

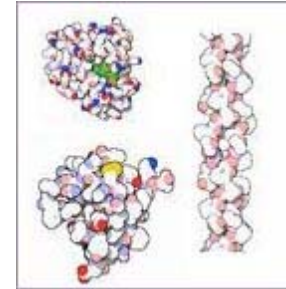
National Science Day lecture



Prof M Vijayan's lecture on Structural Genomics: A New Initiative on Form and Function of Proteins was absolutely brilliant.

"Biology is really quite easy; after all even a physicist like me has managed to learn it", Prof Vijayan said with the characteristic modesty that one associates with a true scholar. The speaker really made the biology appear rather simple. "What is life?", he asked, "or rather what are the molecules most characteristic of life?". This led to an absorbing narrative featuring DNA and the DNA language ("with all those ATCG's"), proteins and their "incredible variety", an explanation of how proteins fold, a nostalgic tribute to insulin ("a very dear molecule"), references to midnight walks at Oxford and the recreation of an idyllic world starring Dorothy Hodgkin.

After describing the genome, Prof Vijayan went on to give a fairly detailed of the many Indian initiatives in structural genomics (especially on TB) and wondered aloud why we rush into drug development without fully understanding the fundamentals first



Dr Prahlad introduced Dr Vijayan. After his wonderful lecture the speaker was warmly applauded.