

Report of CYTOCON 2025

held at Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry 14–17 November 2025

Submitted by Dr Siddaraju N, the Organising Chairperson, CYTOCON 2025

The 55th Annual Conference of the Indian Academy of Cytologists (CYTOCON 2025) was successfully organised by the Department of Pathology at Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry, from 14th to 17th November 2025. This prestigious annual meeting brought together cytopathologists, trainees, and laboratory professionals from across India and abroad, providing a vibrant platform for academic exchange, skill enhancement, and collaborative learning.

The theme of the conference was “Unfolding Various Aspects of Cytology – Connecting Cells to Clinical Care.” The theme reflected the expanding role of cytopathology in bridging diagnostic laboratory medicine with clinical decision-making and patient management.

The successful organization of CYTOCON 2025 was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the organizing committee. Dr. Siddaraju N served as the Chairperson, with Dr. N. G. Rajesh as the Co-Chairperson. Dr. Debasis Gochhait took on the responsibilities of Secretary-cum-Treasurer, while Dr. Rashmi P. Joshi served as the Joint Secretary and Dr. V. Sivagourou as the Joint Treasurer. The committee members included Dr. Bhawana A. Badhe, Dr. Rakhee Kar, Dr. Pampa Ch. Toi, Dr. B. H. Srinivas, Dr. J. Sree Rekha, Dr. Prabhu M, Dr. Kaniyappan Nambiar, Dr. Sanjay Sriram S, and Dr Sharan K C. The organizing committee worked tirelessly in planning and coordinating the scientific program, logistics, and overall execution of the conference, and their collective efforts contributed significantly to the smooth conduct and success of CYTOCON 2025.

CYTOCON 2025 featured a comprehensive scientific program with prestigious orations, international guest lectures, symposiums, slide seminars, free paper presentations, and poster sessions. Eminent national and international experts in cytopathology delivered insightful lectures and shared their experience on evolving diagnostic techniques and recent advancements in the field, including a session on artificial intelligence. The conference also included interactive sessions that fostered discussions among delegates, residents, and faculty members.

The conference commenced with a pre-conference CME titled “Cases Illustrating the Various Cytopathology Reporting Systems: An Indian Perspective,” moderated by Dr Bharat Rekhi, the IAC secretary. The CME focused on practical diagnostic challenges and highlighted the application of various cytopathology reporting systems in routine practice. The CME included three scientific sessions chaired by eminent cytopathologists.

- Session I, chaired by Dr. N. Siddaraju and Dr. Dev Prasoon, covered the Sydney System for Lymph Node Cytopathology by Prof. Nalini Gupta (PGIMER, Chandigarh), and the WHO Reporting System for Soft Tissue Cytopathology by Prof. Bharat Rekhi (Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai), followed by an interactive discussion.

- Session II, chaired by Dr. Rohit Tewari and Dr. Uma Handa, included lectures on the International System for Reporting Serous Fluid Cytopathology by Prof. Sandeep Mathur (AIIMS, New Delhi), the Bethesda System for Cervical Cytology by Prof. Shilpi Agarwal (LHMC, New Delhi), the Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology by Prof. Radhika Srinivasan (PGIMER, Chandigarh; virtual), the Milan System for Reporting Salivary Gland Tumors by Dr. R.G.W. Pinto (Goa Medical College), Pancreaticobiliary Cytopathology by Dr. Anuradha Sekharan (AIG Hospital, Hyderabad), and Lung Cytopathology by Dr. Aruna Nambirajan (AIIMS, New Delhi), followed by an industry-sponsored session.
- Session III, chaired by Dr. Palash Mandal and Dr. Pavneet Selhi, focused on cases of benign and malignant categories highlighting triumphs and pitfalls in cytopathology, with case-based presentations on breast cytology by Dr. Indranil Chakraborty (AIIMS Kalyani), thyroid cytopathology by Prof. Ramnawal Rao (SGPGI, Lucknow), soft tissue cytopathology by Prof. Deepa Rani (SN Medical College, Agra), gynaecologic cytology by Prof. Meherbano Kamal (Former, GMC Nagpur), and effusion cytopathology by Prof. Rasika U. Gadkari (AIIMS Nagpur), followed by concluding remarks and discussion.
- The day concluded with the IAC Executive and Journal of Cytology Committee meetings, followed by the formal inauguration of CYTOCON 2025 and dinner for the delegates.

