



RDO News

August 2012

Welcome note

Dear colleague,

With the increasing number of collaborative activities on campus, there are now an increasing number of agreements and memoranda of understanding being inked between NCBS/inStem and other institutions. The RDO is now in the process of developing a new system for formalizing these agreements. For these developmental activities, we currently continue working with Mr TM Sahadevan while the new systems are put into place. Read about one of our new collaborative agreements on Page 4.

At the RDO, we continue to assist with an increasing number of extramural grant submissions from our campus. In parallel, we are also turning more attention to management of awarded grants, specifically reporting aspects. Read more about this on Page 6.

As always, there is a listing of forthcoming funding deadlines. (Pages 5-6).

With best wishes, Savita Ayyar

Awarded grants

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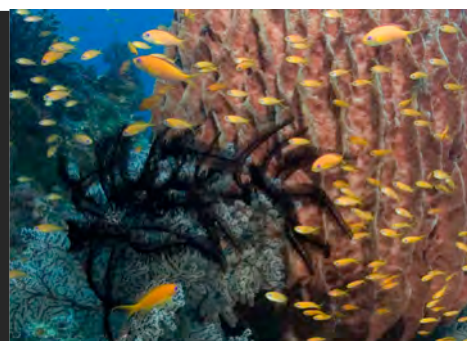
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Awarded grants (May- August 2012)



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

Sl no.	NCBS/INS-TEM	PI name	Title	Agency	Awarded amount (INR in Laks)	Duration
1	NCBS	Deepak Nair	DNA Mismatch Repair in Prokaryotes: Beyond the E.coli Paradigm	DBT	33.38	36 months
2	NCBS	Deepak Nair	Structure and Biochemistry of prokaryotic Y-family DNA polymerases	CSIR	7.8	36 months
3	NCBS	Deepti Jain	Structure and mechanism of FlcQ master regulator of transcription of flagellar and biofilm genes in Pseudomonas aeruginosa	DBT	53.21	36 months
4	NCBS	Ajith kumar	Research on wildlife biology and conservation by students of a Masters course in National Centre for Biological Sciences	DST	46.1	36 months
5	inStem	Jyotsna Dhawan	Therapeutic approaches to augmentation of adult cardiac stem cells	DBT	133.71	36 months
6	NCBS	Uma Ramakrishnan	Biogeography of the Indian subcontinent	DAE	100	60 months
7	inStem	Kouichi Hasegawa	Novel Cell Surface Makers for Endodermal Stem and Progenitor Cells in Health and Disease	DBT	131.96	24 months

* 11 additional awards pending completion of negotiations with agencies



2004 - 2006 Batch

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DST funding for our MSc Wildlife program

Congratulations to Ajith Kumar, Uma Ramakrishnan and KS Krishnan for a recent DST award towards continued support for the Wildlife program. The award will provide part-support for research projects to be carried out in 2013-14 by the students with the specific goal of publication of research findings.

The Masters course in Wildlife Biology and Conservation offered by NCBS, in partnership with several other institutions, has laid particular emphasis on training its students in high quality research. In this two-year program, through their dissertation projects, students apply the theory and skills gained in the preceding 18 months to conceptualize, design, implement, analyze and publish original research. The course provides high quality training to wildlife biologists, at the same time addressing critical areas in wildlife science and conservation.



2006 - 2008 Batch

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New grant processes

Grant activation

The last 8 months have seen the activation of a total of 22 grants from NCBS and inStem. In addition, there are currently at least 11 additional grants pending activation and at various stages of negotiations with the agencies. We request PIs to write to RDO staff at the earliest for activation of their grants, forwarding any relevant correspondence in this regard from the agencies. We will continue helping to coordinate the collation and dispatch of the various documents needed for institutional acceptance and release of funds. This process will be conducted in coordination with staff in Accounts to ensure that all relevant inputs are provided to agencies in a timely manner for release of Year 1 funds.

Grant reporting

The RDO has now developed a reporting calendar with tentative dates for annual and end-of-grant reporting for all active grants from NCBS and inStem. PIs will start receiving reminders from the RDO about a forthcoming annual or final reporting deadline based on this calendar. We appreciate that these dates may not tally with the schedules drawn up by certain agencies and therefore request PIs to immediately let us know of any discrepancies. PIs are requested to forward their completed scientific reports to RDO staff who will then coordinate with staff in Accounts to send out collated papers to agencies for follow-on funding or grant closures. In the first instance, email correspondence regarding reporting will be sent out manually by RDO staff. In due course, this prompt will be delivered in an automated way via the Grant Management System.

