



RDO NEWS

APRIL 2015

Fundraising, award management,
News & communications

WELCOME NOTE

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to another edition of RDO News.

February saw a visit to the campus by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Detailed preparations here preceded the interaction, which also saw us conveying our thoughts to the dignitary that “Make in India” needs “Discover in India”.

We congratulate our researchers for having secured funding from the Department of Biotechnology for a unique capacity building program in chemical ecology, linking labs in Bangalore and the Northeastern region (NER). The NER is among the top twenty-five biodiversity hotspots in the world and provides an amazing canvas for understanding chemical communication in the natural world. KS Krishnan would have been pleased!

And we end the month on a high note: our Director Jitu Mayor has been elected a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences. Our heartiest congratulations to him!

On behalf of Team RDO, Savita Ayyar

Awarded grants

Page 2

Forthcoming deadlines

Page 3

News highlights

Page 13



AWARDED GRANTS

This section provides brief details of the recent funding successes from our campus. We wish all the investigators well for their proposed programmes of research.

All correspondence on awarded grants should be directed to rdopostaward@ncbs.res.in

Raghu Padinjat **Co-ordination and control of the phosphoinositide cycle during cell signaling** WTDBT IA Senior Fellowship Rs.449.62 lakhs

Sunil Laxman **Nutrient sensing and regulation of cell fate** WTDBT IA Intermediate Fellowship Rs. 351.15 lakhs

Minhaj Sirajuddin **Structure and function studies of sarcomere proteins implicated in cardiomyopathies** WTDBT IA Intermediate Fellowship Rs.291.87 lakhs

Arati Ramesh **Structural mechanisms of RNA-mediated gene regulation in bacteria** WTDBT IA Intermediate Fellowship Rs.341.70 lakhs

Arjun Guha **Ramalingaswami fellowship** DBT Rs.88.00 lakhs

Varadharajan Sundaramurthy **Ramalingaswami Fellowship** DBT Rs.88.00 lakhs

Ranabir Das **Ramalingaswami Fellowship** DBT Rs.88.00 lakhs

Upinder S Bhalla and colleague **A Computational Metric Approach to Olfaction: Characterizing Novel Molecules in Olfactory Space and Novel Spaces Made of Odor Molecules** UGC Rs. 194.99 lakhs

Shannon Olsson and colleague **Multimodal factors that attract hoverflies for pollination** Olle Engqvist Foundation Rs.23.56 lakhs (NCBS costs)

Srikala Raghavan and colleague **Investigating the function of microRNAs in the regulation of epidermal stem cell homeostasis** DBT Rs. 59.27 lakhs

Uma Ramakrishnan and colleagues **Chemical ecology of the North East Region (NER) of India:A collaborative programme linking NER and Bangalore researchers** DBT Rs.589.24 lakhs (NCBS costs)

Mukund Thattai and colleagues **Bodystorm hits Bangalore** IA under Public Engagement Award Rs.10.00 lakhs

Mahesh Sankaran and colleague **Wipro applying thought in schools** Wipro Rs.39.00 lakhs (NCBS costs)

Ajith Kumar and colleagues **Masters Program in Wildlife Biology and Conservation** WCT Rs.5.00 lakhs

Research grants/ Fellowships

Grand Challenges Exploration- Round 15 (The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

Remit: To foster innovation in global health research.

Budget: Initial grants of \$100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects have the opportunity to receive a follow-on grant of up to \$1 million.

Comments: Accelerated grant-making process with short two-page applications and no preliminary data required. Applications are submitted online, and winning grants are chosen approximately 5 months from the submission deadline. The program supports fields as defined in the call.

Duration: 1-6 years* (with extension)

Agency Deadline: 13- May- 2015

Weblink: <http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Margdarshi Fellowship (The Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance)

Remit: For scientific leaders who already lead their own research group and now wish to utilize their experience in developing new research directions.

Budget: Salary, research costs, personnel costs, travel, overheads.

Applicant eligibility: Strong scientific leadership with more than 10 years of experience running an independent lab

Duration: 5years

Agency deadline: 14-May-2015

Weblink: <http://www.wellcomedbt.org/margdarshi.html>

Return Home Fellowships (International Brain research Organization, IBRO)

Remit: To improve the opportunities for productive neuroscience research within the less advantaged regions of the world and to provide aid to those researchers trained overseas who wish return to their home countries.

