

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week Celebration 2024

Theme: Educate, Advocate, Act Now

The Department of Microbiology at VIMS&RC celebrated World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) between Nov 18th -24th 2024 with great enthusiasm and dedication. The event aimed to raise awareness about the global issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to inspire action among healthcare professionals and students under this year's theme, ***Educate, Advocate, Act Now.***

Highlights of the Celebration: The following events were organized on 22.11.24 to create awareness among UG and PG medical students.

1. Rangoli Competition

The event began with a vibrant Rangoli competition, where undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students showcased their creativity. Beautiful Rangoli designs incorporating symbols, bacteria, and messages on AMR effectively conveyed the urgency of addressing antimicrobial resistance through education and action.

2. Essay Writing Competition

An essay writing competition on the theme “Antimicrobial Resistance: No action today, no cure tomorrow” was held for UG and PG students, encouraging participants to delve deeper into the theme. The essays reflected students' awareness and proposed practical solutions to tackle AMR.

3. Poster Competition

To engage participants visually, a poster competition was organized, inviting students to present innovative ideas on preventing AMR. The posters emphasized the importance of appropriate antibiotic usage, infection prevention, and advocacy for global action. The event brought out creative and impactful designs that resonated with the audience.

4. Go Blue campaign

The entire hospital staff were encouraged to **GO BLUE** by wearing blue colour dress on that day. The medical students wore **blue ribbons** to show their solidarity for the cause.

Impact and Takeaways: The event successfully educated students on the critical role they play in mitigating AMR. By engaging in activities like Rangoli, essay writing, and poster design, participants gained a deeper understanding of antimicrobial stewardship.

The celebrations concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where the best entries were recognized and awarded. Respected medical superintendent Dr Uma Maheswar, Chief administrative officer Dr Ravi Babu and MEC chair, Dr Geeta Narayanan gave away the prizes. They encouraged students to implement the lessons learned during the week in their professional and personal lives.

Through these activities, the **Department of Microbiology** emphasized the collective responsibility of healthcare professionals to educate, advocate, and act now against the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.