

Pharmacopoeia 2014 (IP-2014) version (additional entries done in subsequent editions). Incidentally, the corresponding author¹ (R.K.S.) was the Chair of the IPC Expert Committee tasked with the first-time entry of monographs of radiopharmaceuticals in the *IP*.

The above-mentioned points should serve to clarify the internal regulatory

approval process of DAE units for production and supply of radiopharmaceuticals in India, as well as will respond to the authors' generic contention in the abstract ('and particularly India, which does not have guidelines for their approval, and intensifies the concern for a harmonized regulatory platform of global acceptance.').

1. Sharma, S. *et al.*, *Curr. Sci.*, 2019, **116**(1), 47–55.

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Teaching English for science students

The 2005 editorial by Balam¹ throws much light on the poor English language ability of students of science. Although it is more than a decade now, there has not been any improvement and the situation seems to be as grave as before. Raman² has expounded his experience on the dire need of sparing more than four hours of teaching basic English to students who registered for research under him. Most students of science and technology are under the misconception that English language learning is trivial and something that is unnecessary. It is considered petty, little forgetting that English is an international language which is widely spoken across the globe and used in all sectors. It is time pupils realize and understand the absolute significance of English in their lives and careers. Subbarao³ opined that students of science, even at the postdoctoral level, are unable to appreciate, let alone practice, the importance of correct English.

Working as English professors in a university, we find it unpalatable to read the atrocious English in the scripts of our

science students. At graduate and post-graduate levels, we do find it tricky to explain to them, the appalling errors in their scripts. English is not a language that is as simple as it seems; it has extensive vocabulary, intricate grammar and broad lexicology. In most cases, teachers of English in higher educational institutions are trapped in following a conservative and outdated system of teaching and not wary of the demands of the industry and research institutions. They are acutely bothered about completing the syllabus on time and hence the teaching is painfully robotic and monochromatic. 'Teaching' most of the time is rushed through without giving consideration to the student's ability to comprehend what is being taught. English for specific needs is the order of the day. It is vital to provide an opportunity to the students to bask on the myriad facets of language – exposing them to vocabulary-building, newspaper reading, writing of articles, scientific writing, story-telling, paraphrasing, précis writing, comprehensive listening, impromptu speaking, de-

bating, role-playing, language-gaming, mock-interviewing, book reviewing, etc. can come a long way in developing proficient English language skills. Teaching or learning English is a never-ending process. The task of the teacher is only to give the student a blissful taste of what English language is. The unquenchable thirst by itself will awaken the student's voracity to learn and yearn for more. For 'A little learning is a dang'rous thing;/Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring', so quoted Alexander Pope in his poem.

1. Balam, P., *Curr. Sci.*, 2005, **88**, 205–206.
2. Raman, A., *Curr. Sci.*, 2015, **109**, 398.
3. Subbarao, C., *Curr. Sci.*, 2005, **88**, 847.

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Can peptide nucleic acid be the future substitute for antibiotics?

With the emergence of growing antibiotic resistance among microbes because of habitual use of antibiotics, there is an urgent need to develop appropriate and economical substitutes for antibiotics. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens the conventional method of treatment and prevention of a wide range

of multidrug-resistant (MDR) microbes which include bacteria, parasites, fungi, etc. AMR is gradually establishing itself as a serious threat to global public health which requires immediate attention from the scientific community across the globe. According to a report of the World Health Organization (WHO), in

2016 alone, approximately 500,000 people developed MDR tuberculosis worldwide and it also expected that such growing antibiotic resistance will make the fight against HIV and malaria more complicated soon¹.

In recent times, peptide nucleic acid (PNA)-based antimicrobial products are