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Press Release

Three PhD Scholars from MCARS, JMI join Postdoctoral Fellowships in USA

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia(JMI) is pleased to announce that three of its PhD scholars: Dr. Md Iqbal Azmi, Dr. Saleem Anwar, and Dr. Khursheed Ul Islam, who completed their doctoral research under the supervision of Dr. Jawed Iqbal at Multidisciplinary Centre for Advanced Research and Studies (MCARS), Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), have recently secured esteemed postdoctoral positions in the United States.

Dr. Md Iqbal Azmi was awarded the ICMR-SRF and the TNQ Inspiring Science Award-2022 for his groundbreaking development of a CRISPR-based COVID-19 detection technology during his PhD. He is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Rochester, New York, USA.

Dr. Saleem Anwar, also a recipient of the ICMR-SRF fellowship, received the Best Oral Presentation Award at a conference hosted by the Department of Biosciences, JMI. He has now joined Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

Dr. Khursheed Ul Islam, another PhD student from the same lab, has also begun his postdoctoral research at the University of Rochester, NY.

Remarkably, all three scholars received their postdoctoral offers shortly after defending their PhDs, joining within a span of three months. This achievement reflects the exceptional mentorship provided by Dr. Iqbal and the superior quality of research conducted in his laboratory.

Dr. Jawed Iqbal joined MCARS, JMI in July 2017 and has played a pivotal role in its growth. Alongside mentoring PhD students, he has guided numerous master's students. Notably, Ms. Fatemah Rizvi (M.Sc. Virology) was awarded the prestigious Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship, and Ms. Adila Khanam received the esteemed Princeton Foundation Scholarship Award, USA, under his mentorship. Many other master's students trained under Dr. Iqbal have gone on to join reputed institutions for their future pursuits.

Dr. Iqbal's research is currently funded by three major grants from DBT, SERB, and DST, totaling INR 2.36 crore. These funds have enabled significant scientific breakthroughs, including the development of a COVID-19 detection kit and a dual CRISPR-based diagnostic system for HCV and HBV. These innovations were made possible through collaborations with Dr. Tanveer Ahmad, Dr. Mohan Joshi (JMI), and scientists from other institutions.

Dr. Iqbal's dedication to academic excellence and innovation has significantly enriched the research environment at MCARS, JMI. He sincerely acknowledges the support of DBT through the Ramalingaswami Fellowship, and expresses gratitude to JMI for providing the infrastructure essential to his research.

He extends his heartfelt thanks to the Honorable Director, Prof. Mohammad Husain, for his invaluable support and encouragement, as well as to Dean Prof. Zahid Ashraf and the Vice Chancellor Prof. Mazhar Asif for their continued support in facilitating his grants and fellowship activities.

