

Important dates:

Submission of abstract: 30th October, 2010
Intimation of acceptance: 30th November, 2010
Registration by: 30th December, 2010

Registration details:

Registration fees: Rs.1,500/-
Students: Rs. 500/-
Foreigners: \$200/

Office bearers:

Convenor: Prof. Bakhtaver S. Mahajan
Co-Convenor: Dr. Susan Eapen
Secretaries: Dr. V.Sudha Rao
Dr. Devaki Ramanathan
Treasurer: Ms. Rashmi Rastogi

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**INDIAN WOMEN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION
(IWSA)**

XI All-India Meeting of Women in Science

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: ETHICAL ISSUES

**28-30 January, 2011
Navi Mumbai, India**

Venue: Indian Women Scientists' Association
Plot No.20, Sector 10-A, Vashi
Navi Mumbai 400703, India
Tel: 27661806; FAX: 27653391; www.iwsa.net
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About IWSA: Indian Women Scientists' Association, an NGO established in 1973 with nine branches in the country, carries out a variety of activities in the domain of science popularization and in understanding the socio-economic issues of working women/scientists. The building complex at its head quarters in Vashi, Navi Mumbai, houses a working women's hostel, day-care centre, nursery school and other community facilities like computer centre, science laboratory and library, health care centre, and a multi-purpose hall. IWSA also conducts a nursery teachers' training programme in affiliation with the SNDT Women's University.

National conferences on different themes are a regular feature of IWSA. Students and young scientists are especially encouraged to participate.

Conference registration is open to all women and men.

Science & Technology: Ethical Issues

THE last century has witnessed major advances in science and technology (S&T) which have greatly impacted our lifestyles and understanding of the world around us. Many of these developments in S&T — life sciences and medicine, physical sciences and engineering — are leading the human race down unpredictable pathways. While improving certain aspects of our life, several of these developments have also raised a variety of ethical issues.

Ethics can be defined as principles of good human behaviour. The ancient axiom, ...you shall do no harm to anybody or anything; you shall do good if you are in a position to do so... is valid today in these times of rapid scientific breakthroughs. Indeed, a study / discussion of ethical principles is required in all aspects of human society and in all professions, ranging from politics to business and journalism to science and technology.

This national conference aims to create awareness about ethical ideals in S&T which are often compromised today. Competition rather than co-operation, patents, profits and publications rather than the growth of new ideas and conceptual knowledge, seem to be the operating *mantras* in today's globalised working of science. The conference also aims to bring out how ethical principles are applicable at all levels in S&T— at institutional and individual levels, and to the entire scientific community.

INDEED, ETHICAL VALUES STRENGTHEN SCIENCES AND SOCIETIES.

Three major strands will be taken up in this conference: ethics of doing science, ethics in scientific applications (technologies) and ethics in medicine.

Themes

Ethics of Doing Science

A host of issues confront scientists and others in the pursuit of their careers. Some relevant issues are: maintaining honesty, social responsibility and objectivity, conflict of interest, data management, preparation of reports/papers, authorship and credit sharing, mentoring, treatment of whistle blowers, careless research, etc.

Ethics in Scientific Applications (technologies)

As different disciplines develop, scientists and technologists face ethical dilemmas as in: biotechnology, genetics and brain research, clinical trials on human subjects, nanotechnology, nuclear technology, information technology, robotics, etc. Their uses, potential dangers and injustices perpetuated by several of these technologies need to be addressed.

Ethics in Medical Sciences

Medical ethics has been a topic of discussion in the country for several years. With advancements in various investigative and treatment modalities, certain issues which need immediate attention in the country are: organ transplantation specially cadaveric, surrogacy and termination of pregnancy under special situations, euthanasia, doctor-patient relationship, prescribing ethics, etc.

Other themes under 'S&T and ethics' could also be considered.

(The term scientist is used in a wider sense and includes technologists and all those with a basic degree in sciences.)