taking large amounts of xylitol is diarrhea or slight cramping. Xylitol inhibits the growth of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. It also inhibits the attachment of both *pneumococci* and *Haemophilus influenzae* on the nasopharyngeal cells. Major cause of ear infection is *Streptococcus* sp. A group of Finland scientists has found that dietary xylitol prevents weakening of bones in laboratory rats, and actually improves the bone density. (*Metabolism* 51.1 92-96, 2002).

Anil Lachke, Biochemical Sciences Division, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune 411 008, India, Email: ah.lachke@ncl.res.in

---

**Information and Announcements**

Have you studied physics, chemistry, engineering, medicine or biology?

Do you want to train to work in the emerging field of biotechnology?

Are you deeply interested in biological questions?

Apply to NCBS for a PhD if you have done an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in any of the above fields

**Please Contact:**

National Centre for Biological Sciences, GKVK, Bellary Road, Bangalore 560 065, India
Tel: 080-23636421/429; Fax 91 80 23636462; Email: phd@ncbs.res.in
Website: http://www.ncbs.res.in

**Last Date for Receiving Applications for Hall Tickets**: October 13, 2006.

**Date and Time for Nationwide Written Test**: Sunday, December 10, 2006.