

RDO News

April 2012

Welcome note

Dear colleague,

It has now been just over a year that the RDO and the Academic Office have worked together on introducing additional competitive fellowship funding options to our campus and boosting the post-doctoral program. Over the next few months, several agencies will be announcing their annual calls for competitive post-doctoral fellowships. Read more about some of these options (including the NCBS/inStem Fellows program) on Pages 3-4.

We have had several enquiries from our graduate students about funding for visits to labs worldwide for collaborative research projects. We are constantly on the lookout for such funding mechanisms and these are listed on our database on the RDO website. Read about the Boehringer Ingelheim funds on Page 5.

The RDO is also now turning attention to management of awarded grants, specifically reporting aspects. Read more about this on Page 6.

With best wishes, Savita Ayyar

Awarded
grants

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NCBS Fellows
program

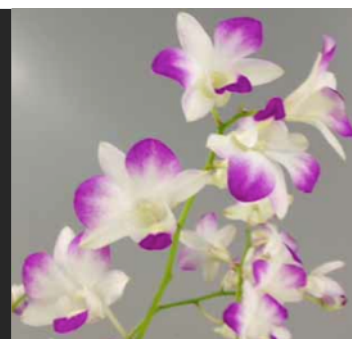
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Awarded grants



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	PI name	Affiliation	Title	Agency	Awarded amount (INR in Laks)	Duration
1	Uma Ramakrishnan	NCBS	Behavioural and landscape ecology of snow leopard in the indian trans himalaya	DST	21.55	36 Months
2	Rohan H Kamat	NCBS	Studying the molecular correlates underlying stress induced behavioral and structural plasticity	DST	12.48	24 Months
3	Uma Ramakrishnan	NCBS	Meta population dynamics of tigers in the malenad-mysore landscape of karnataka	DBT	60.51	60 Months
4	Sandhya P Koushika	NCBS	Investigating the role of axonal transport in sensory neuron regeneration	DBT	53.39	36 Months
5	Mahesh Sankaran	NCBS	Hydrologic and carbon services in the Western Ghats: Response of forests and agro-ecosystems to extreme rainfall events	MOES/NERC	43.35	36 Months
6	Uma Ramakrishnan	NCBS	The connectivity between tiger populations in Central Indian Landscape	NTCA	8.39	12 Months
7	Satyajit Mayor	NCBS	Lynx in organization and dynamics of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor complexes	DBT	79.49	24 Months
8	VV Robin	NCBS	Evolution on Indian sky islands: has paleo-climate caused differential demographic history in a unique floral and faunal community on the sky-islands of the Western Ghats?	NGS	10	12 Months
9	Marcus Taylor	NCBS	AXA Postdoctoral fellowship	AXA	72	24 Months
10	Sandhya P Koushika	NCBS	International Early Career Scientist grant	HHMI	357.5	60 Months
11	Mitradas Panicker	NCBS	Programme Support on targeted generation and interrogating of cellular models and networks in neuro-psychiatric disorders using candidate genes	DBT	145.33	60 Months
12	Daniel Weatherill	NCBS	Using CREB overexpression to track systems consolidation of an allocated memory trace	IA	148.5	48 months
13	Abhijit Mazumder	inStem	Understanding mechano-sensing and the role of mechano-signals in determining stem cell fate	IA	165.06	48 months

Feature: NCBS/inStem Fellows Program



The **NCBS/inStem Fellows** program is intended to attract the brightest and most enthusiastic visiting scientists at all postdoctoral levels to work in a laboratory at NCBS or inStem. NCBS/inStem Fellows are expected to play leading scientific roles in the laboratory of their hosts and on our campus as a whole. Their research projects will be in close collaboration with those of their hosts and stimulate interactions within and outside the NCBS/inStem community. The host laboratory at NCBS/inStem will provide resources and space, with the possibility of additional support, as needed. Fellows may also choose to hold a part of their Fellowship in laboratories outside NCBS/inStem for collaborative work and training in skills relevant to their program of research. Resources will be raised in coordination with the campus mentor and the collaborative laboratory and the period of stay in the institution outside of the campus will be similarly decided.

