



BitSoc NewsLetter

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Department of Biotechnology
Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Biotechnology Society
E circulated Newsletter

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Wayamba International Conference - 2016



Second Wayamba International Conference (WinC) was successfully held on 19th - 20th August 2016 at the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka with the participation of large number of national and international participants. Academic staff members of the Biotechnology department and other BitSoc members actively contributed for the event. Dr. (Mrs.) DR Gimhani, Lecturer presented research findings on "Differential expression of candidate genes for salinity tolerance in selected Sri Lankan rice varieties". Ms. MP Dassanayake, Lecturer (probationary) presented her findings related to the "Optimization of a protocol to isolate bacteria tolerating higher phenol concentrations and identifying their maximum tolerable level" and Ms. Nuska, final year student presented her research work on "Optimization of a multiplex PCR protocol for detection of *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* in bovine subclinical mastitis".

NSF Workshop on Digital Story Telling



BitSoc member, Mr. GKIS Madola participated at the workshop on "Digital Story Telling" organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka on August 24th, 2016. This is an annually organized event which aims at sharing knowledge and skills on advanced tools of Science Communication among the young scientific community.

Science and Technology for Society (STS) Forum



Biotechnology Society received an opportunity to join at the Science and Technology for Society (STS) Forum organized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research under the theme of "Harnessing Science Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development" on 7th - 10th September 2016 at the Waters Edge, Battaramulla. Ms. KM Warangi, Mr. GWDD Fonseka, Ms. HMIM Herath, Ms. DGAT Dassanayake and Ms. WBCP Weerathne represented the BitSoc.

Natural Product Genomics and Drug Discovery Conference

Ms. HMAY Herath presented research work on "Toxicity Investigations: Assessment of different Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) preparations for anti-cancer drug discovery" at the Second International Conference on Natural Product Genomics and Drug Discovery, on 23rd -24th June 2016, Colombo and received first prize in awards for best free papers of the conference including a cash prize of Rs 10,000. Dr. K Vivehananthan and Ms. DC Satharasinghe from Department of Biotechnology/FAPM, Prof. RPVJ Rajapaksha from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science/University of Peradeniya and Dr. C Rathnayaka from Medical Research Institute, contributed for the research project.