The CME was followed by two days of the conference

Conference Day 1 (Day 2) featured the following prestigious lectures and scientific sessions:

- Prof. P. N. Wahi Oration – delivered by Prof. Nalini Gupta; chaired by Dr. Dev Prasoon and Dr. N. Siddaraju.
- IAC Academy Guest Lecture – delivered by Dr. Yeo Yen Ching; chaired by Dr. U. S. Dinesh and Dr. Surendra Verma.
- Nalini Bai Thakkar (NBT) Award – Oral Paper Presentations – presented by selected candidates; chaired by Dr. Reena Bharadwaj and Dr. Shilpi Agarwal.
- Jwala Devi Award – Oral Paper Presentations – presented by selected candidates; chaired by Dr. Pooja Bakshi and Mr. Saleem Pathuthara.
- IAC Academy Oration – delivered by Prof. Jerzy Klijanienko; chaired by Dr. R. G. W. Pinto and Dr. Rohit Tiwari.
- Poster and Oral Proffered Paper Presentations – presented by selected candidates across various cytopathology topics.

Day one was followed by a vibrant banquet evening, which allowed delegates to interact informally with all the stalwarts of cytology.

Conference Day 2 (Day 3) featured the following scientific sessions and lectures:

- Ernest Fernandes Award Slide Seminar – conducted by Dr. Col. Prabal Deb; chaired by Dr. Bharat Rekhi and Dr. Debasis Gochhait.
- Dr. Subhash Kumari Gupta Memorial Lecture – delivered by Prof. Pranab Dey; chaired by Prof. Nalini Gupta and Prof. Shilpi Agarwal.
- Symposium: Artificial Intelligence in Pathology – moderated by Dr. Pranab Dey; chaired by Dr. Sandeep Mathur and Dr. Palash Mandal, with the following talks:

- Overview of Neural Networks and Deep Learning with Practical Application Guide – Dr. Parikshit Sanyal.
- Whole Slide Imaging: A Step Towards AI – Dr. Rajni Yadav.
- Applications of AI in Cytology – Dr. Pranab Dey.
- Future Directions and Innovations in AI – Dr. Pranab Dey.
- Challenges and Limitations of AI – Dr. Poonam Elhence.
- Col. D. B. Nayar Memorial Award – Oral Paper Presentations – presented by selected candidates; chaired by Prof. Meherbano Kamal and Dr. Vaishali Walke.

In addition to the above insightful lectures and presentations, participants' scientific contributions were an important part of the conference. Numerous proffered papers and poster presentations were received from delegates across the country, providing an opportunity for researchers and postgraduate students to present their original work. A total of 185 posters and 43 oral presentations were presented. These paper presentations and competitions further enriched the academic environment.

The conference also included an engaging Cytology Quiz for postgraduate students, which actively involved participation from junior residents. It was conducted by Dr. Riddhi (KGMU, Lucknow), Dr. Indranil Chakraborty (AIIMS Kalyani), and Dr. Rashmi P. Joshi (JIPMER, Puducherry). Five teams were chosen for the final on-stage round after the prelims. It was both educational and enjoyable.

The meeting concluded with a valedictory function, during which awards were presented for the best papers and posters across various categories. This was followed by the formal handing over of the presidency of the Indian Academy of Cytologists (IAC) by Dr. Venkateswaran K. Iyer to the incoming President Dr. Manju Kaushal. The charge of IAC Secretary was also formally transferred to Dr. Nalini Gupta from Dr. Bharat Rekhi. The conference served as an excellent platform for academic interaction and networking, bringing together both young trainees and experienced cytopathologists from across the country.

Post-conference workshops on 17th November focused on enhancing practical diagnostic skills in important areas of cytopathology, including:

- Cervical Cytology (LBC)
- Cell Block Preparation and Ancillary Tests
- Salivary Gland Cytology
- Cytology of Soft Tissue Tumours
- Pearls and Pitfalls in Cytodiagnosis of Lymphomas

These workshops provided valuable practical training guided by experienced faculty members in the field across the country.

The organizing committee expressed sincere gratitude to all speakers, delegates, sponsors, and supporting staff whose collective efforts contributed to the success of CYTOCON 2025. The conference once again reaffirmed the commitment of the cytopathology community towards advancing diagnostic excellence, research, and collaboration.

