

World Pharmacists Day:

Need for interdisciplinary linkages, technological innovation to meet challenges: KU VC



Srinagar September 26: To celebrate the World Pharmacists Day, the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (DPS), Kashmir University (KU) organised an illuminating seminar titled 'Pharmacists strengthening health systems.'

Experts from the field, both in-person and virtually, attended the function featuring thought-provoking lectures on diverse themes.

In her presidential address, Kashmir University Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan encouraged aspiring pharmacists to embody sincerity, professionalism, empathy and dedication in their service to patients.

Urging to strive for proficiency and excellence in their professional journey, Prof Khan said, "Qualified pharmacists play a critical role in ensuring the quality, safety, and effectiveness of medicines," adding that pharmacists are the vital pillars of the healthcare system.

Calling for cross-departmental collaborations, Prof Nilofer Khan stressed the importance of interdisciplinary linkages and technological innovation to meet the challenges of the twenty-first (21st) century.

Emphasising the significance of competence and proficiency in their respective specialties, Registrar, Kashmir University, Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir called upon budding pharmacists to dedicate themselves to serving humanity.

Encouraging research on medicinal herbs and natural products, Dr Nisar urged graduates to achieve the highest levels of expertise to achieving excellence and global recognition.

Dean, School of Applied Sciences and Technology, Prof Z A Bhat reflected on the historical importance of the day and the role of the International Pharmaceutical Federation in advancing the pharmacy profession globally.

Expressing concern over the recognition of qualified pharmacists in the society, he called on pharmacists to provide exemplary pharmaceutical care services, including patient education and counselling, alongside medication dispensation.

Former Dean and Head, Pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, Prof Roopkrishen Khar joined as a special guest online, sharing valuable insights.

Professor, DPS, KU, Prof Geer Mohammad Ishaq in his lecture 'Emerging role of pharmacists in the twenty-first century' delved into the emerging roles of pharmacists in the 21st century, exploring opportunities in areas such as Pharmacovigilance, Pharmaco-economics, and the impact of artificial intelligence and data analytics in drug development.

Global Head, Regulatory Affairs, Wockhardt Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Zoher Sihorwala in his lecture 'Opportunities for pharmacists in regulatory affairs departments' discussed leadership opportunities for pharmacists in regulatory affairs, stressing the need for acquiring new competencies and skills in response to contemporary challenges.

Head, DPS, KU, Prof Mubashir Hussain Masoodi in his welcome address encouraged students and faculty to strive for excellence at both local and national levels, seeking the administration's support in achieving their objectives.

A spirited debate competition among students on the theme 'Are pharmacists succeeding in strengthening health systems in our country?' was also held during the function.

Vice Chancellor, Prof Nilofer Khan distributed awards among the top three winners from the competition.

Students, scholars, faculty members and department alumni also attended the seminar.

Research Scholar, DPS, Insha Mushtaq proposed the vote of thanks.