The program is open to candidates who are typically within 4 years of completing their PhD and capable of clearly articulating their scientific interests and directions. Potential NCBS/inStem fellows will identify the laboratory with which they would like to be associated in preliminary discussions with the host faculty member. Once both the host faculty member and the candidate agree an application can be submitted to the Head of Academic Activities. A committee appointed by the Head Academics and the Dean will evaluate applications. Short-listed candidates will be invited to visit NCBS/inStem for a seminar and to meet with faculty and committee members. This part of the process will be coordinated by the office of the Head Academics. Details of the program and application procedure are available at (http://www.ncbs.res.in/postdoctoral_fellowships/ncbs_fellows_program).

NCBS/inStem Fellows may be eligible for sponsorship by NCBS for the award of a range of external competitive fellowships from other agencies. Applications for extramural support will be coordinated by the RDO in close conjunction with the Academic Office.

We are pleased to announce and welcome the first three appointees to the NCBS/ inStem Fellows program: Darius Koester (Mayor Lab), Marcus Taylor (Mayor Lab) and VV Robin (Ramakrishnan Lab). Darius, Marcus and Robin's research is also supported by extramural funding. They are members of the NCBS post-doctoral program, which is managed by the Academic Office. Their extramural grants are managed by the RDO in conjunction with NCBS Accounts.

NCBS Fellow: VV Robin (Ramakrishnan lab)



Also a recipient of a grant from the National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration (<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/grants-programs/cre/>). The Committee for Research and Exploration funds hypothesis-based scientific research in the areas of anthropology, archaeology, astronomy, biology, geography, geology, oceanography and paleontology.



Robin's National Geographic Society supported skyisland project focuses on examining the past effects of climate change and predict possible future effects on a variety of bird species on mountain tops in the Western Ghats. Some of these species are highly specialized endemics while others are generalists found at different elevations. His work includes undertaking sampling expeditions to many of these high elevation locations where he work in teams covering large parts of the Western Ghats. More information on this project and the people in it are at <http://skyisland.in/Evolution.html>

Travel grants for Early Career Researchers



The following section provides brief details of travel grant schemes relevant to students seeking funding for visiting laboratories of investigators overseas for collaborative research. These details can also be accessed at http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/grants_for_junior_researchers. If you are aware of any other funding mechanisms in this category, please write to Vineetha Raghavan at vineethar@ncbs.res.in.

Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds
Foundation for Basic Research in Biology

Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (Germany)	Travel Grants	Travel, lodging, and course fees in Europe	PhD students/ early postdocs	6 weeks before training commences	maximum 3 months
Company of biologists	Travel Grants	£2500, for travel and other expenses	graduate students/postdocs for collab research	30-Apr, 31 Aug, 31 Dec-11	
DST/ Swiss Program Office	Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme Research Fellowships	Travel and living expenses	PhD students only, Needs Swiss collaborator	To be Announced	3-12 months
European Molecular Biology Organization	EMBO Short-term Fellowship	Travel and living expenses for fellow only	PhD students/ early postdocs (with less than 10 years postdoc experience)	3 months before proposed starting date	maximum 3 months
French Embassy in India	Charpak Fellowship Program	760 Euros per month, return airfare, medical insurance, travel to meetings in France and/or Europe, visa fees	students registered for PhD in an Indian institution	To be Announced, Expected Dec 2012	upto 6 months
International Brain research Organization (IBRO)	IBRO-APRC Exchange Fellowship	US \$ 8500	senior PhD, postdoc or junior faculty	15-Oct each year	4-6 months
US-India Educational Foundation	Fullbright-Nehru doctoral and professional research fellowship	Stipend, insurance, travel and professional allowance for applicant only	Indian citizen registered for PhD at Indian institution at least for 1 year	16-Jul-12	9 months
US-India Educational Foundation	Fullbright-Nehru postdoctoral fellowship	Stipend, insurance, travel and professional allowance for applicant only. Dependent allowance (1) subject to availability	0-4 years post PhD Indian National, preferably less than 45 years of age	16-Jul-12	max 12 months
Utrecht University, Netherlands	Utrecht University Short Stay Fellowships for PhD students	travel fare, accommodation, monthly allowance, visa fees and insurance coverage	NCBS PhD student.	To Be Announced	3 months
International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Wood-Whelan Research Fellowships	Travel and incidental costs, living expenses to a maximum of \$4000	Graduate students or early career researchers below 35 years of age resident in IUBMB member country	Rolling program. App. To reach two months prior to the event	1-4 months
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust	Churchill Travelling Fellowship (tenable in India)	Covers return and internal travelling, daily living and insurance within the countries visited	British citizen. No restriction on educational qualification or stage of career.	To be announced in May 2012	4-8 weeks

Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds Travel grants (<http://www.bifonds.de/fellowships-grants/travel-grants.html>)



Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds
Foundation for Basic Research in Medicine

The Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) is a public foundation based in Germany, dedicated to exclusive and direct promotion of basic research in biomedicine.

