizure drugs on hippocampal circuits (Dr. Pradeep Punnakal, PGIMER, Chandigarh), and microglial CX3CR1 Receptor Endocytosis Upon Tau Exposure (Dr. Subashchandrabose Chinnathambi, NIMHANS). The evening featured poster presentations for the Suven Life Sciences Pharma Award and recognizing outstanding young investigators.

Day 2, held on 18th November 2025, explored neuroimmunology, neurodegeneration, and therapeutic frontiers. Talks covered nutraceutical interventions for mental health (Dr. Pragya Komal, BITS Pilani, Hyderabad), brain-penetrating bispecific antibodies for Parkinson's disease (Dr. Jagdeep Sandhu, National research Council, Canada), and metabolic enzyme

dysregulation in aging and alcohol-induced tissue injury (Dr. B. J. Song, NIH, USA). Sessions on gut microbiota (Dr. Matam Vijay-Kumar, University of Toledo, USA), immune evasion in glioblastoma (Dr. Nandakumar D. N, NIMHANS), and molecular links between ALS and FTLT (Dr. Rajeev Sivadasan, RGCB, Trivandrum) provided strong translational insights. Innovations in HIV-1 elimination strategies (Dr. Prasanta Dash, University of Nebraska, USA), α -synuclein aggregation inhibitors (Dr. Ravi Barnwal, Punjab University, Chandigarh), and miRNA-based stroke therapeutics (Dr. Rajkumar Verma, UConn Health, Farmington) were major highlights. Prof. Pravir Kumar (Department of Biotechnology, DTU) received the inaugural Prof. C. H. Radhakrishna Murthy Memorial Award for his contributions to neurodegenerative research. Symposium 3 and 4 brought together leading neuroscientists to discuss emerging insights in neuroprotection and neurodegeneration. Dr. Pavitra Ranawat (Panjab University, Chandigarh) opened with findings on the neuroprotective effects of sea buckthorn against cigarette smoke-induced toxicity. Dr. Nilay Solanki (CHARUSAT) followed with evidence on DPP4 inhibition in AICAR-induced Alzheimer's disease, emphasizing key molecular pathways. Under the same chairs, Dr. Gurudutt Pendyala (University of Nebraska Medical Center, USA) highlighted long-term neurodevelopmental risks associated with neonatal ICU sedation. Dr. T. Govindaraju (JNCASR, Bengaluru) provided an in-depth overview of Alzheimer's pathology and innovative intervention approaches. Symposium 4 concluded with Dr. Sivaraman Padavattan (NIMHANS, Bengaluru), who presented novel insights into the nuclear functions of α -synuclein and its relevance to neurodegenerative diseases, followed by oral presentations for Dr. G. M. Taori Memorial Award and the JSS Best Oral Presentation Awards session for young researchers.

Day 3, on 19th November 2025, emphasized molecular and cellular neurobiology, aging, and computational neuroscience. Key presentations included HSPB8 mutation-driven neurodegeneration (Dr. Neelima Dubey, Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences, Hyderabad), intermittent fasting for neuroprotection (Dr. Thiruma Arumugam, La Trobe University, Australia), microglial reprogramming in glioma (Dr. Cheah Pike See, University Putra Malaysia), and kinase-targeted therapies for glioblastoma (Dr. Suresh Rayala, IIT Chennai). Additional sessions addressed metabolic regulation of neuronal function (Dr. Vasudharani Devanathan, IISER Tirupati), AI-based cognitive diagnostic tools (Dr. Srinivasa Rao Bolla, Nazarbayev University School of Medicine, Kazakhstan), microalgae-derived therapeutics (Dr. Ashok Kumar, Saveetha University, Chennai), and addiction neurochemistry (Dr. Ravish H, NIMHANS).

The conference concluded with a valedictory ceremony recognizing outstanding oral and poster presentations, underscoring JSS SNCI-CON 2025 as a platform for impactful scientific exchange, collaborative research, and innovation in sustainable brain health.



Group photo from the inauguration ceremony of JSS-SNCI-CON 2025 featuring the dignitaries. The Prof. K. Subba Rao Oration, conducted at 11:30 AM, was presided over by Dr. Prakash Babu with Dr. Amitabha Chattopadhyay as the co-chair. The session showcased significant advances in neuroscience, emerging technological innovations, and emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in tackling complex neurological diseases. Dr. Nihar Ranjan Jana delivered the oration and was honored with the award.



Group photo from the inauguration ceremony of JSS-SNCI-CON 2025 featuring the dignitaries: Dr T. M. Pramod Kumar, Dr Sulie L. Chang, Dr Saravana Babu C, Dr K.V.S. Hari, Dr Prakash Babu, Dr Basavana Gowdappa, Dr G. Harish Kumar, Dr Amitabha Chattopadhyay, Dr S.P. Dhanabal, Dr Bikas Medhi (left to right).



Facilitating Dr. Reddy Peera Kommaddi (Center), with Dr. Meena Sakharkar (Left) and Dr. Sulie L. Chang (Right) during Session One.



Presentation of the Prof. K. Subba Rao Oration Award. Dr. Suhel Pervez, Dr. Prakash Babu, Dr. Amitabha Chattopadhyay, Dr. Nihar Ranjan Jana, and Dr. M. K. Thakur (Left to right)



Dr Dinesh Bhatia(left) and Dr A. J. Vanisree (right) felicitating Dr Anurag Gautam (center)



Dr. Amit Naik (left) and Dr. Poonam Deshpande (right) felicitating Dr. Pradeep Punakkal (center)



Cultural program



Dr. Rajpal Singh Kashyap(left) and Dr. Kishor (right) felicitating Dr. Pragya Komal (center)



Dr. Venkat Prasujanakka (left) and Dr. Amit Naik (right) felicitating Dr. Prasanta Dash with parents (center)



Dr. M.K. Thakur, Dr. Prakash Babu, Dr. Suhel Pervez and Dr .Dinesh Batia felicitating Dr. Prof Pravir Kumar (Center)



Dr. K L Krishna (right) and Dr. Jain Yang (left) felicitating Dr. Sivaraman Padavattan (center)



Dr. Cheah Pike See as speaker (online) with Dr. Mohd Akram (left) and Dr. Vadivelan R (right).



Shailaja Karri receiving 1st price for Dr. G. M. Taori Memorial Award



Valedictory Session