

Professor Subra Suresh, Dean of Engineering, MIT, USA delivers the prestigious Dr. Dara P Antia Memorial Lecture in Pune

How to utilize the advances in mechanical properties of materials in designing a chip for detection of cancer in early stages was the topic of Professor Subra Suresh's inspiring lecture delivered to a packed audience at the Tata Research Development and Design Centre (TRDDC) Auditorium in Pune on January 23rd, 2009. With the help of several illustrative examples from his pioneering interdisciplinary team effort (consisting of material engineers, medical doctors and molecular simulation experts) in the field of nano-bio technology of malaria and cancer, Professor Suresh described in his lecture entitled "Materials Science Approaches to Human Diseases", how advanced technological tools available today can be employed to measure the stiffness of the individual body cells. The nature has designed the cells to have an optimum stiffness. The increase in stiffness of cells leads to incidence of diseases. This important finding will lead to important breakthroughs in early detection of different kinds of cancers, remarked Professor Subra Suresh, a world renowned material scientist while delivering the prestigious Dr. Dara P Antia Memorial Lecture organized by Indian Institute of Metals (IIM), Pune Chapter.

Previous distinguished lecturers in the series include Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, the then President of India, who delivered the first Dr. Dara Antia Memorial Lecture in 2006, followed by Professor T. B. Massalski, Professor Emeritus from Carnegie Mellon University, USA in the year 2007 and Dr. V. Raghavan, Emeritus Professor from IIT Delhi in 2008.

Other dignitaries who addressed the gathering on January 23rd in Pune consisting of more than hundred participants drawn from leading industries and academia during this important national event included Dr. JJ Irani, Director, Tata Sons and Past President, IIM, Mr. L. Pugazhenthay, President, IIM, and Mr. K. Ananth Krishnan, Chief Technology Officer, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

On this occasion, Professor E C Subbarao, Chairman of Dr. Dara Antia Memorial Lecture Committee paid rich tributes to Dr. Dara Antia's outstanding contributions to the metallurgical industry, education and research. He also presented a memento to Professor Subra Suresh. Dr. Irani introduced the distinguished speaker. Professor Subra Suresh presented a bouquet to Mrs. Jeroo Antia who very kindly agreed to grace the occasion. Dr. Pradip, Honorary Secretary, Dr. Dara Antia Memorial Lecture Committee welcomed the delegates and proposed a vote of thanks.



Professor Subra Suresh, Dean of Engineering, MIT, USA presenting a bouquet to Mrs Jeroo Antia on the occasion of Fourth Dr. Dara P Antia Memorial Lecture function held in TRDDC Auditorium in Pune on January 23rd, 2009.



Professor Subbarao, Chairman, Dr. Dara P Antia Memorial Lecture Committee presenting a memento to Professor Subra Suresh, Dean of Engineering, MIT, USA on the occasion of Fourth Dr Dara P Antia Memorial Lecture Function held in Pune on January 23rd, 2009

Earlier in the day a Workshop on Surface Engineering was organized by IIM, Pune Chapter. Over 70 delegates drawn from the academia, industries, research Labs and the young and budding metallurgical engineers from all over India attended this workshop.

Financial support from Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services and ThyssenKrupp Industries in organizing the event is gratefully acknowledged. Help, cooperation and enthusiastic support from a large number of volunteers from College of Engineering, Pune, Tata R&D Design Centre and TCS contributed greatly to the success of this mega-event.



From left to right: Dr. Pradip, Professor Subra Suresh, Professor EC Subbarao, Mrs. Jeroo Antia, Dr. JJ Irani, Mr. L. Pugazhenthay, Professor NB Dhokey and Professor RC Prasad