

# NEWS BULLETIN

## FUTURE PHARMACISTS OF GCU GAIN INDUSTRY EXPOSURE AT AVIZEN BIOPHARMA



GUWAHATI, Mar 22: The School of Pharmacy, Girijananda Chowdhury University, organized an industry visit to Avizen Biopharma, Guwahati, on 18th March 2025. Final-year B.Pharm and M.Pharm students gained hands-on experience with pharmaceutical manufacturing processes and interacted with industry professionals.

Mr. Tanmoy Acherjee and Mr. Rilinjit Kashyap, who had been alumni of School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, GCU and presently working at Avizen Biopharma, guided and motivated the students, sharing their industry experiences.

The visit was led by Mr. Ranadeep Borgohain, Training and Placement Coordinator, and Ms. Tutumoni Kalita, Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy. This visit highlighted the importance of industry-academia collaboration and we look forward to future partnerships to enhance our students' learning experiences.



*Students gaining practical insights into pharmaceutical manufacturing at Avizen Biopharma.*

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## GCU STUDENTS EXPLORE MOBILE FILM MAKING AT AIRTSC WORKSHOP



GUWAHATI, Mar 22: 7 students from the Department of English and Foreign Languages of Girijananda Chowdhury University, Guwahati took part in the workshop on Mobile Film Making organized by The Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and Scheduled Castes (AIRTSC) on 18th March, 2025. The workshop took place in the AIRTSC Seminar Hall near Khanapara, Guwahati. It was a pre-festival event as a part of National Tribal Film and Literature Festival that is to take place soon from 27th of March to 29th of March, 2025 at NEDFi Convention Centre at Dispur in Guwahati. Sponsored by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, the workshop was an interactive session between students and Director, National Film Awardee for Best Assamese Feature Film, and mentor Kulanandini Mahanta, known for remarkable works such as Emuthi Puthi (2022), Ravening or Amish (2019).

The session began with the speech of chief guest Smit Binita Pegu, IAS, Secretary followed by a short interactive session with Dr. Kaling Dabi and Madhu Raghavendra and finally a speech and a workshop by Kulanandini Mahanta. The workshop was held in two parts: introductions were given in the first while the second half consisted of a brief seminar where Director Kulanandini Mahanta talked about the basics of movie making with classic film examples such as Psycho (1960), Citizen Kane (1941) and The Grand Budapest Hotel (2014).



*Students engaged in the technical sessions of the workshop.*

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## EXPLORING CLIMATE REALITIES: GCU STUDENTS ENGAGE IN MEDIA'S ROLE IN CLIMATE AWARENESS



GUWAHATI, Mar 22: A group of students from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Girijananda Chowdhury University accompanied by Dr. Puja Sen and Dr. Rohan Basu, participated in a day-long workshop on Climate Realities and the Role of Media at Gauhati University on March 20, 2025. The event was organized by the Department of Communication and Journalism at Gauhati University, in collaboration with the Assam State Disaster Management Authority. The participation of students was facilitated through a collaborative effort between the Departments.

The workshop featured insightful sessions delivered by distinguished resource persons, including Dr. Shaswati Goswami (Regional Director, IIMC Aizawl), Dr. Alfarid Hussain (Associate Professor, Assam University, Silchar), Dr. Biju Dharmapala (Dean of Academic Affairs, Garden City University, Bangalore), and Shri Bhargav Saikia (Media Expert, NHM). In addition to engaging discussions, the event included a film screening and cultural performances, making the experience both informative and captivating for all attendees.



Hearing from the experts.

# NEWS BULLETIN

## CELEBRATING THE GCU LEGACY – ALUMNI MEET 2025 STRENGTHENS THE UNIVERSITY'S EVER-GROWING ALUMNI NETWORK

GUWAHATI, Mar 22: Girijananda Chowdhury University Alumni Association proudly organized the Alumni Meet 2025 on March 8 at Debananda Chowdhury Auditorium. The event witnessed a remarkable turnout, with a large gathering of approximately 300 alumni coming together to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate their shared journey.

The gathering was formally welcomed by Prof. Dipankar Saha, President of the Alumni Association, who addressed the attendees and expressed his excitement for the event. Mr. Faruk Ahmed, Secretary of the Alumni Association, presented the Activity Report of the session and outlined the upcoming activities planned under the banner of the Alumni Association. He emphasized the significance of alumni engagement and the role it plays in GCU's continued growth. Mr. Trideep Saikia, Treasurer of the Alumni Association, provided a detailed report on the financial expenditure for the session and shared the future planning for the association's activities.