Budget: Up to 20,000 Euros

Applicant eligibility: Research students/ Postdoctoral fellows who have finished research training in neuroscience (including clinical research) in a center of excellence of a developed country, scientists who are developing a successful basic/clinical research career in a developed country and wish to return to their country of origin or to a less developed country.

Agency deadline: 1 Sep each year

Weblink: <http://ibro.info/professional-development/funding-programmes/return-home-fellowships/>

Rufford Small grants for Nature Conservation (Rufford Foundation)

Remit: To support small nature/biodiversity conservation projects and pilot programmes in developing countries.

Budget: Initial support of \$6000 that can be extended to 5 phases of funding up to \$25000.

Applicant eligibility: Minimum Master's degree required.

Duration: 12-18 months

Agency deadline: Rolling program

Weblink: <https://apply.ruffordsmallgrants.org/>



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.

Applicants are requested to ensure that all **regulatory approvals** required for sponsored research are in place. Queries in this regard should be directed to harleenk@ncbs.res.in



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.

Swarnajayanti Fellowships (DST)

Remit: To support researchers from all disciplines in science and technology

Budget: Rs. 25,000 per month in addition to salary drawn from parent institution+ equipment, consumable, contingencies, travel

Applicant eligibility: Ph.D in Science/ Engineering/ Medicine, Indian nationals with strong track record, Age 30-40 years

Duration: 5 years

Agency deadline: 15-May-2015

Weblink:

http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new15/SWARNAJAYANTI%20FELLOWSHIPS-2014-15.pdf

International Collaboration

Indo-US R &D Joint Networked Center (IUSSTF)

Remit: To promote scientific interaction on joint research activities between 2 Indian and 2 American scientists from academia and laboratories (both public and non government).

Budget: Travel and transportation costs, cost of living for stays upto 6weeks and any other associated cost.

Applicant eligibility: Minimum of two Indian and two American partners from separate institutes.

Duration: 2 years

Agency Deadline: 31-Aug-15

Weblink: <http://www.iusstf.org/story/53-19-Indo-US-R--amp-D-Joint-Joint-Networked-Center.html>

INNO INDIGO Partnership Programme (DST-CNRS)

Remit: To foster collaboration between EU countries and India to improve diagnostics and interventions in chronic non-communicable diseases.

Budget: Mobility, workshops, personnel cost, research cost with funding of € 100.000 - € 200.000 per country.

Collaborative partners: Requires an applicant in India and in at least two other eligible countries from the ERA

Duration: 3 Years

Agency deadline: 22-Jun-2015

Weblink: http://dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new15/CALL-TEXT-IPP2-final.pdf

International exchange

France: Raman-Charpak Fellowship Program (CEFIPRA-DST)

Remit: For short term research in France/ India

Budget: 1300 Euros per month, accommodation, return airfare, medical insurance, visa fees

Applicant eligibility: Students registered for PhD in an Indian/French institution

Duration: 3-6 months

Agency deadline: 31-May-15

Weblink: <http://cefipra.org/raman-charpak/Raman-Charpak-Fellowship-2015-updated-instructions.pdf>

Germany: DAAD – DST Project- based Personnel Exchange Programme (BMBF-DST)

Remit: To support collaborative projects between Germany and India with an emphasis on training young researchers.

Budget: Mobility and hospitality cost for short term stays, upto 4 visits from each side.

Applicant eligibility: Scientists/Researchers, Post doctoral researchers having permanent position.

Duration: 2 years

Agency deadline: 15-Jun-15

Weblink: http://www.daaddelhi.org/imperia/md/content/newdelhi/ind_dst-daad_ppp_2016-17_announce.pdf

International: Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial international study grants (Union for international cancer control, UICC)

Remit: To enable cancer investigators from any country to carry out bilateral research projects abroad which exploit complementary materials or skills, including advanced training in experimental methods or special techniques.

Budget: USD 10000

Applicant eligibility: PhD/MD with min 2 years postdoc experience and engaged in cancer research

Duration: 3 months

Agency deadline: 1-July and 15-Jan

Weblink: <http://www.uicc.org/programmes/geti/our-activities/study-grants>

Japan: MIF Research Fellowship (Matsumae International Foundation, Japan)

Remit: To allow researchers to undertake short term research projects in an institute of choice in Japan

Budget: Stipend, Travel, insurance, relocation and living expenses

Applicant eligibility: PhD, permanent appointment in a research institute, age less than 49 years

Duration: 3-6 months

Agency deadline: 31-Aug- 15

Weblink: <http://www.mars.dti.ne.jp/~mif/>

USA: Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowships (USIEF)

Remit: To provide Indian faculty, researchers, and professionals the opportunities to teach, conduct research, or carry out a combination of teaching and research at a U.S. institution.

