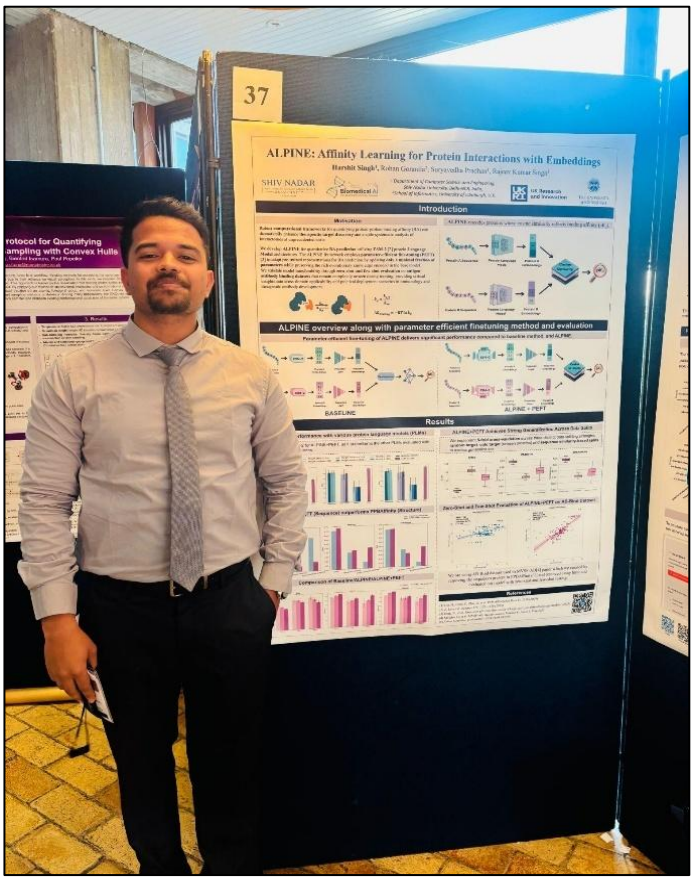
Report from Harshit Singh, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR, India
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I'm Harshit Singh, a PhD scholar at Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR, and I recently had the incredible opportunity to attend the 8th RSC-CICAG/RSC-BMCS Artificial Intelligence in Chemistry Symposium, at Churchill College, Cambridge. I'm deeply grateful to the RSC-CICAG for awarding me a bursary which made it possible for me to be part of the event.

The first day was a warm and welcoming, along with a hands-on workshop on AI fundamentals and data handling to real-world applications in chemical research.

The second day was a real highlight for me. I got to present my research, "ALPINE: Affinity Learning for Protein Interactions with Embeddings," in a flash oral presentation, and also shared my poster during the dedicated sessions. During the poster presentation, I had engaging discussions with attendees and received valuable feedback from both industry experts and academics. The day ended with a panel discussion on "Hype vs Reality" in AI, followed by a lovely conference dinner at St John's College, where I interacted with researchers and peers in a more informal, friendly atmosphere.

The final day kept up the same energy, with talks focused on molecular machine learning and deep learning in chemistry. I especially enjoyed Philippe Schwaller's talk on teaching language models to "speak chemistry".

Beyond the sessions, it was a privilege to meet and talk with Andrea Volkamer, Pat Walters, Matthieu Schapira, and many others.

I'm sincerely thankful to the organising committee for putting together such a thoughtful and engaging program. I also owe a lot to my mentors and collaborators – Dr Rajeev Kumar Singh, Rohan Gorantla and Suryavedha Pradhan, and to Shiv Nadar University. My heartfelt thanks to my lab mates, Pratik, Sharath and Srajal for their constant support.

It was also a joy to make new friends – Daeun, Simona, and Ryan – and share ideas and laughs along the way.

Overall, the symposium has been a defining moment in my research journey. It strengthened my passion for exploring the intersection of AI and chemistry, and connected me with community of researchers. I returned home with new ideas, motivation, and friendships that I'll cherish for years to come.

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