



**John C. Martin Center**  
FOR LIVER RESEARCH & INNOVATIONS

# JOHN C. MARTIN BIRTHDAY SYMPOSIUM

May 7, 2025

JCMLRI Seminar Hall,  
IILDS Campus, Sonarpur, Kolkata

The theme for the inaugural year is

**“The Art of Preclinical and Early Phase Drug Development”.**

In memory of John C Martin, JCMLRI ([www.jcmlri.edu.in](http://www.jcmlri.edu.in)) is initiating an annual symposium to commemorate his birthday (7th May) from this year (2025) onwards.

Each year this symposium will be on a focused theme and will serve as a forum with an interactive mix of didactics between invited scientists of repute and fellows/students in training. The objective is to inoculate the culture of rigorous scientific exercise as the essence of discovery, and the desire to pursue scientific questions that are value-based and transformational in terms of impact and global significance.

## Agenda for morning scientific session:

Serial	Time	Details	Speaker
1	9.30 am	Assembly at the JCMLRI foyer, in front of the wall mount of John C Martin, lighting of candles and birthday wishes	Partha S. Mukherjee, Dean, JCMLRI
Scientific session			
2	10.00-10.10 am	Welcome Address	Amal Santra, Director, JCMLRI
3	10.10-10.30 am	Inaugural address	Santasabuj Das, Director, ICMR – NIRBI
4	10.30-10.40 am	JCMLRI and Clinical Research at JCMLRI	Abhijit Chowdhury, IILDS, JCMLRI
5	10.45-11.10 am	Maximising impact of early phase clinical development	Mani Subramanian, CEO, Orsobio INC.
6	11.10-11.30 am	Drug discovery in metabolic diseases	Saswata Talukdar, Merck INC.
7	11.30-11.50 am	Bioengineered in vitro human liver model for high throughput drug screen and discovery	Biman Mandal, Professor, IIT-Guahati
8	11.50-12.10 pm	Cracking the Code with Saroglitazar: The Making of a Novel first in class drug for MASLD & MASH	Mukul Jain, President, Zydus Life Sciences, Drug Development
9	12.10-12.35 pm	Can Genomics Propel Drug Discovery?	Partha Pratim Majumdar, National Science Chair, Distinguished professor JCMLRI
10	12.35-12.55 pm	Innovations in drug development in India – efforts and barriers	Piyush Agarwal, Head of Clinical Development, Dr. Reddy's lab
Panel Discussion-			
11	12.55-1.20 pm	Theme: Challenges in the Development of a Phase 1 Clinical Research Facility – How to Overcome?	<b>Moderator</b> – Suparna Chatterjee (Professor, IPGME&R, Kolkata) <b>Participants-</b> Nithya Gogtay (Professor , KEM and Seth GS MC, Mumbai) Santanu Tripathi(Principal , JGIMS, Kolkata) , Saibal Das (ICMR-NIRBI , Scientist D).
12	1.20 – 1.30 pm	Concluding remarks and vote of thanks	Partha S. Mukherjee, Dean, JCMLRI
13	1.30 - 2.00	Lunch	

## Afternoon session:

We invite students to join a unique opportunity to interact with leading scientists and gain firsthand insights into research methodologies through laboratory tours. This event aims to bridge the gap between science and society by promoting openness, collaboration, and accessibility in research. Join us and engage in thought-provoking discussions, expand your understanding of scientific practices, and explore how open science can drive positive change in communities.

Serial	Time	Details
1	2-2.30 pm	Students registration
2	3.00 – 3.45 pm	Talk by Distinguished Professor JCMLRI, National Science Chair, Prof. Partha P. Majumder.
3	3.45 – 5.00 pm	Research laboratory visits Cell Biology and Immunology lab, Genomics lab, Molecular biology and cancer biology lab, Public health research lab and Clinical trial research lab
4	5.00-5.30 pm	Concluding remarks, Students' feedback, Refreshment



John C Martin was born on 7th May 1951. John obtained a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering and emerged as a giant in the pharmaceutical industry, particularly in the successful development of nucleoside analogues for the treatment of HIV and hepatitis viruses. John was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and received many awards during his illustrious career, including the NAS Award for Chemistry in Science to Society, the Gertrude B. Elion Award for scientific excellence and the Institute of Human Virology's Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service. John's unique leadership through his inherent perennial search for innovations to "break the barriers" made him one of the finest among modern-day visionaries. His constant search for therapeutic solutions for human diseases, that are considered as difficult to cure made his success even more noteworthy. He discovered molecules, paved the way for the discovery of many more, and created and steered a ship that always preferred sailing upstream. His relentless pursuit for molecules was matched by his astute ideas for developing ways and means to take the solution to as many in the world who need it. John's mission to make life-saving medications available to all suffering from the disease regardless of resources made him one of a kind. In 2018, the John C Martin Centre for Liver Research and Innovations (JCMLRI-[www.jcmlri.edu.in](http://www.jcmlri.edu.in)) was established under John's guidance and support and was firmly homed in 2024. JCMLRI is committed to remembering John's contributions and shaping the vision of John C Martin by inspiring the next generation of scientists in India.

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