Grant closures

The RDO has now developed a new process for grant closures in conjunction with colleagues in Accounts. This process will help us all make optimal use of institutional resources in a convenient time frame. Briefly, principal applicants on active extramural grants will receive a prompt six months ahead of the intended grant closure date. This prompt will serve as a useful reminder of the time remaining on the active grant and allow the PI to review grant spend status on the grant with colleagues in Accounts. In case a no-cost-extension is required, this six-month point would serve as a useful timepoint in which to make the request of the agency. Equally, this would be a useful time point for the PI to confirm the intended grant end date to staff in the RDO and Accounts. Once this date is confirmed, staff at the RDO will coordinate with the PI and colleagues in Accounts for grant closure formalities. In the first instance, this reminder for a no-cost extension will be sent out manually by RDO staff. In due course, this prompt will be delivered in an automated way via the Grant Management System.

GMS Update

The RDO has initiated a pilot upload of grants on to the GMS. For this first phase, data, documents and reminder schedules for 40 grants held by 8 Faculty were uploaded on to the GMS. We thank the participating PIs for their feedback from this round. We will now continue with the upload for remaining grants with priority being given to new grants activated via the RDO followed in due course by older (non-RDO) active grants. ***Reporting and no-cost extension reminders for grants migrated to the GMS will be system-generated messages.***

If you have any concerns or queries in this regard, please email rdo@ncbs.res.in



Spotlight

Research agreements to facilitate wildlife and ecological research in Agumbe and the Andamans

In 2011, NCBS entered into collaborations for research and education activities at two field stations of the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, which have both been renewed this year.

The two field stations include the **Andaman and Nicobar island's Environmental Team (ANET)**, located near Wandoor, South Andaman Island, about 40 km from Port Blair (<http://anetindia.org/old/aboutus.html>) and the **Agumbe Rainforest Research Station (ARRS)**, located near Agumbe, Shimoga District, about 350 km from Bangalore (<http://www.agumberainforest.com/index.html>).

The collaboration with ANET is aimed at bringing about a qualitative change in the scientific research and training in wildlife and ecological research (especially in marine and island ecology) in the country specifically using the facilities set up provided at ANET and ANET will provide support for teaching, conducting workshops and training in the above or related areas. The collaboration with ARRS has a similar objective, focusing particularly on rainforest ecology.

Under these agreements, NCBS will have priority access to field facilities such as accommodation and vehicles, as well as the expertise and local knowledge resources available at each of these stations. Field station staff will also help NCBS researchers with project planning and permit application procedures.

The Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre for Herpetology is one of the largest reptile zoos in the world and one of the oldest non-government environmental organizations in Asia. Noted herpetologist Romulus Whitaker established the MCBT in 1976 with the specific goal of securing breeding populations of the three species of Indian crocodile: the mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*), the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the rarest of all, the gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*). **ANET**, a division of the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, was constituted in 1990 and ARRS was set up in 2005 in memory of Rom Whitaker's mother Doris Norden.



INDIA ALLIANCE

India Alliance Fellows meeting

A reminder for all our India Alliance Fellows (Early Career, Intermediate and Senior Fellows) that the annual Fellows' Meeting 2012 will be held as detailed below.

Dates: 9 and 10 October, 2012 (registration at 8 am on 9 October, meeting concludes at 7 pm on 10 October)

Venue: "Kohinoor", Taj Deccan, Road No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034

Fellows will have to arrange for their own travel and accommodation and this can be paid for from the Fellowship funds as stated in the award letter.



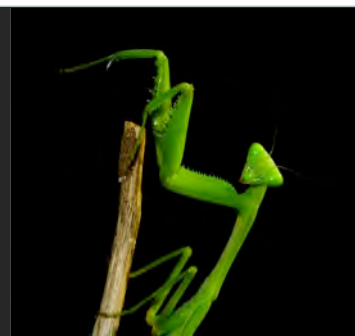
Forthcoming deadlines

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

The following section provides brief details of funding schemes with deadlines for submission in the period August-December 2012. Please contact the RDO if you intend to submit a proposal to any of these schemes so that we can plan ahead and assist as required.

