

# RDO News

May 2011

## Welcome note

Dear Colleague,

It has been a busy few months since the last Newsletter. NCBS and inStem have received several visitors from other institutions and there have been many discussions on collaborative activities and shared funding arrangements.

Read about a new partnership funding arrangement between inStem and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine in a new call for funding human stem cell research (Page 3).

This time we also feature a short statement from one of our recently funded Post-doctoral researchers on the potential impact of the receipt of an Early Career Fellowship from the WT DBT India Alliance to his career (Page 2).

As always, there are also links to forthcoming deadlines for several national and international funding schemes.

With best wishes, Savita.

## Recent funding successes

Dasaradhi Palakodeti, Madhusudhan Venkadesan, Sathya Srinivasachari, P Chandrashekhar, Jyotsna Dhawan, S Ramaswamy, Mitradas Panicker

# Recent Funding Successes

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

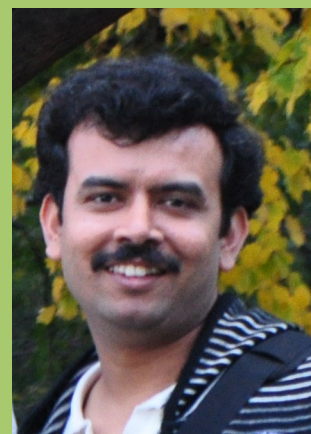
PI name	Title	Agency	Awarded amount (lakh INR)	Duration
Dr. Mitradas M Panicker	Molecular Characterization of Naturally occurring Genetic Variations in Candidate Genes for Schizophrenia	DBT	18.4	12 Months
Prof S.Ramaswamy	Molecular Mechanisms of Sialic Acid Uptake by Gram-Negative Bacteria	DST	53	36 Months
Dr. P ChandraShekar <sup>1</sup>	RNAi Screen for novel genes regulating self-renewal and pluripotency of embryonic stem (ES) cells	WT-DBT IA	168.49	48 Months
Dr. Sathya Srinivasachari	Understanding the Structure and function of rieske non heme oxygenases in eukaryotic systems	WT-DBT IA	121.83	48 Months
Prof Jyotsna Dhawan <sup>2</sup>	Strategic Partnership in Skeletal Muscle Biology	BBSRC	17.48	48 Months
Dr. Dasaradhi Palakodeti	The mechanisms of RNA-mediated regulation of stem cell function in Planarian Schmidtea mediterranea	WT-DBT IA	355.75	60 Months
Dr. Madhusudhan Venkadesan	Control,Stability and Energy consumption during locomotion on uneven terrain	WT-DBT IA	324.98	60 Months
1 -On this page				
2 - On Page 3				

## Awardee Profile

**Dr P Chandra Shekhar, Welcome Trust/ DBT India Alliance Early Career Fellow**

**Mentor: Jyotsna Dhawan**

The pluripotent embryonic stem cells can self-renew and differentiate to any cell types of the body. Pluripotency of ES cells is established and maintained by network of transcription factors, epigenetic factors and signaling pathways. I am interested in identifying novel factors and molecular pathways, which regulate pluripotency and cell fate determination of murine ES cells. I am using shRNA library against genes, which show enriched expression in ES cells or the inner cell mass of blastocyst, to screen for novels factors regulating pluripotency.



This fellowship has provided me a very good opportunity to pursue an independent career soon after my PhD. The grant money for the consumables is sufficient to pursue an independent research project for the next four years. Through this fellowship I have been able to establish collaboration with Ian chambers, part of the proposed research will be carried out in his lab at University of Edinburgh. This provides me an excellent opportunity to work and learn with established group in ES cell biology. The fellowship in this form is similar to independent postdoctoral position. This provides me the independence of an investigator with facilitating support from my mentor. This fellowship coupled with the vibrant research environment at inStem-NCBS and a very supportive mentor like Jyotsna is good platform for me to establish a strong foundation for the research questions that I would like to address in my career ahead.

# Collaborative funding opportunities



## CIRM- inStem partnership funding

inStem has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US-based California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) that outlines ways in which the two institutions can jointly fund collaborative research projects that bring together top stem cell scientists in India and California.



The inStem-CIRM agreement was announced at a workshop on the campus at which several stem cell researchers from all over India and California shared ideas and discussed complementary strengths that could lead to future collaborative research projects. As the two agencies move forward they will keep each other informed of planned Requests for Applications and, when the grant round fits their mutual goals, they will invite scientists in India and California to form teams to file a single, fully integrated scientific project proposal. Proposals that pass review in both jurisdictions will have the California researchers funded by CIRM and the Indian researchers funded by inSTEM.

