News

Amrita Organizes International SPARC Symposium Uniting Global Leaders in Biotechnology, AI, and Translational Health Research

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Today, a three-day International SPARC Symposium on Advanced Biomedical and Translational Research wrapped up at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. The event gathered top scientists, clinicians, and policymakers from both India and abroad to bolster global academic and research collaboration.

The Amrita School of Biotechnology, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, University of Melbourne, and the Ministry of Education collaboratively organized the symposium as part of India's SPARC (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration) initiative.

The symposium, held from February 9 to 11, 2026, included in-depth discussions on topics such as molecular therapeutics, diagnostics, disease biology, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), computational and AI tools in medicine, immunity, and clinical translation. This reflected SPARC's goal of promoting high-impact international research collaborations.

Senior faculty and researchers from prominent global institutions participated in the event, including various departments of the University of Melbourne, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, Delhi University, Regional Centre for Biotechnology, and Amrita's interdisciplinary clinical and life sciences ecosystem.

Worldwide Cooperation for Translational Effect

While discussing the importance of the partnership, Professor Richard Strugnell, a Microbiology and Immunology professor at the University of Melbourne, stated: "SPARC provides a powerful framework to bring together complementary strengths across institutions and countries. Our partnership with Amrita and IIT Kanpur exemplifies the potential of international collaboration to hasten discoveries in fields like infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and immune-mediated disorders, while guaranteeing that research findings lead

to tangible health benefits.

Emphasizing the significance of India–global research connections, Prof. Sandeep Verma from IIT Kanpur stated:

“The SPARC initiative has facilitated significant scientific collaboration between leading Indian institutions and international universities. This symposium demonstrates how interdisciplinary collaboration across biotechnology, chemical engineering, AI, and clinical sciences can tackle complex health challenges and create sustainable research ecosystems.

Dr. Bipin Nair, Dean – Life Sciences at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, emphasized the life sciences' transformative role in shaping the future of healthcare and research:

The SPARC program of the Ministry of Education has facilitated a robust collaboration that unites IIT Kanpur's legacy of academic rigor and technological advancement; the global outlook and research prowess of the University of Melbourne; and Amrita University's focus on value-based education and societal impact, resulting in a truly complementary partnership that benefits all parties involved.

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Bolstering India’s International Research Presence

Faculty interactions, poster presentations by emerging researchers, and organized discussions focused on creating collaborative research proposals, exchanges of students and faculty, and enduring institutional partnerships were also part of the symposium.

As she welcomed the international delegates, Dr. Maneesha V. Ramesh, Pro Vice Chancellor of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, emphasized:

“Amrita’s involvement in SPARC reflects our dedication to research that is globally pertinent and grounded in societal impact. We are establishing pathways for translational science that benefits public health, innovation, and national priorities by uniting top institutions on this platform.

The event wrapped up with a reaffirmation of ongoing collaboration under SPARC, concentrating on co-developed research programs, shared infrastructure, and capacity building for early-career researchers, thereby reinforcing India’s expanding role as a center for international scientific collaboration.