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Session IV: Natural Dyes

Colouring your hair: A continuing challenge

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Dr. Mukhopadhyay completed his Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry from University of Poona in 1979. He did post-doctoral stints during 1979-1983 at Polytechnic Institute of New York, Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Switzerland with Prof. Dr. D. Seebach and Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. He was with Basic Research Centre of Hoechst Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Mumbai from 1983 to 1998 and then with Nicholas Piramal India Ltd., Mumbai from 1998-2004. He moved to CavinKare Pvt Ltd, Chennai in 2004 and retired as Executive Director and Head of the R&D as well as Quality Control cum Assurance in 2015.



Dr. Mukhopadhyay has developed personal care products (skin care, hair care, hair colours, home care, oral care), food and beverages products (food accompaniments, indulgence foods, dairy products and beverages) and wellness/OTC products. This involved applied exploratory research activity covering interfacial and material science, microbiology, biochemistry, cell biology and natural product chemistry for development of superior products as well as identification of bioactive molecules from Indian herbs with potential application in personal care products.

In his role as a drug discovery scientist, Dr. Mukhopadhyay worked in the area of new drug discovery from natural sources particularly microbial metabolites and focused on the identification of bio-molecules for anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer therapy. He strengthened the potential of bio-prospecting through development of microbial strain library as well as plant extract library which were largest in the country.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay has published about 60 research papers and has about 30 patents to his credit.

Abstract:

People want to hide their greys to look and feel young. Also it is fun to sport unusual colours on the hair to be different and to make a statement. Colouring hair is in vogue for centuries. However, even today, the colouring process is not safe. Also colouring is a complex process. This presentation will give an overview of hair colouring including the use of natural ingredients and will also cover current research in colour chemistry as well as de-pigmentation of hair.