CIRM was established in November 2004 with the passage of Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act to provide grants to Californian researchers for stem cell research, research facilities, and other vital research opportunities. For CIRM this new agreement with inStem builds on the 10 other international Collaborative Funding Partner agreements the agency has developed—the MRC in the United Kingdom, the Cancer Stem Cell Consortium in Canada, the state of Victoria in Australia, the MICINN in Spain, JST in Japan, MOST in China, BMBF in Germany, the Andalusian Initiative for Advanced Therapies in the Spanish state of Andalusia, the French National Research Agency, and the National Health and Medical Research Council in Australia. Details of current activities and funding from CIRM can be accessed at <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/>.

For details of the CIRM review process and tips on grantsmanship for CIRM awards, see <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/GrantWritingWebinar030310>.

## BBSRC India Partnering Award

The BBSRC India Partnering Awards are intended to facilitate partnership links between Indian and UK-based laboratories by supporting exchange visits between scientists, particularly early career scientists. The Award typically provides overall funds in the region of 25k GBP for the partnership. Proposals are expected to fall within the remit of BBSRC priority areas and must be submitted by UK researchers *already in receipt of BBSRC research funding*.

The next call for these awards is expected to be announced in September with a closing date in November for activation of successful awards in April 2012. Details of the scheme are available at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/internationalfunding/india.aspx>

A copy of the BBSRC Strategic plan and Annual report is available at the RDO.

### Recent Award:

**Recipients:** Prof Jyotsna Dhawan, Prof K VijayRaghavan, Dr Robert Knight, Dr Baljinder Mankoo, Prof Simon Hughes, Dr Pete Zammit

**Theme:** Skeletal Muscle Stem cells in Development and Regeneration.

**Awarded to** facilitate student and postdoctoral researcher exchange for studies on skeletal muscle biology in flies, fish, mice and humans.