Budget: Stipend, insurance, travel and professional allowance for applicant only. For stays between 8-9 months dependent (one) allowance and travel may be covered

Applicant eligibility: Indian faculty/researchers with at least 5 years teaching experience

Duration: 4-9 months

Agency deadline: 1-Jul-15

Weblink: <http://www.usief.org.in/Fellowships/Fulbright-Nehru-Academic-Professional-Excellence-Fellowships.aspx>



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.

Applicants (and host lab PIs) for competitive postdoctoral fellowships are requested to work with the academic office for the internal prescreening step **prior** to grant submission. Queries in this regard should be directed to acadoffice@ncbs.res.in

USA: Fulbright-Nehru Post doctoral fellowship (USIEF)

Remit: For early career researchers to build long term collaborations with US institutes.

Budget: Stipend, insurance, travel and professional allowance for applicant only.

Applicant eligibility: Indian citizen having Ph.D. degree within the past four years.

Duration: 6-9 months

Agency deadline: 1-Jul-15

Weblink: <http://www.usief.org.in/Fulbright-Nehru-Postdoctoral-Research-Fellowship.aspx>

UK: International exchange scheme (The Royal society)

Remit: To stimulate new collaboration between scientists in UK and other countries.

Budget: £3000-£12,000 with max. £1000-£2000 research expenses depending on duration of travel

Applicant eligibility: PhD having a fixed or permanent contract at universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations.

Duration: Variable from 3months, 1 year or 2 years

Agency deadline: 01-June-15

Weblink: <https://royalsociety.org/grants/schemes/international-exchanges/>

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Cross-disciplinary Fellowship (Human Frontiers in Science Programme, HFSP)

Remit: For applicants with a Ph.D. from outside the life sciences e.g. in physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering or computer sciences who have had limited exposure to biology during their previous training to undertake a project in the field of life sciences.

Budget: Generous funding covering, living, travel, research and relocation allowances

Applicant eligibility: PhD (0-3 years postdoc experience) in life sciences

Comments: Requires relocation to country other than home country

Duration: 3 years (can be split into 2 years + 1 year after (2 years break) to be used for relocation to home country

Agency deadline: 27-Aug- 2015

Weblink: <http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships>

Early Research Fellowship (Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance)

Remit: To support research focused on Biomedical Science

Budget: Salary, research expenses, 2 year collaborative travel, limit of Rs 1.5 crores

Applicant Eligibility: 0-4 years Post-Doctoral experience

Duration: 5 years

Agency Deadline: Preliminary application due 15-Jun-15

Weblink: <http://www.wellcomedbt.org/early.html>

International Research fellowship (International Brain research Organization, IBRO)

Remit: Support post-doctoral training to applicants under the age of 45 for up to one year abroad in good laboratories.

Applicant eligibility: PhD, age below 45 years.

Budget: up to 35,000 euros

Duration: 1 year

Agency Deadline: Mid June

Weblink: <http://ibro.info/professional-development/funding-programmes/research-fellowships/>

Long term Fellowship (Human Frontiers in Science Programme, HFSP)

Remit: For Ph.D. in a biological discipline to embark on a new project in a different field of the life sciences.

Budget: Generous funding covering, living, travel, research and relocation allowances

Applicant eligibility: PhD (0-3 years postdoc experience) in life sciences

Comments: Requires relocation to country other than home country

Duration: 3 years (can be split into 2 years + 1 year after (2 years break) to be used for relocation to home country

Agency deadline: 27-Aug- 15

Weblink: <http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships>

Long-term fellowship (EMBO)

Remit: The EMBO Long-Term Fellowships are awarded for a period of up to two years and support post-doctoral research visits to laboratories throughout Europe and the world.

Applicant eligibility: 0-2 years post PhD, at least one first author publication mandatory. All fellowships must involve movement between countries. The receiving institute or the applicant's nationality must be from one of the EMBC Member States.

Budget: Travel, stipend, dependent allowance

Duration: 2 years

Agency Deadline: 14 Aug each year

Weblink: <http://www.embo.org/funding-awards/fellowships/long-term-fellowships#about>

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF)-Global Fellowships (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions)

Remit: Enabling researchers from EU member states or associated countries to be trained and acquire new knowledge in a high-level research organization in a Third Country.

