Biopharma & Healthcare Summit Focuses on Innovation

By a Staff Reporter

OSTON, Mass. — The US India Biopharma and Healthcare Summit 2013, organized by the USA-India Chamber of Commerce and held here June 21, attracted more than 300 people to the annual conference.

The summit, titled "Delivering Affordable Innovation through Global Partnerships," offered a common platform for global and Indian leaders from industry, academia, government and the investor community to address critical elements of the innovation ecosystem, both globally and in India.

The summit was kicked off by Karun Rishi, president of the USA-India Chamber of Commerce, who highlighted the fundamental objective of this effort as bringing the power of innovation and collaboration to ultimately help the large patient population that is still under-served.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, president of global research and development at Sanofi, highlighted both the need and the opportunity for open innovation in research.

Clearly outlining the goals, objectives and challenges in research as different from development, he highlighted the opportunity of building an ecosystem of collaboration and cross-fertilization in research through closer pre-competitive partnerships, while companies will still need to drive development through discipline, rigor and performance.

He also noted India’s ability to drive “frugal innovation” as a key lever to play an integral role in a globally networked system of innovation that can address critical R&D productivity challenges today.

In his address to the group, Ravinder Kumar Jain, Additional Secretary and Director General – CGHS, highlighted regulatory.

Jain Center Holds Grand 25th Anniversary Celebration

By BHARTTI KUMAR

Special to India-West

B UENA PARK, Calif. — The 25th anniversary of the “Jinalaya” (Jain Temple) built in North America was held June 27 to 30 at the Jain Center of Southern California here, which attracted more than 200 people.

All four days were filled with cultural events, bhakti, arti, “Mangal Divo,” “Swamivatsalya” food, singing and dancing.

On June 29, devotees participated in the traditional procession with two floats, one depicting Saraswati Devi, Big Divo and Agam, the other featuring Bhagavan, Gautam Swami, Sudhharma Swami and 25th anniversary elements.

Women in bright saris and dresses participated by carrying each of the 108 “Kalashes” on their heads. Roads were rerouted to accommodate the elaborately decorated floats and the devotees who danced and sang throughout the procession.

Prafulla Shah and Hasendra Shah served as emcees, while Acharya Shri Chandanaji, the first woman in the Jain tradition to be granted the “Acharya” title, recited a prayer and spoke in Hindi about why prayer and service go together.

Indian Consul General N. Parthasarthi in his speech noted that “the growth of this temple is definitely the result of devotee volunteers and sponsors, but you cannot clap with one hand. The success is possible also due to the support of city officials and the mayor.”

Congressman Ed Royce, accompanied by his wife Marie and staff member Young Kim, said that he has seen the temple grow from the very beginning and how it has rushed to help in every way during national and international disasters.

Gurudev Shri Chitra Bhanuji, who celebrated his 91st birth,
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 initiatives taken by the Government of India for drug research and clinical trials to bring transparency, predictability and, above all, protect the rights, well-being and safety of subjects.

The USA-India Chamber of Commerce-commissioned McKinsey & Company’s Position Paper titled “Crossing the Next Horizon – Will India Play a Meaningful Role in Biopharma Innovation?” presented a set of facts and myths emphasizing that while India is already contributing more to global biopharma innovation, it’s not doing as much as it potentially could.

Fixing and clarifying relevant policies and regulations around clinical trials and IP, focusing cross border and cross entity collaboration on building talent and infrastructure across clinical trials, IP training and basic research and investing in debunking myths and clarifying success stories related to the true “India advantage” were highlighted as the main imperatives for India.

The day also saw several panel discussions across a range of prominent topics – science and research trends in oncology and infectious diseases, industry-academic partnerships, drug discovery and collaborative research and platforms to foster greater funding for innovation. The panels brought together thought leaders and industry shapers from respective fields both from the U.S. and India.

Dr. Martin Mackay, global head of R&D at Alexion Pharmaceuticals, highlighted the role that organizations such as Transcelerate can play in bringing together big pharma companies to work together towards accelerating the development of new medicines.

Interactions also addressed the role of regulations and supportive policies to foster greater funding for innovation in India.

“The Indian government is playing a direct role in funding, and we welcome both domestic and global stakeholders to maximize the potential of these resources,” said Dr. G.N. Singh, Drug Controller General of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

The event also honored Dr. William Chin, executive dean for research at Harvard Medical School, with the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing his efforts in the field.