



Mohamed Sathak College of Arts and Science

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Sholinganallur, Chennai - 600 119.



REPORT ON ALUMNI CONNECT #1

Title: *Translating Academic Biotechnology Expertise into Industry: Career Acceleration from Preclinical Research to Quality Compliance*

Date: 06 August 2026

Time: 11.00 AM IST

Mode: Online Programme (Google Meet)

SDGs Addressed

- ❖ SDG 4: Quality Education
- ❖ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ❖ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Greetings to All,

The **PG & Research Department of Biotechnology**, in association with the **Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)**, Mohamed Sathak College of Arts and Science, successfully organized **Alumni Connect #1**, an online interaction session titled "**Translating Academic Biotechnology Expertise into Industry: Career Acceleration from Preclinical Research to Quality Compliance**" on **06 August 2026** through Google Meet. The programme was organized as part of the department's alumni engagement initiative to strengthen the connection between alumni and current students by facilitating the sharing of professional experiences, industry expectations, and career guidance.

The session featured **Mr. Mohammed Ashfaaq**, Laboratory Equipment Analyst, **BioMarin, Ireland**, an esteemed alumnus of the Department of Biotechnology (B.Sc. 2010–2013 & M.Sc. 2013–2015). Through his professional journey and industry experience, he provided valuable insights into the transition from academic learning to successful careers in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. A total of **100 students** and **7 faculty members** actively participated in the online programme, making the session highly interactive, informative, and inspiring.

Objective

The objectives of the Alumni Connect programme were to:

- Bridge the gap between academic learning and biotechnology industry requirements.
- Provide students with practical insights into career opportunities in biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors.
- Familiarize participants with industrial practices, quality compliance, and regulatory expectations.
- Encourage students to develop technical competencies, professional skills, and lifelong learning habits.
- Inspire students through the career journey and achievements of a successful alumnus.

The programme commenced with a warm **Welcome Address** delivered by **Mrs. Nasreen Najeeb**, who welcomed the gathering and emphasized the importance of alumni engagement in guiding students towards successful professional careers. This was followed by the Felicitation Address by **Dr. M. S. Mohamed Jaabir, Principal**, and **Dr. M. Syed Ali, Vice-Principal & IQAC Coordinator**, who appreciated the continued support of the department's alumni and highlighted the significance of industry-oriented interactions in enhancing students' employability and professional development.



The resource person was formally introduced by **Dr. E. Anjukam**, who highlighted the academic background and professional achievements of **Mr. Mohammed Ashfaaq**, Laboratory Equipment Analyst, **BioMarin, Ireland**, and an esteemed alumnus of the Department of Biotechnology. She emphasized his successful transition from academia to the biotechnology industry and encouraged students to make the best use of the interaction.

Mr. Mohammed Ashfaaq delivered an insightful session focusing on the diverse **career pathways in the biotechnology industry**. He explained how a strong academic foundation in biotechnology serves as the basis for building successful careers in pharmaceutical industries, contract research organizations (CROs), quality assurance, quality compliance, analytical laboratories, and related healthcare sectors. He encouraged students to strengthen their technical knowledge while developing communication, analytical, and interpersonal skills essential for industrial success.

The speaker further discussed the importance of **quality compliance and regulatory practices**, highlighting their role in ensuring product quality, laboratory standards, and operational excellence. He also shared his professional journey, explaining career progression through preclinical research, Contract Research and Development (CRD), and pharmaceutical roles. Emphasizing continuous learning and adaptability, he motivated students to develop transferable skills such as problem-solving, leadership, teamwork, and professional ethics to build rewarding careers in biotechnology.



The session concluded with an engaging interaction during which students actively raised questions regarding career transitions, higher education opportunities, industrial recruitment, and skill development. Drawing from his professional experience, the speaker addressed each query with practical insights, making the discussion highly interactive, informative, and motivating for the participants.

Outcomes of the Programme

At the end of the Alumni Connect programme, the participants were able to:

- Understand the diverse career opportunities available in biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.
- Appreciate the importance of scientific fundamentals in building successful industrial careers.
- Gain awareness of quality compliance practices and regulatory expectations in biotechnology sectors.
- Recognize the importance of transferable skills, professional ethics, communication, and lifelong learning for career growth.
- Develop greater confidence in planning their career pathways and preparing for opportunities in research, pharmaceutical industries, and global biotechnology organizations.

The programme concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by **Dr. J. Joy Sebastian Prakash**, who expressed sincere gratitude to the Management, the Principal, the Vice-Principal & IQAC Coordinator, the distinguished alumnus **Mr. Mohammed Ashfaaq**, the organizing committee, faculty members, students, and all the participants for their valuable contributions to the success of the programme. The online interaction concluded on a highly positive note, strengthening the bond between the department and its alumni while motivating students to pursue excellence in their academic and professional careers.

Thank You.

Dr. M. Syed Ali
Vice-Principal & Head
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Mohamed Sathak College of Arts and Science