# Forthcoming scheme deadlines

The following section provides brief details of funding schemes relevant to Group leaders and with deadlines for submission in the period Apr- Aug 2011. 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	Tenable at	Scheme	Deadline	Weblink
DST (SERC)	India	Swarnajayanti Fellowships	30-Apr-11	<a href="http://www.serc-dst.org/swarnajayanti.htm">http://www.serc-dst.org/swarnajayanti.htm</a>
DST	India	Woman Scientist scheme (WOS-B)	30-Apr-11	<a href="http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/Advertisement-WOS-B.pdf">http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/Advertisement-WOS-B.pdf</a>
Swiss national Science foundation/ DST	India/Switzerland exchange visits	Indo Swiss Joint Research Programme: JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS	30-Apr-11	<a href="http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new11/ISJRP_JRP_announcement.pdf">http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new11/ISJRP_JRP_announcement.pdf</a>
Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance	India	Margdarshi Fellowship	01-May-11	<a href="http://www.wellcomedbt.org/margdarshi-fellowships-Purpose.html">http://www.wellcomedbt.org/margdarshi-fellowships-Purpose.html</a>
Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance	India	Intermediate Research Fellowship	preliminary applications due by 12-May-11	<a href="http://www.wellcomedbt.org/intermediate-Fellowships-purpose.html">http://www.wellcomedbt.org/intermediate-Fellowships-purpose.html</a>
Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance	India	Senior Research Fellowship	preliminary applications due by 12-May-11	<a href="http://www.wellcomedbt.org/senior-fellowships-Purpose.html">http://www.wellcomedbt.org/senior-fellowships-Purpose.html</a>
Utrecht University, Netherlands	Utrecht University	Utrecht University Short Stay Visiting Professorship	15-May-11	<a href="http://www.uu.nl/university/research/NL/internationalesamenwerking/Pages/OpenCalls.aspx">http://www.uu.nl/university/research/NL/internationalesamenwerking/Pages/OpenCalls.aspx</a>
DST/ MINCYT, Argentina	India/Argentina exchange visits	Indo-Argentine Bilateral scientific cooperation	15-May-11	<a href="http://www.stic-dst.org/CallforProposalsMarch152011.pdf">http://www.stic-dst.org/CallforProposalsMarch152011.pdf</a>
DBT/NIBIB/NIH	India	INDO-U.S. JOINT PROPOSALS IN THE AREA OF LOW-COST MEDICAL DEVICES	26-Jan, 24-May, 23-Sep-2011	<a href="http://dbtindia.nic.in/uniquepage.asp?id_pk=60">http://dbtindia.nic.in/uniquepage.asp?id_pk=60</a>
DST/ Spanish Ministry of Science and innovation (MICINN)	India/Spain exchange visits	Indo-Spain Joint Programme of cooperation in Science and Technology	31-May-11	<a href="http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new11/cop_guide_lines_indo-spanish_corrected.pdf">http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new11/cop_guide_lines_indo-spanish_corrected.pdf</a>
India- US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)	India-USA	US-India Science and Technology Endowment	LoI due by 31-May-11	<a href="http://www.indoustf.org/US-India-Endowment-Board.html">http://www.indoustf.org/US-India-Endowment-Board.html</a>
TWAS		International Scientific meetings	1-Dec for July-Dec meetings and 1 June for Jan-June meetings following year	<a href="http://twas.ictp.it/prog/meetings/support-for-international-scientific-meetings">http://twas.ictp.it/prog/meetings/support-for-international-scientific-meetings</a>
National Council for Science & Technology (CONACYT) of United Mexican States/ DST	India/Mexico exchange visits	Indo-Mexican Scientific-Technological Cooperation Programme	30-Jun-11	<a href="http://www.stic-dst.org/IndoMexicanJointCall%202011.pdf">http://www.stic-dst.org/IndoMexicanJointCall%202011.pdf</a>
Union for international cancer control (UICC)	Short term overseas	Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial international study grants	15-Jan and 1-July	<a href="http://www.uicc.org/fellowships/study-grants">http://www.uicc.org/fellowships/study-grants</a>
US-India Educational Foundation	USA	Fulbright-Nehru Environmental Leadership program	15-Jul-11	<a href="http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForLecturersandTeachersFulbright-NehruEnvironmentalLeadershipProgram.aspx">http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForLecturersandTeachersFulbright-NehruEnvironmentalLeadershipProgram.aspx</a>
US-India Educational Foundation	USA	Fulbright-Nehru Senior research fellowships	15-Jul-11	<a href="http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForResearchersFulbright-NehruSeniorResearchFellowships.aspx">http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForResearchersFulbright-NehruSeniorResearchFellowships.aspx</a>
NIH	India (needs US collaborator)	NCD-LIFESPAN	Letter of Intent due by 21-Aug-11	<a href="http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-257.html">http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-257.html</a>
Matsumae International Foundation (Japan)	Japan	MIF Research Fellowship	31-Aug-11	<a href="http://www.mars.dti.ne.jp/~mif/">http://www.mars.dti.ne.jp/~mif/</a>
IBRO	India	Return home fellowship	01-Sep-11	<a href="http://funding.ibro.info/Pub/Pub_Main_Display.asp?LC_Docs_ID=4254">http://funding.ibro.info/Pub/Pub_Main_Display.asp?LC_Docs_ID=4254</a>
<b>Exploratory grants</b>				
Gates	No country restrictions	Grand Challenges Explorations	19-May-11	<a href="http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Pages/Introduction.aspx">http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Pages/Introduction.aspx</a>
Simons Foundation			Applications accepted from 1-June-11, Rolling Program	
Autism Research Initiative (SFARI)	No country restrictions	SFARI Explorer Awards		<a href="https://sfari.org/explorer-awards-rfa">https://sfari.org/explorer-awards-rfa</a>



# Forthcoming scheme deadlines

The following section provides brief details of funding schemes relevant to junior researchers and with deadlines for submission in the period Apr- Aug 2011.