Grants for independent researchers				
Agency	Scheme	Comments	Tenable at	Deadline
DST- National Science Council of Taiwan	India- Taiwan Programme of Co-operation in S&T, Joint Research Project proposals	Priority areas include structural biology, functional genomics, biomedical devices etc	India/Taiwan	30-Aug-12
DST/ BMWF (austria)	INDIA – AUSTRIA SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL CO-OPERATION		India/Austria	31-Aug-12
DBT	Ramalingaswamy Re-entry Fellowship	Applications to be forwarded by sponsoring institute	India	To Be Announced expected Aug 2012
DST	BOYSCAST	Self-selection host institute and scientist abroad , restrictive of research areas covered, includes evolutionary biology, biodiversity and conservation, stem cell research	Any country overseas	To be Announced, expected Aug 2012
DBT/ ISTPCanada	Ontario (Canada) - India S& T Cooperation, ISTP Canada DBT Joint Call for Proposal in all area of Biotechnology including Life Sciences and Medical Devices	Projects need to be innovative and have future commercialization prospects	India/Ontario (Canada)	To be Announced Expected Aug-2012
Gates	Grand Challenges Explorations	Pump-priming funding for initial ideas, for topics listed in the current call.	International	To be announced, expected Sep 2012
DST/ Max Planck Society	Max Planck Partner Groups at Indian Partner Institutions	Research to be conducted at Indian partner institution (IPI)	India	10-Sep-12
Company of Biologists	Scientific Meetings grants	Meetings need to be in areas covered by the 4 journals of the Company of Biologists		10 Sep, 15 Jan, 5 Apr, 15 Jun
Company of Biologists	Small Meetings grants	For organising small local meetings in the areas covered by the 4 journals of the Company of Biologists		10 Sep, 15 Jan, 5 Apr, 25 Jun
DBT/TEKES,Finland	Indo-Finland Joint Call for Proposals in Health and Well Being		India/ Finland	21-Sep-12
DBT/NIBIB/NIH	INDO-U.S. JOINT PROPOSALS IN THE AREA OF LOW-COST MEDICAL DEVICES	Technology development	India/USA	24-Sep-12, 24-Jan-13, 24 May-13
Meetings/symposia/workshops	Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advance Research (IFCPAR)	Grant for organizing Seminars and Workshops	Needs French collaborator	1-Apr and 1-Oct every year
Indo-US Science and Technology Forum	Indo-US Bilateral Workshops/ Symposia/ Conferences		India/USA	15-Feb, 15-Jun, 15- Oct each year
Royal Society, UK	International Exchange scheme	Needs UK collaborator	India/UK	18-Oct-12
DST/ Russian Foundation for basic research (RFBR)	Indo-Russian joint research	Needs Russian collaborator, both CoPis need to submit joint proposal to respective nodal agencies in basic sciences	India/Russia	To Be Announced, Expected Nov 2012
Alexander Humboldt Foundation	International Climate protection Fellowships (Germany)	Junior group leaders and postdocs also eligible, work in German lab of own choosing	Germany	01-Dec-12
TWAS	International Scientific meetings		Developing country	1-Dec for July-Dec meetings and 1 June for Jan-June meetings following year

Forthcoming deadlines- (continued)



Grants for junior researchers				
Agency	Scheme	Comments	Tenable at	Deadline
DBT	Ramalingaswamy Re-entry Fellowship	Applications to be forwarded by sponsoring institute	India	To be Announced, expected Aug 2012
Human Frontiers in Sciences Program (HFSP)	Long term Fellowships	Requires relocation to country other than home country	International	Online preregistration due by 16-Aug-12 and application submission due by 30-Aug-12
Human Frontiers in Sciences Program (HFSP)	Cross-disciplinary Fellowships	Requires relocation to country other than home country	International	Online preregistration due by 16-Aug-12 and application submission due by 30-Aug-12
The academy of science for developing world (TWAS)	TWAS-DBT Biotechnology Fellowships for Postdoctoral Research in India	needs to move to DBT institutes offering biotech courses (CDFD, NBRC, NIPGR, NII, NCCS, IBSD, ILS)	India	31 Aug each year
DST	Postdoctoral fellowship under Cognitive Science Research Initiative		India	To be Announced, Expected Aug 2012
International Brain research Organization (IBRO)	Return home fellowship (for Indians trained in a developed country)	Neuroscience research only	India for Indians trained in a developed country	01-Sep-12
International Brain research Organization (IBRO)	International Travel Grant	Travel to Neurosciences meeting	International	1-Feb/1-Sep each year
DST/ Max-Planck Society	Max Planck Visiting Fellowships for Indian Scientists		Max Planck Institute, Germany	10-Sep-12
DST/ Max Planck Society	Max Planck Partner Groups at Indian Partner Institutions	Research to be conducted at Indian partner institution (IPI)	India	10-Sep-12
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust	Churchill Travelling Fellowship (tenable in India)		India	02-Oct-12
International Brain research Organization (IBRO)	IBRO-Asian/Pacific Exchange Fellowship (for exchange in Asia-Pacific region only)	Neuroscience research only	Asia pacific region	15-Oct each year
Fellowship-PDRA	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Postdoctoral Fellowships Program (For Canadian nationals)	Canadian national (with PhD from Canadian institution), 0-2 years post PhD	15-Oct-12
Fellowship-PDRA	NSERC/ CIHR/SSHRC (Canada)	Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships (For Canadian nationals)	Canadian national (with PhD from Canadian institution), 0-3 years post PhD	02-Nov-12
British Petroleum (BP)/Bird life International/ Conservation International/Fauna and Flora international/ Wildlife conservation society	Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP)- Conservation Future conservationist Award	Team based conservation projects with focus on globally important species or sites with special focus on species at risk.	India/International	To be Announced, Expected Nov 2012
DBT	Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award	For nurturing innovative ideas in frontier areas of biotechnology	India	To Be Announced, Expected Dec 2012



For any comments, suggestions and queries on this newsletter, please contact
Savita Ayyar at ayyars@ncbs.res.in

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ARRS, ANET and MCBT, with permission from Ravi Chellam