Budget: Salary, mobility and research costs

Applicant eligibility: PhD from EU or Associated Countries.

Duration: 2-3 years inclusive of the obligatory return to host organisation in the final year

Agency deadline: 10 -Sep-15

Weblink:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/10058-msca-if-2015-gf.html>



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF)-European Fellowships (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions)

Remit: To enable researchers moving from Third Countries to work on projects in Europe.

Budget: Salary, mobility and research costs

Applicant eligibility: PhD. based in a Third Country.

Duration: 2-3 years

Agency deadline: 10-Sep-15

Weblink:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/10057-msca-if-2015-ef.html>

Research fellowship (The Helen Hay Whitney Foundation)

Remit: To support early postdoctoral research training in all basic biomedical sciences in USA.

Applicant eligibility: 0-1 years post PhD. The receiving institute or the applicant's nationality must be from USA.

Budget: \$49000-51000 stipend + Research allowance of \$1500 per year.

Duration: 3 years

Agency Deadline: 1-Jul-15

Weblink: <http://www.hhwf.org/HTMLSrc/ResearchFellowships.html>

Return home Fellowship (IBRO)

Remit: To coordinate efforts with other organizations to (1) improve the opportunities for productive neuroscience research (allied to health services) within the less advantaged regions of the world and to (2) provide more aid to those researchers trained overseas who wish return to their home countries.

Budget: 20,000 Euros

Applicant eligibility: Postdoctoral fellows who have finished research training in neuroscience (including clinical research) in a center of excellence of a developed country, Research students who have been trained in a Center of Excellence in Brain Research (CEBR) or Scientists who are developing a successful basic/clinical research career in a developed country and wish to return to their country of origin or to a less developed country

Agency deadline: 1 Sep each year

Weblink: <http://ibro.info/professional-development/funding-programmes/return-home-fellowships/>

Sofja Kovalevskaja Award (Alexander Humboldt Foundation-Germany)

Remit: Support research carried out in chosen host lab in Germany.

Budget: 1.65 million EUR. Gross salary 5,600 EUR per month, equipment, material, personnel, travel expenses

Applicant eligibility: PhD with less than 6 years postdoc experience.

Duration: 5 years

Agency deadline: 31-July-15

Weblink: <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/kovalevskaja-award.html>

TWAS-DBT Biotechnology Fellowships for Postdoctoral Research in India (TWAS/DBT)

Remit: For young scientists from developing countries (other than India) who wish to pursue postdoctoral research in biotechnology at key biotechnology research institutions in India through the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, India.

Budget: Stipend + HRA

Applicant eligibility: PhD Biosc/Biotech, citizens of developing countries outside India holding regular research position in home country, Age limit 40 yrs

Duration: 12-18 months

Agency deadline: 31 Aug each year

Weblink: <http://twas.org/opportunities/fellowships/postdoc>

Organizing Meetings/Workshops

DWIH Regular Activities 2015(DWIH)

Remit: To support exchange of ideas between Indian and German researchers through symposia, workshops and other events.

Comment: Preferred proposal topics are climate change, renewable energy.

Applicant eligibility: The DWIH Consortium members as well as the individuals/organizations/institutions/ universities associated with any of the DWIH Consortium member may apply. Two DWIH consortium members and at least one Indian institute/university must participate.

Agency Deadline: 8-May-15

Weblink: <http://www.dwih.in/content/call-applications-dwih-regular-activities-2015>

Indo-US Bilateral Workshops/ Symposia/ Conferences (IUSSTF)

Remit: To support activities, events, and initiatives to promote interactions between the scientific and research communities in India and the US.

Budget: Travel, visa fees, accommodation, events costs, other associated costs

Applicant eligibility: Qualified scientist from all science disciplines working at Indian and American institutions.

Agency Deadline: 31 August /1st March

Weblink: <http://www.iusstf.org/story/53-17-Bilateral-Workshop--Symposium--Conference.html>

Scientific Meetings grant (Company of Biologists)

Remit: To fund the organisation of meetings, workshops and conferences within the fields of the company's journals.

Applicant eligibility: Organiser must have a PhD and must be in the organising group for the meeting. No nationality or geographic restrictions but preference given to events where organisers have sought maximal feasible diversity in speakers in terms of geography, gender and age.

Budget: Funds for organizing of meetings, support of young scientists and funding for plenary or keynote speakers attending meetings

Agency Deadline: 24 -June-15, 9-Sep-2015

Weblink: http://www.biologists.com/scientific_grants.html



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.