The foundation awards travel grants to PhD students and early career postdoctoral researchers for short-term visits of up to 3 months to participate in practical trainings and scientific courses in basic biomedical research. These awards also sponsor graduates from abroad for short term visits to laboratories of potential PhD supervisors in Europe to enable mutual evaluation of scientific and personal prerequisites before embarking on a PhD thesis.

These grants cover the expenses for travel, lodging and course fees. European citizens working in Europe and overseas and non-European citizens who will use the travel grant to work in Europe are eligible to apply. Applications are accepted throughout the year but should reach the Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds at least 6 weeks before the planned date of departure.



NCBS Fellow: Darius Koester (Mayor lab)



Since May 2011, I joined the group of S. Mayor financed by a NCBS postdoctoral fellowship. After my master degree in Physics at the University of Leipzig, Germany, and the study of the mechanical role of caveolae in cellular plasma membranes during my Ph.D. at the Institut Curie in Paris, France, I am interested in the mechanisms underlying the organization of lipids and proteins in cell membranes. Based on the past studies by our group in close collaboration with the theory group of M. Rao, it is suggested that the formation of nanometer sized clusters of several plasma membrane proteins and lipids is driven by the dynamics of short actin filaments underneath the plasma membrane. Using cellular membrane protrusions called blebs, which pop out and retract after the reformation of an actin network, I try to get insights into the proteins involved in the retraction and into the dynamics of actin and membrane proteins.

In addition to the NCBS fellowship a postdoctoral fellowship provided by the AXA research fund was granted to me in September 2011, which allows me to address the role of short actin filaments in membrane organization in an *in vitro* system. In this project, the aim is to reconstitute dynamic short actin filaments interacting with supported lipid bilayers which will allow testing theoretical predictions while exploring a much larger parameter space of protein concentrations than is accessible in the living cell. Currently, I visit the laboratory of D. Mullins at the University of California, San Francisco, USA, to work on the *in vitro* system and will set it up then at the NCBS later this year.

Post-award reporting on extramural grants



As part of the contractual obligations on awarded grants, funding agencies require periodic reports both on scientific progress and on expenditures on grants. The RDO has now started managing the collation and dispatch of scientific and financial progress reports to agencies.

To this end, we have generated a reporting calendar for all PI-based extramural grants and competitive post-doctoral fellowships at NCBS and inStem. Based on the dates in this calendar, we will be writing to the Principal applicants on these grants to verify details and with a reminder that a scientific report is due. In parallel, PIs receiving any communication from awarding agencies regarding their follow-on reporting requirements are requested to be in touch with the RDO and we can coordinate the process internally.

The RDO will assist and manage the timely collation and dispatch of all relevant reporting paperwork for NCBS and inStem extramural grants to the Agencies as per their requirements. At times, these papers may also include copies of our institutional financial reports and Annual reports as required by the Agencies. In addition, Agencies may require copies of ethical approval documents from our committees dealing with Biosafety, Animal ethics and Stem cell ethics prior to releasing follow-on funds. In these cases, the RDO will request these documents from PIs for inclusion with the paperwork.

All financial management on grants will continue to be the responsibility of our Accounts Teams, who should be contacted for queries in this regard. The RDO will only be providing due diligence and oversight on the reporting process to Agencies.

If you have any queries, suggestions or concerns regarding the process for reporting, please contact Savita Ayyar at ayyars@ncbs.res.in.



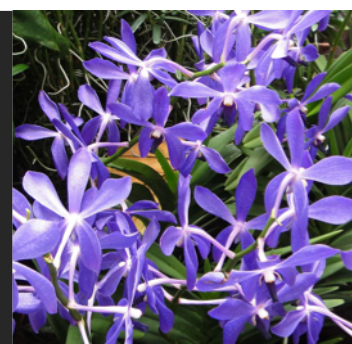
NCBS Fellow: Marcus Taylor (Mayor lab)

Marcus Taylor is currently an NCBS Fellow and will soon initiate his work supported by the AXA Research Fund.