A significant highlight of the meet was the launch of the first-ever Alumni Association website. Prof. Kandarpa Das, Vice Chancellor, GCU inaugurated the website and delivered an insightful speech, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong ties with alumni for the university's growth and development.

The formal session was followed by an "Alumni Spotlight - Open Mic" session, where alumni had the opportunity to share their heartfelt memories, feedback, and experiences. This interactive session allowed for a deep sense of nostalgia and connection among the attendees. The formal part of the meet concluded with a 'Vote of Thanks' by Mr. Abhinandan Kalita, Working President of the Alumni Association, expressing gratitude to all attendees and speakers.

The evening continued with an exciting Cultural Program, featuring a band performance by Richita and Group, bringing energy and excitement to the gathering. The evening reached its peak with a spectacular Musical Extravaganza by renowned singer Asees Kaur, leaving the attendees with lasting memories of an evening filled with inspiration and camaraderie.

This Alumni Meet not only rekindled old bonds but also laid the foundation for future endeavors, reinforcing the university's commitment to fostering a strong and supportive alumni network. The Alumni Meet 2025 was a grand success, further solidifying the bond between the alumni and their alma mater, while setting the stage for future collaborations and endeavors.



Musical and cultural performances.



Wisdom, memories and motivation: Reunited voices of alumni shaping the aspirations of tomorrow.

Launching of the Alumni website of GCU.

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## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN DRUG DISCOVERY – GCU FACULTIES CONTRIBUTE TO GROUNDBREAKING STUDY ON FERROPTOSIS INHIBITORS WITH RUSSIAN RESEARCHERS

GUWAHATI, Mar 22: A collaborative team of researchers from Russia and India has unveiled a pioneering study exploring the anti-ferroptotic and cytotoxic potential of 2-aminomethyl phenothiazine derivatives on BT-474 cells. The findings have been published in the prestigious journal *Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Archives of Pharmacology* (Springer Nature).

Ferroptosis, a recently identified form of regulated cell death, plays a critical role in various pathological conditions, including ischemic stroke, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, as well as cardiovascular diseases. Inhibitors of ferroptosis are gaining significant attention as potential novel therapeutic strategies.

The study revealed that 2-aminomethyl phenothiazine (PTZ-NH<sub>2</sub>), along with its alkyl derivative (PTZ-capryl) and mitochondria-targeted triphenylphosphonium conjugate (PTZ-TPP), exhibit protective effects on BT-474 cells in an erastin-induced ferroptosis model. This protective action is believed to be linked to the compounds' ability to mitigate the excessive production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in erastin-treated cells. The antioxidant properties of these compounds were further validated using isolated rat liver mitochondria. Notably, higher concentrations of PTZ-NH<sub>2</sub> demonstrated cytotoxic effects on BT-474 cells (IC<sub>50</sub>=55 μM), which were significantly amplified by PTZ-TPP (IC<sub>50</sub>=15 μM), likely due to its mitochondrial targeting. In contrast, the alkyl derivative (PTZ-capryl) showed no cytotoxic activity up to a maximum concentration of 100 μM, positioning it as a promising anti-ferroptotic agent with a wide therapeutic window.

"This collaborative endeavor highlights the power of international cooperation in scientific discovery. The findings of this current investigation have open new avenues for developing ferroptosis-targeting therapies, with PTZ-capryl emerging as a particularly promising candidate due to its potent anti-ferroptotic properties and lack of cytotoxicity," stated by Dr. Damiki Laloo, Director of R&D from Girijananda Chowdhury University. He also acknowledged Dr. Mikhail V. Dubinin as the principal investigator and corresponding author of this study, along with his team from Russia. Additionally, Dr. Laloo and Dr. Jun Moni Kalita both from the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Girijananda Chowdhury University contributed to the success of this publication.

The research was a joint involving researcher from Mari State University, the Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Biophysics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Petrochemistry and Catalysis of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia), and Girijananda Chowdhury University (India).

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**2-Aminomethyl phenothiazine, its alkyl and triphenylphosphonium derivatives suppress erastin-induced ferroptosis in BT-474 cells but exhibit distinct cytotoxic activities**

Research | Published: 05 March 2025  
(2025) Cite this article



Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Archives of Pharmacology

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Contributors in Ferroptosis research: Dr. Laloo, Dr. Kalita, Dr. Dubinin and Dr. Belosludtsev drive Indo-Russian scientific study.