Small Meetings grant (Company of Biologists)

Remit: To fund the organisation of a small local meeting within the fields of the company's journals.

Applicant eligibility: Organiser must have a PhD and must be in the organising group for the meeting.

Budget: Level of funding normally not exceeding £300

Agency Deadline: 25-Jun-15, 10-Sep-15

Weblink: http://www.biologists.com/small_grants.html

Travel grants

Center for global health short-term scientist exchange program (NCI-NIH)

Remit: Promotes collaborative research between established U.S. and foreign scientists from low- and middle-income countries engaged in cancer research.

Applicant eligibility: PhD having minimum of 1 year Postdoctoral experience in cancer research.

Agency deadline: June 1, September 1

Weblink: <http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/organization/global-health/funding-training/scientist-exchange>

International Travel Grants (IBRO)

Remit: For participation in international neuroscience meetings

Budget: Maximum funding of upto 1500 Euros

Agency Deadline: 1-Mar/ 1-Sep each year

Weblink: <http://ibro.info/professional-development/funding-programmes/travel-grants/>

Research Internships in Science and Engineering (IUSSTF)

Remit: To provide unique opportunities for science, technology, engineering and medical students from the United States to undertake internships in laboratories in India.

Eligibility: U.S. Citizens or permanent residents and Indian Citizens. Ph.D and Master Students currently enrolled at institution of higher education in U.S.

Budget: Monthly stipend, Accommodation, Return Airfare.

Duration: 3months

Deadline: 31-May-15

Weblink: <http://iusstf.org/story/53-49-Research-Internships-In-Science-and-Engineering.html>

Travelling Fellowships (Company of Biologists)

Remit: For researchers wishing to make collaborative visits to other laboratories

Budget: maximum upto £ 2500

Applicant Eligibility: Students/ Postdoctoral researchers

Agency Deadline: 30 Apr, 31 Aug, 31 Dec

Weblink: http://www.biologists.com/travelling_fellowships.html

Others

British Ecological Society Outreach grant (BES)

Remit: For organising public engagement events in ecology.

Budget: £2,000

Applicant eligibility: Individuals or organisations including but not limited to members of the BES, researchers, schools, museums, libraries and community groups.

Deadline: Expected in Sept

Weblink: <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/grants/outreach/index.php>

International Engagement Awards (Wellcome Trust)

Remit: To support innovative public or community engagement projects that explore biomedical research or health in Africa and Asia.

Budget: up to £30,000

Applicant eligibility: Scientists and health researchers, NGOs, educators, artists, theatre practitioners, and cultural and community organizations.

Comment: Collaborative projects with partners in civil society or the creative industries are encouraged.

Agency deadline: EOI by 28-Aug -15

Duration: 3 years

Weblink: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/funding/public-engagement/Funding-schemes/InternationalEngagementAwards/index.htm>

Young Laureates 2014 (Rolex Award)

Remit: To support projects in the field of science and health, applied technology, exploration and discovery, the environment, and cultural heritage.

Budget: 50,000 Swiss francs

Applicant eligibility: Individuals or group predominantly conducting field-based activities on nature conservation **Comment:** Age limit 18-30 years

Duration: 2 years

Deadline: 31-May-15

Weblink: <http://www.rolexawards.com/about/awards>



Forthcoming deadlines

<http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>

All queries on new grant submissions should be directed to rdo@ncbs.res.in

Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before a submission deadline for RDO staff to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.



‘Wellcome’ news from the India Alliance!!

Several faculty at NCBS and inStem received generous support for their research and public engagement

Raghu Padinjat (Senior Fellowship, NCBS): In the proposed study the Padinjat group aims to exploit the *Drosophila* eye, to answer a number of key questions on the regulation of the PIP₂, a molecule that is widely regarded as an essential element of the identity and function of the plasma membrane. An analysis in this model system is expected to inform studies of equivalent signaling pathways in mammalian models with more immediate biomedical relevance.

Minhaj Sirajuddin (Intermediate Fellowship, inStem): The Sirajuddin group have chosen to focus on sarcomere proteins and mutations associated with cardiomyopathies. The team plan to determine crystal structures of uncharacterized sarcomere proteins and map cardiomyopathy mutations using structure-function approaches. They will also be characterizing the collective biophysical properties of actin, myosin, tropomyosin and troponin proteins using *in vitro* reconstitution methods and the novel technique of DNA origami to engineer myosin filament assemblies.

