

Seminar explores new frontiers in chemical innovation

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The process of developing medicines from molecules has ushered in a new era in healthcare, Elizabeth Egholm Jacobsen, head of the chemistry department at Norwegian University of Science and Technology, said. Addressing an international seminar as the keynote speaker, Jacobsen noted that modern advancements in chemistry make the treatment of com-

plex diseases more accessible while laying the foundation for future medical methodologies.

The School of Chemical and Biochemical Sciences at Samrat Vikramaditya Vishwavidyalaya, Ujjain and ANRF Pair SAKSHAM (SVVIIT), Indore jointly organised the one-day event themed New Frontiers in Chemical Innovation: From Small Molecules to Therapeutic Solutions. Vice-Chancellor Arpan Bhardwaj



ELIZABETH EGHOLM
JACOBSEN

presided over the seminar.

Jacobsen delivered an in-depth presentation on chemo-enzymatic synthesis, explaining that the technique integrates chemical and enzyme-based processes to produce pure beta-blockers for cardiovascular diseases. By utilising enzymes, scientists can selectively obtain desired molecular forms, enhancing drug efficacy and reducing side effects. She described the approach as a transformative step towards

green chemistry.

Debayan Sarkar from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore elaborated on precision dearomatisation. He demonstrated how converting planar molecules into 3D structures helps develop more effective pharmaceuticals. Sarkar also highlighted a novel technology developed by his team that preserves vegetables for up to 21 days without chemical damage.

Bhardwaj remarked that

the seminar opens avenues for researchers to engage with global scientific advancements. He invited Sarkar to collaborate with the university to establish a pilot unit on campus for vegetable preservation. Head of department Uma Sharma highlighted the academic importance of the event. Sheetal Pandya conducted the programme, while Darshita Sisodiya and Arisha Khan introduced the speakers. Dean Umesh Singh delivered the vote of thanks.