



Volume 03 Issue 01 March 2011

# BitSoc NEWS

E-Circulated news letter

An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea - Buddha

## Contents of the Issue :-

- ◆ BitSoc Outreach Activities
- ◆ BitSoc Upcoming Events
- ◆ Student Presentations
- ◆ Best Performer - Staff Development Course (SDC)
- ◆ Online Cancer Database that Speeds up Drug Discovery

## BitSoc Outreach Activities



Dr. Nisha Kotterarachchi  
Delivering the Guest Lecture



Ms. DR Gimhani Explaining  
Mechanisms of DNA  
Visualization



Student Members of BitSoc  
participating in Workshop  
Activities

**B**itSoc in collaboration with Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) conducted an outreach program at Dankotuwa Balika Vidyalaya of Wayamba Province on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011. The Theme was to “Advance the knowledge of Biotechnology among School children”. Representing the SLAAS Dr. Nisha Kotterarachchi, Head of the Department of biotechnology conducted the guest lecture on “Genetically Modified Organisms” followed by a poster presentation arranged by the BitSoc society. Students of the Science section of this school acquired the knowledge on gene technology and microbiology including DNA visualization. The Department of Plantation Management provided the microbiology facility. This programme was highly appreciated by the students as well as the teachers of this school.



A Student observing DNA  
Under UV Illumination



Ms. Sumudu Jayathissa  
Explaining the Practical  
Aspects of Microbiology



A Student Member of the  
Science Section of Dankotuwa  
Balika Vidyalaya Delivering  
the Vote of Thanks

### Next BitSoc Outreach Activity

**P**opularizing Biotechnology among school children at Central College Kuliyaipitiya.

**BitSoc Upcoming Events**

**B**itSoc is Organizing an Educational and Cultural Visit to Yapahuwa. Interested Parties are welcome to join.



## Steering Committee of BitSoc

President : Mr. A Sugandan /student 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
 Vice President : Mr. Ayeshan /student 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
 Secretary : Ms. G Liyanaarachchi /student 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
 Asst. Secretary : Ms. Sachinthika /student 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
 Senior Treasurer: Ms. DR Gimhani/Lecturer, Dept. of BT  
 Junior Treasurer: Mr. YMAM Wijerathna /student 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
 Editor : Prof. DPSTG Attanayaka/Prof. of the Dept. of BT  
 Advisor : Dr. (Ms.) NS Kotterarachchi/Head, Dept. of BT

## Committee Members (8 members):

: Dr. (Ms.) K Vivehananthan/Senior Lecturer, Dept. of BT  
 : Ms. WIWHMEH Wettewa /student 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
 : Ms. M Nusriya/student 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
 : Ms. Dharshika /student 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
 : Mr. Anuradha/student 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
 : Ms. S Baviththira/student 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
 : Ms. Pavani/student 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
 : Ms. RWPM Rajapakse /student 3<sup>rd</sup> year

## Student Presentations

**Annual Research Conference (ARC-2010),  
University of Jaffna, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010.**

Mr. Anuradha Thilakaratna, final year research student presented his research findings “*Production of Alcohol from Raw Cassava starch using Geotrichum candidum spp*” at ARC 2010 Jaffna University .

*Ebulliometer designed by Mr. Thilakaratna*



At the same conference a presentation on “*Identification of Potential Bioremediation Agents from Contaminated Sites in Sri Lanka*” was made by Dr. (Ms.) Vivehananthan elaborating the importance of identifying potential bioremediation agent present in different climatic regions in Sri Lanka. Bioremediation agents are used to clean up the polluted environment. She presented that the potentiality of using isolated the bacteria from contaminated sites for bioremediation.

## Water Professional Day

Two Final year students of Department of Biotechnology has presented and published their research findings at the symposium proceedings of the water professionals day. The symposium which was jointly organized by the Crossing boundaries (CB) project, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) and Geo-Informatics Society of Sri Lanka (GISL). Projects titled “*Screening of Xenobiotic Bacteria in Wastewater*” and “*Water treatment for bioremediation of processed Rubber Latex*” were presented by Mr. W.M.J.Y Ekanayake and Mr. Y.W. Manukulasooriya. These projects were supervised by

Dr. K. Vivehananthan, Dr. T. Wickramarachchi and Prof. D. P. S. T. G Attanayaka. (Journal - Water resources research in Sri Lanka, ISBN = 978-955-1308-14-8)



## Best Performer Staff Development Course (SDC)

Ms. DR Gimhani, lecturer of the Department of Biotechnology has received “*Best Performer Award*” for her overall performance in the SDC course’ 2010. BitSoc congratulate Ms. Gimhani for her great achievement and wish her success in future endeavors.



*Prof. D P S T G Attanayaka/Dean, FAPM Presenting the award to Ms. Gimhani*

## Online Cancer Database that Speeds up Drug Discovery

CanSAR is a powerful online cancer drug discovery database that gathers biological, chemical, pharmacological, and Clinical data to speed up the process of cancer research and drug discovery efforts. CanSAR contains information on the entire human proteome with linking facility to data on more than 1,000 cancer cells lines. This improves the access to information about all the chemical compounds known to be active on a particular drug target tying the biology and chemistry together in a new way. This database will provide the facility to observe 700,000 chemical compounds acting on 4,000 molecular targets containing a total of more than eight million experimental data points. Scientists can now, at the click of a button and at a single online location, rapidly identify the biological and structural characteristics of an actual or potential drug target, find the genes and proteins that it interacts with, assess its structural drug ability and identify any small molecule chemical inhibitors. This information is now available in minutes whereas it would previously have taken weeks to find. Patients will benefit from this because the researchers will be able to move more quickly from a basic research discovery to new drugs in the clinic. Users can search canSAR using text queries, protein/gene name searches, any keyword searches, chemical structure searches, and sequence similarity searches.

**Bio Research International BRI February 2011**

**Editorial Board :** Prof. DPSTG Attanayaka, Dr. (Ms.) SNT De Silva, Ms. KNS Perera

**Computer Applications :** Ms. BLDD Hemachandra



**BIOTECHNOLOGY SOCIETY OF THE WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF  
SRI LANKA**

**Department of Biotechnology  
Faculty of Agriculture & Plantation Management  
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka**

**Tel: 031 - 3315373**

**dept.biotec@yahoo.com**