Sunil Laxman (Intermediate Fellowship, inStem) : The Laxman group propose to identify basic molecular mechanisms of how specific nutrients, especially amino acids, are sensed by cells, and how these sensors regulate different cellular and physiological outcomes using yeast as model systems. The group plan to subsequently leverage this information to understand how stem cells from metazoans utilize these mechanisms to regulate cell fate decisions.

Arati Ramesh (Intermediate Fellowship, NCBS): The Ramesh group aim to identify how ANTAR and similar regulatory RNA networks function in pathogenic bacteria and how these pathways help in stress-response and pathogenesis, using *Mycobacterium* as a model system. A combination of X-ray crystallography, RNA-protein biochemistry, biophysical and bioinformatics tools will be used for these studies.

Mukund Thattai (Public Engagement Award, NCBS): Bodystorm hits Bangalore



News highlights: Research at NCBS and inStem

Rewiring the brain <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/rewiring-brain>

K. VijayRaghavan lab, publication in eLife (news story released on 16th January)

Top Gear: The mechanics of insect flight <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/top-gear-mechanics-insect-flight>

Sane lab, publication in PNAS (news story released on 22nd January), Tweeted on @NCBS_Bangalore, Press coverage- *The Hindu*, Crossposted on Indiabioscience

Context in Communication <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/context-communication>

Padinjat lab, publication in PLOS Genetics (news story released on 30th January), Tweeted on @NCBS_Bangalore

Laboratory without walls <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/laboratory-without-walls>

MoU signing between NCBS, inStem and CNRS on 2nd February, Tweeted on @NCBS_Bangalore, Press coverage- *The Hindu*

NCBS welcomes new faculty - Radhika Venkatesan

<http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/ncbs-welcomes-new-faculty-radhika-venkatesan>

News story released on 14th February, 2015

inStem and L'oreal announce research collaboration <http://instem.res.in/frontpage-news>

News story released on 25th March, Press coverage - *APN news and others*

Exploring the diversity of chemical signals in nature <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/exploring-diversity-chemical-signals-nature>

DBT support to the chemical ecology program (news story released on 20th April), Press coverage- *The Hindu*

Decoding transmembrane communication in living cells <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/decoding-transmembrane-communication-living-cells>

Mayor lab, publication in Cell (news story released on 24th April, 2015), Tweeted on @NCBS_Bangalore

Satyajit Mayor elected foreign associate of the US National Academy of Sciences

<http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/satyajit-mayor-elected-foreign-associate-us-national-academy-sciences>

News story released on 29th April

News highlights: Other campus news

Annual Talks 2015 – Biology across Scales <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/annual-talks-2015>

News story released on 9th January , Tweeted on @NCBS_Bangalore

Oral History in Style <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/oral-history-style>

News story released on 23rd January

The Fifth Annual Science Journalism Workshop <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/fifth-annual-science-journalism-workshop>

News story released on 7th February

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits campus <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/prime-minister-narendra-modi-visits-campus>

News story released on February 18th , Tweeted on @NCBS_Bangalore, Press coverage – The Hindu, The Times of India and several others, Also covered by the PMO

Dr. Eric Lander at NCBS <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/key-architect-human-genome-project-visits-ncbs>

Key architect of the Human Genome Project visits NCBS, news story released on 28th February, Tweeted on @NCBS_Bangalore, Article cross-posted on Facebook site of TNQ Cell press

Infosys Science Foundation Public Lecture hosted at NCBS <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/infosys-science-foundation-public-lecture-hosted-ncbs>

News story released on March 9th , Press coverage- The Hindu and others, Also covered by Infosys Science Foundation

Body Storming hits Bangalore <http://news.ncbs.res.in/story/bodystorming-hits-bangalore>

News story released on 13th March, Press coverage – The Times of India and others, Also covered in the India Alliance newsletter



Communicating your science to a wider audience

If you have a paper accepted for publication and would like to make a splash about it, write to comms@ncbs.res.in

The communications office can arrange for a news story to be written up about your paper for the NCBS/inStem websites, respecting journal publication embargoes and with suitable graphics. This communication can also be sent to the press and released on social media

The matter of scientific accuracy is taken very seriously for all communications placed on our websites. However, the manner in which content released to external agencies is used by other parties, is beyond control of the communications office.

Image credits: Botanical illustrations from Wikimedia
Commons (public domain)

For any comments, suggestions and queries on this
newsletter, please contact
Savita Ayyar

