



## **“School for Skills: Healthcare & Technology” organized it’s first Conference “Unnati” on the theme “Allied Health Professionals: the Unsung Heroes of Health System” at IIT Guwahati on 11th January 2024**

### **Objectives**

1. Status report on activities since inception
2. Experience of former and current students
3. Forming wider alliance with specialist doctors, IIT Guwahati faculties and healthcare organisations

### **Speakers**

1. Prof. Dipankar Bandyopadhyay (IIT Guwahati)
2. Prof. Siddhartha Sankar Ghosh (IIT Guwahati)
3. Prof. Tapas Mandal (IIT Guwahati)
4. Prof. Akshai Kumar (IIT Guwahati)
5. Dr. Mani Sarmah ( Principal, Saraighat College)
6. Dr. Harsha Bhattacharjee (Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya)
7. Prof. (Dr.) Subhash Khanna (Swagat Hospital, Guwahati)
8. Dr. Sasanka Baruah (Gauhati Medical College and Hospital)
9. Dr. Manoj Agarwala (GNRC Medical, North Guwahati)
10. Dr. Madhumita Das (GNRC Medical, North Guwahati)
11. Dr. Swapnil Sinha (BioNEST IIT Guwahati)

## Life stories of former students

Some of the former students shared poignant stories of how their lives have been transformed from challenging circumstances to ones filled with hope and dignity.

Sangita Mandal and Brajen Baglary, both accomplished graduates of the School for Skills : Healthcare & Technology, have spearheaded transformative changes in their respective careers. Sangita is currently employed as a Lab Technician under the ICMR-NIN (National Institute of Nutrition) Project, while Brajen has secured a position as an Emergency Medical Technician at Hayat Hospital in Guwahati. Their success exemplifies the impact of their education and training, showcasing the commitment to enhance skilled professionals in the field of healthcare.

## Key Takeaway from the Unnati Conference

The prominent speakers from esteemed institutions were united in underscoring the important role AHPs play in delivering healthcare to patients as an integral part of the entire team led by doctors.

Professors from IIT Guwahati explained the motivation behind initiating this project inside IIT Guwahati, their experience of the smooth progress made by SFS: HT in the last 4 years despite the pandemic-induced disruption. They further highlighted the value SFS: HT brings to the lives of the students by incorporating training in the use of modern health technologies, including software. The common theme was to continuously enhance the standard of education at SFS: HT at IIT Guwahati.

Students from SFS: HT are now working in multiple hospitals in Guwahati & beyond, including ICMR-NIN. The group of doctors encouraged the students by showing them the ever-expanding scope of their employment in critical roles in the entire care delivery eco-system; and the large number of such trained personnel that would be required in the years to come. They guided the leaders of SFS: HT with suggestions of value-addition to the training program in the current job roles, including empathy and understanding the unique situations surrounding the patient.

Once again, both groups of speakers, doctors and faculties, spoke about the urgent need to expand the current academic program from certificates to Degree/Diploma programs duly affiliated with state government bodies. Their presence and whole-hearted participation remain a ringing endorsement to the efforts made by SFS: HT through support from the faculties of IIT Guwahati, BioNEST and Centre for Nanotechnology, IIT Guwahati.