Marcus aims to use high-resolution microscopy to measure the nanoscale (<100nm) organisation and dynamics of signalling molecules on the surface of T-cells, an immunological cell type required for an immune response. He seeks to understand how the nanoscale organisation of signalling receptors is maintained and modulated to successfully detect and respond to chemical signals. Unravelling the molecular details of T-cell signalling will allow him to understand how an adaptive immune response is formed, but also universal mechanisms of how signalling molecules are dynamically organised on the cellular surface.

Forthcoming deadlines

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



The following section provides brief details of funding schemes relevant to Group leaders and with deadlines for submission in the period May-September 2012. These details can also be accessed at <http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/forthcoming-deadlines>, where the data will be updated as and when specific deadline information becomes available. 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.

Agency	Scheme	Comments	Tenable at	Deadline
DST/ Research Council of Norway	Indian Norwegian joint research projects	Collaborative travel for joint research projects in environmental related topics	India/Portugal	30-May-12
DBT	BioCare Career Re-orientation Fellowship (CRF)	For training in skills reqd for career change. Lol reqd.	India	31-May-12
DST	Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructure (FIST)			31-May-12
DBT/Academy of Finland	INDO-FINLAND Joint Call for proposals in Food Biotechnology	Needs Collaborator in Finland	India/Finland	To be Announced expected May 2012
DST/ MINCYT, Argentina	Indo-Argentine Bilateral scientific cooperation	Needs argentine collaborator, field funded include biotechnology applied to agri-food security	India/Argentina	To be Announced expected May 2012
DST/ Spanish Ministry of Science and innovation (MICINN)	Indo-Spain Joint Programme of cooperation in Science and Technology	Collaborative travel for nanotechnology, health and medical research	India/Spain	To be Announced, Expected May 2012
TWAS	International Scientific meetings			1-Dec for July-Dec meetings and 1 June for Jan-June meetings following year
Indo-US Science and Technology Forum	Indo-US Bilateral Workshops/ Symposia/ Conferences		India/USA	15-Feb, 15-Jun, 15- Oct each year
Company of Biologists	Scientific Meetings grants	Meetings need to be in areas covered by the 4 journals of the Company of Biologists		15 Jan, 5 Apr, 15 Jun, 10 Sep
Company of Biologists	Small Meetings grants	For organising small local meetings in the areas covered by the 4 journals of the Company of Biologists		15 Jan, 5 Apr, 25 Jun, 10 Sep
Samsung Electronics, Co., Ltd. & related Samsung companies	Global Research Outreach Program	For fostering collaboration with SAMSUNG for innovative research in the 15 Research Themes of interest listed on their website including Biomedical Sciences and Engineering, Biotherapeutics etc.	International	16-Jun-12
DST/Unit for Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Executive Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the years 2012 – 2014	Priority areas include biotechnology and medicine, nanotechnology and environment	India/Italy exchange	To be announced. Expected Jul-2012
Union for international cancer control (UICC)	Yamaguchi-Yoshida Memorial international study grants	Basic, applied or translational cancer research. Promotes international collab.	Any country overseas	15-Jan and 1-July
DBT/ISTP Canada	CANADA - INDIA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. ISTP/Canada-DBT Joint Call for Proposals for Collaborative R&D Projects	To foster and support development of collaborative R&D projects bringing together industry and academia from both countries for joint development of innovative products or processes. Priority areas include Biotechnology, health research, Pharmaceuticals, medical devices, nanotechnology	India/Canada	EOI due 12-Jul, full application (if invited) due 20-Aug-2012
Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA), India/ISTP Canada	CANADA - INDIA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. ISTP/Canada-DBT Joint Call for Proposals for Collaborative R&D Projects	To foster and support development of collaborative R&D projects from both countries for joint development of innovative products or processes. Priority areas include Sustainable environmental technologies and alternative energy, Earth sciences and disaster management, nanotechnology etc	India/Canada	EOI due 12-Jul, full application (if invited) due 20-Aug-2012

★ Restrictions apply- please check with the RDO

Forthcoming deadlines- (continued)



