

Good afternoon everyone ‘we are grateful that we have an eminent personality in this webinar. Respected Prof Dr Antony Gomes, Ex- Professor & UGC Emeritus, UGC BSR Fellow, Dept. of Physiology, Calcutta University, Dr. Apurba Giri, Convener of this seminar and faculty of Nutrition department of the college, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Samanta, joint convener and HOD of Chemistry of the college, my dear colleagues, researchers, students and the audience. Now, it is my great opportunity to welcome all of you in this Inter National Webinar on **“Vaccine Basics and Covid- 19 Vaccine-An Update.”**

Vaccines are not like other medicines but they act against virus and bacteria protecting our body from becoming sick. They activate our immune system to create anti-body against a particular virus or bacteria before complete domination of that external agent inside our body. There are different types of vaccines depending on what contains in them. The most common of all is a vaccine made of inactivated virus or bacteria or any other micro-organism that we are concerned with. As they are inactivated they cannot harm our body but our immune system takes it as potential danger to our body. So, it starts to create anti-body. Polio vaccine is an example of this kind. Other type of vaccines contains attenuated live micro-organisms or a toxic part causing diseases in our body or a part of DNA or RNA strains of the micro-organism. They all give our body enough time to create antibody long before our body exposed to that micro-organism.

As the world is now suffering from a dreadful pandemic caused by Wuhan Virus, it is high time that we need vaccines as soon as possible. Russia already declared that they created a vaccine named Sputnik V, though the scientific community is still divided on questions of its affectivity and innocuousness. More scientific trials are needed to firmly accept this vaccine. Many Indian companies with collaboration with foreign private companies and universities and India’s ICMR are also trying to make effective vaccines. Serum Institute of India, Zydus Cadila, and Bharat Biotech are among the most promising private companies to create Covid vaccines from India. But more scientific trails are necessary to make the vaccine for public. It seems like we might have a vaccine by the end of this year.

Here, we have many resource persons present. We will hear more from them in details.

I do hope that, this sort of interaction and exchange of news and views in a Seminar will greatly enrich researchers and students as well as this will be helpful to equip the people with proper implementation.

It is my great pleasure that the Nutrition department of our college has been organizing this type of Seminar in collaboration with the research cell of the college.

Last but not the least I express my profound respect and best wishes to all respected Guests and Speakers for taking interest in this matter and giving us their valuable time. Thank you all.