

Alumni Interaction Series with the 1991–1995 Batch

Date: 19.07.2025

Organized by: Department of Pharmacy Practice in association with JSS Alumni Association, JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty

Participants: V Pharm.D, VI Pharm.D, and I M.Pharm (Pharmacy Practice).

The **Department of Pharmacy Practice**, in collaboration with the **JSS Alumni Association**, successfully organized an engaging and insightful **Alumni Interaction Series** with the alumni from the **1991–1995 Batch**. The event was held with the objective of connecting current students with experienced professionals who have built distinguished careers in pharmacy practice across the globe.

The session featured the following esteemed alumni:

1. Mr. Arjunan – Pharmacist, Muscat
2. Mr. Sara Vikram – Innominds Inc., Germany
3. Mr. Denny Paul – President, Vita Case Infusion Services, USA
4. Mr. Kadhar Abdul Salam – Pharmacist and Independent Prescriber, United Kingdom

Each of these professionals shared valuable insights based on their vast experience in international pharmacy practice, offering guidance and motivation to the current students of V Pharm.D, VI Pharm.D, and I M.Pharm (Pharmacy Practice).

Purpose and Focus of the Session

The main goal of the interaction series was to help students understand global career pathways, prepare for professional licensure exams, and learn how to navigate challenges in pursuing international opportunities. The session covered a wide range of topics including:

- Career opportunities abroad
- Licensure and certification exam preparation (such as FPGEE, PEBC, GPhC, etc.)
- Challenges faced by aspiring pharmacists
- Workplace expectations and roles in international healthcare systems
- Importance of networking and continuous professional development
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Alumni Experiences and Guidance

Each speaker brought a unique perspective:

- Mr. Arjunan spoke about the scope and challenges of working as a pharmacist in the Middle East, emphasizing the importance of clinical knowledge and regulatory compliance.
- Mr. Sara Vikram shared his journey from pharmacy to working with a tech-driven healthcare company in Germany. He highlighted emerging roles for pharmacists in areas like data analytics, regulatory affairs, and pharmacovigilance.
- Mr. Denny Paul offered an in-depth overview of the U.S. healthcare system and the growing demand for pharmacists in specialized fields such as infusion services, critical care, and oncology.
- Mr. Kadhar Abdul Salam discussed the UK healthcare model, including the evolving role of pharmacists as independent prescribers. He stressed the importance of clinical acumen, communication skills, and maintaining patient safety standards.

Their honest reflections on personal struggles, visa processes, and adapting to new work cultures provided realistic expectations and inspired students to stay committed and focused.

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Student Takeaways

This interaction series served as a transformative experience for students. It not only introduced them to a world of professional opportunities but also clarified how to achieve them step by step. The alumni provided practical advice on how to prepare for and succeed in international licensure exams and how to overcome common challenges faced by Indian pharmacy graduates abroad.

Students also learned the value of professional networking, staying updated with industry trends, and being open to continuous learning. The alumni encouraged students to start early in planning their careers, to pursue excellence in their academic and clinical training, and to remain adaptable in a fast-evolving global healthcare landscape.

A Note of Gratitude

We sincerely thank our esteemed alumni—Mr. Arjunan, Mr. Sara Vikram, Mr. Denny Paul, and Mr. Kadhar Abdul Salam—for their time, generosity, and willingness to mentor the next generation of pharmacy professionals. Their words of encouragement, coupled with their lived experiences, left a lasting impression on our students.

We also acknowledge the faculties of Department of Pharmacy Practice and the JSS Alumni Association for successfully organizing this impactful event. Their continued efforts to connect alumni with students are instrumental in building a strong, supportive academic and professional community.

Conclusion

The Alumni Interaction Series with the 1991–1995 batch was a valuable initiative that strengthened alumni-student bonds and enriched the academic environment at JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty. Around 90 participants were fruitfully benefitted with this event.