Agency	Scheme	Comments	Tenable at	Deadline
US-India Educational Foundation	Fullbright-Nehru Environmental Leadership program (USA)	short term training in US	USA	16-Jul-12
US-India Educational Foundation	Fullbright-Nehru Senior research fellowships	Requires affiliation to a Indian institute.	USA	16-Jul-12
US-India Educational Foundation	Fullbright-Nehru Senior research fellowships	Requires affiliation to a US institute.	India	01-Aug-12
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
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
DST/ Max Planck Society	Max Planck Partner Groups at Indian Partner Institutions	Extension of Max-Planck Fellowships. Research to be conducted at Indian partner institution (IPI)	India	To Be Announced, Expected Sep 2012
National Research Council (USA)	Research Associateship Program (USA)	Multiple agencies participate, have to chose an agency and the defined research opportunities	USA	Feb, May, Aug, Nov each year with different agencies adhering to different deadlines
The academy of science for developing world (TWAS)	TWAS-CSIR Fellowships for Postdoctoral Research in India	Needs to move to CSIR institutes	India	31 August 2012
DST/ Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal	Indo-Portugese Programme of cooperation in Science and Technology	Collaborative travel. Priority areas include biotechnology, nanotechnology, health and agriculture sciences etc	India/Portugal	29-Jun-12
DST/MEST (Korea)	Indo-Korea Joint program of cooperation in Science and Technology- Indo-Korean Research Internship Programme (IKRI)	Indian national enrolled for PhD and specialising in areas of science, engineering and biomedical research for 3-12 months internship in a research laboratory in Korea	Korea	29-Jun-12
Wellcome Trust- DBT India Alliance	Early Career Fellowship		India/overseas	preliminary application due 6- Jul, full application if invited due Sept 2012

Forthcoming deadlines- (continued)



Agency	Scheme	Comments	Tenable at	Deadline
Women in Science (Research)	L'ORÉAL-UNESCO	International fellowships for Women in Science (country other than home country)	PhD students or postdocs with project accepted in research institute outside home country	15-Jul-12
US-India Educational Foundation	Fullbright-Nehru doctoral and professional research fellowship	short term training in US	USA	16-Jul-12
US-India Educational Foundation	Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Research Fellowships		USA	16-Jul-12
NIH	International Neuroscience Fellowship (USA)	Needs US sponsor	USA	LOI due by 16-Jul-12 and full applications due by 16-Aug-12
Marie Curie Actions	International Outgoing Fellowship (EU nationals eligible)	Enabling European researchers to be trained and acquire new knowledge in a high-level research organisation in a Third Country.	India	16-Aug-12
Marie Curie Actions	International Incoming Fellowship (EU countries)	Encouraging researchers moving from Third Countries to work on projects in Europe.	EU member country	16-Aug-12
Human Frontiers in Sciences Program (HFSP)	Long term Fellowships	Requires relocation to country other than home country	Any country overseas for Indian nationals, Foreign nationals may work in India	To be Announced, Expected Aug-Sep 2012
Human Frontiers in Sciences Program (HFSP)	Cross-diciplinary Fellowships	Requires relocation to country other than home country	Any country overseas for Indian nationals, Foreign nationals may work in India	To be Announced, Expected Aug-Sep 2012
Company of biologists	Travel Grants	apply through appropriate journals websites, J. Cell Sci., Dev., J. Exp Biol., Disease models and mech.	International	30-Apr, 31 Aug, 31 Dec-11
DST	Postdoctoral fellowship under Cognitive Science Research Initiative		India	To be Announced, Expected Aug 2012
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)	Postdoctoral Fellowships Program (For Canadian nationals)		India	1-Sep each year
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
DBT/Danish council for strategic research	Strategic Joint research collaboration within health science biotechnology	Covers diverse areas including Stem cells, Lifestyle diseases, cancer etc.		14-Sep-12
Winston Churchill Memorial Trust	Churchill Travelling Fellowship (tenable in India)		India	02-Oct-12

Forthcoming institutional visits

This section provides a listing of visits from international institutions seeking significant institutional collaborations with NCBS and inStem. These events are being coordinated by Baishali Goswami (baishalig@ncbs.res.in) in conjunction with the Meetings Office and others. More information on these events will be made available closer to the time.

12- 13 June 2012: Brandeis University

6-7 August 2012: Curie Institute

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

Image credits:
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