

REPORT ON

Indo-Australian Symposium on Systems-Level Thinking in Pharmacy Practice

Organized by
Department of Pharmacy Practice, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru

The Department of Pharmacy Practice, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, organised a one-day symposium titled “*Systems-Level Thinking for the Emerging Frontiers in Pharmacy Practice: An Indo-Australian Dialogue on the Future of Healthcare*” at the Sri Rajendra Centenary Auditorium (SRCA), JSS Hospital, on 18th August 2026. The symposium brought together pharmacy, medical and dental practitioners, along with academic leaders from India and Australia, to examine healthcare delivery through a systems lens rather than as isolated silos of practice. A total of 430 delegates from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala attended the symposium.

Dr. B. Suresh, Pro-Chancellor, JSS AHER; Dr. H. Basavanagowdappa, Vice Chancellor, JSS AHER; Dr. Vishal Kumar Gupta, Dean Academics, JSS AHER; Dr. C. P. Madhu, Medical Director, JSS Hospital; Dr. M. C. Prasad, Deputy Director, JSS Hospital; Dr. Vikram Patil, Vice Principal, JSS MC; and Dr. T. M. Pramod Kumar, Dean & Principal, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, along with Dr. S. P. Dhanabal, Principal, JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty, graced the occasion.

The inaugural keynote address was delivered by Dr. B. Suresh, Pro-Chancellor, JSS AHER who spoke about the evolving role of pharmacists beyond traditional dispensing, highlighting opportunities in clinical pharmacy, pharmaceutical research and the pharmaceutical industry. He encouraged students to build strong clinical and analytical skills early in their careers, noting that Pharm.D graduates are increasingly sought after in hospital settings and patient-centered care roles. He also touched upon the growing scope for pharmacists in academia, entrepreneurship and global healthcare systems, urging students to stay updated with advancements in the field. His talk left the audience motivated, with many students expressing renewed enthusiasm about the diverse career paths available to them.



Dr. B. Suresh, Pro-Chancellor, JSS AHER, addressing Pharm.D students, and Dr. Shilpa Palaksha welcoming Dr. B. Suresh



Dignitaries and delegates at the Sri Rajendra Centenary Auditorium during the symposium.

Session I: Global Challenges, Local Responses

The session opened with Prof. Tina Brock of the Australian Pharmacy Council, who spoke on “What Are We Doing to the Climate and What It Is Doing to Our Health,” drawing attention to the intersection of climate change and public health outcomes. This was followed by Dr. S. Ponnusankar of JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty, who addressed “Antimicrobial Resistance: India’s Response to a Global Systems Failure.”



Prof. Tina Brock and Dr. S. Ponnusankar, during their session.

Session II: Collaboration as the Cure

Prof. Debra Rowett of Adelaide University spoke on “Collaborative Healthcare Professionals: How Teamwork Transforms Patient Outcomes.” She was followed by Dr. Shilpa Palaksha, Head, Dept. Pharmacy Practice, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, who presented on “Medication Errors: Why Blaming the Individual Misses the System,” arguing for a shift from individual blame to system-level accountability in patient safety



Prof. Debra Rowett, and Dr. Shilpa Palaksha during their session.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Sri Harsha Chalasani, Associate Professor, JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, with all the speakers participating. The following topics were discussed: 1) deprescribing and rational medication use; 2) reducing the pharmaceutical footprint; 3) interprofessional relationships with patients; 4) confidentiality and interprofessional communication in the Indian context; 5) the challenge of involving too many professionals in interprofessional education (IPE); 6) quantifying how a patient feels about their medication; 7) whether to disclose a medication error to a patient; and 8) how systems-level thinking helps reduce medication errors.



During panel discussion

Session III: Interprofessional Education (IPE)

The session began with an introduction to interprofessional education (IPE) by Dr. R. S. Savitha, followed by a live, case-based IPE session on “*Anticoagulation Management in a Cardiac Patient Requiring Dental Extraction.*” Dr. U. R. Rakshith of JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, spoke on anticoagulants and their management, while Mr. H. N. Vishwas of JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty, discussed the live case. Dr. M. C. Prasad of JSS Medical College and Hospital gave a talk on atrial fibrillation, its aetiology and risk factors, followed by Dr. S. N. Chandan of JSS Dental College, who spoke on dental extraction procedures and the precautions to be taken during the process, demonstrating real-time collaborative decision-making across pharmacy, medicine and dentistry. Overall, the symposium proved highly beneficial for the registered students and was a resounding success.



Dr. R. S. Chandan, Dr. M. C. Prasad, Dr. U. R. Rakshith, Mr. H. N., and Dr. Siddharth during IPE session.