



Significance of biophysics in modern life sciences discussed

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KARACHI, June 1: Biophysics is among the most active and rapidly growing areas of the 21st century and it can help solve current and future health problems if applied with other disciplines, said Prof Paul Anderson of Queen Mary University, London, at a symposium on Friday.

Prof Anderson was guest of honour in the inaugural session of the first Pakistan National Biophysics symposium being held at the NED University of Engineering and Technology.

The symposium, which includes talks by eminent professors, will span over two days.

In his presentation titled, "Biophysics and its significance in modern life sciences", Prof Anderson explained to the audience how the field has an impact on many other disciplines. "Biophysics is an interdisciplinary science whose impact will be felt on many modern life sciences, particularly with respect to nanotechnology, molecular treatment and imaging," he said.

Highlighting the need to approach medical issues at the nanoscopic level instead of the macroscopic level, he cited the example of teeth enamel nanostructure, which could be addressed by biophysical techniques.

This would, he said, prevent a number of dental problems.

"Biophysics is a mode of thinking. It is based on biological systems but with precision and accuracy of physics thinking," he said.

Later, Prof Anderson gave a detailed presentation on how biophysics can help slow down dissolution of enamel, far more effectively as compared to the techniques being used today.

Visiting foreign professor Masroor Bukhari reiterated the significance of Biophysics as a single platform for a number of subjects. He added that Biophysics was a slightly neglected field in Pakistan, but this perception should change.

"We have to put a lot of emphasis on nanotechnology," he said, adding that there was a need to create more departments of Biophysics across Pakistan. He also appreciated the efforts contributed towards organising the symposium, especially by the Higher Education Commission.

A message by Prof Munir Husein Nayfeh of the University of Illinois, a Palestinian-American particle physicist, renowned for his pioneering work in nanotechnology, was also read out at the symposium in which the professor discussed the significance of nanotechnology in today's world.

Pro-vice chancellor of the NED university Dr Muzaffar Mehmood earlier gave a brief introduction to the department and its working.

Prof Ilse C. Gebeshuber from Austria discussed micro-electromechanical systems.

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