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	Tenable at	Scheme	Deadline	Weblink
Company of biologists	Europe	Travel Grants	30-Apr, 31 Aug, 31 Dec-11	<a href="http://www.biologists.com/cob_fellowship.html">http://www.biologists.com/cob_fellowship.html</a>
US-India Educational Foundation	USA	International Fulbright Science and Technology Award for Outstanding Foreign Students	01-May-11	<a href="http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForStudentsInternationalFulbrightScienceandTechnologyAward.aspx">http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForStudentsInternationalFulbrightScienceandTechnologyAward.aspx</a>
Utrecht University, Netherlands	Utrecht University	Utrecht University Short Stay Fellowships for PhD students	15-May-11	<a href="http://www.uu.nl/university/research/NL/internationalesamenwerking/Pages/OpenCalls.aspx">http://www.uu.nl/university/research/NL/internationalesamenwerking/Pages/OpenCalls.aspx</a>
National Research Council (USA)	USA	Research Associateship Program	Feb, May, Aug, Nov each year with different agencies adhering to different deadlines	<a href="http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/RAP/index.htm">http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/RAP/index.htm</a>
The academy of science for developing world (TWAS)	CSIR institute, India	TWAS-CSIR Fellowships for Postdoctoral Research in India	1 June each year	<a href="http://www.twas.org/">http://www.twas.org/</a>
US-India Educational Foundation	USA	Fulbright-Nehru doctoral and professional research fellowship	15-Jul-11	<a href="http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForStudentsFulbright-NehruDoctoralandProfessionalResearch.aspx">http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForStudentsFulbright-NehruDoctoralandProfessionalResearch.aspx</a>
Wellcome Trust- DBT India Alliance	India	Early Career Fellowship	Aug-11	<a href="http://www.wellcomedbt.org/early-Career-Fellowships-Purpose.html">http://www.wellcomedbt.org/early-Career-Fellowships-Purpose.html</a>
The academy of science for developing world (TWAS)	DBT institute, India	TWAS-DBT Biotechnology Fellowships for Postdoctoral Research in India	31 Aug each year	<a href="http://www.twas.org/">http://www.twas.org/</a>
US-India Educational Foundation	USA	Fulbright-Nehru postdoctoral fellowship	15-Jul-11	<a href="http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForLecturersandTeachersFulbright-NehruPostdoctoralResearchFellowships.aspx">http://www.usief.org.in/Scripts/ForIndianNationalsForLecturersandTeachersFulbright-NehruPostdoctoralResearchFellowships.aspx</a>
European Molecular Biology Organization	Europe	EMBO Long-term Fellowship	15- Aug, 15-Feb each year	<a href="http://www.embo.org/programmes/fellowships/long-term.html">http://www.embo.org/programmes/fellowships/long-term.html</a>
NIH	USA	International Neuroscience Fellowship	16-Aug-11	<a href="http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-11-106.html">http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-11-106.html</a>
IBRO	India	Return home fellowship	01-Sep-11	<a href="http://funding.ibro.info/Pub/Pub_Main_Display.asp?LC_Docs_ID=4254">http://funding.ibro.info/Pub/Pub_Main_Display.asp?LC_Docs_ID=4254</a>
Alexander Humboldt Foundation	Germany	Sofja Kovalevskaja Award	01-Sep-11	<a href="http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/kovalevskaja-award.html">http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/kovalevskaja-award.html</a>

# Spotlight- Exploratory funding

## Gates Grand Challenges Explorations

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has recently announced **Round 7 of the Gates Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE)**. This is an initiative to encourage development of innovative and unconventional solutions to global health challenges identified by the Foundation in consultation with their disease experts.

Full descriptions of the topics for this round and application instructions are available at: [www.grandchallenges.org/gce/](http://www.grandchallenges.org/gce/).

These phased awards are intended to provide support for high-risk proposals, which if successful can form the basis of more substantial multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional follow-on funding. Initial grants will be US \$100,000 each, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US \$1 million. These grants are flexible in duration and therefore allow the innovators to work at their own pace.

The deadline for receipt of applications to Round 7 is **May 19, 2011**.

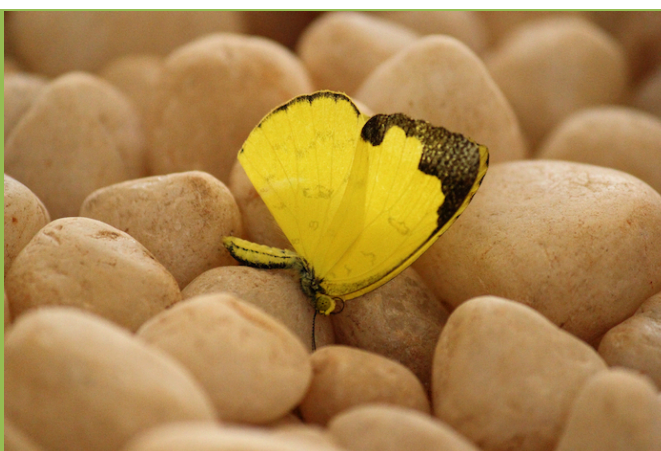
Copies of Gates Foundation brochures with information on the present call and on past awardees from India are available with the RDO.

## SFARI Explorer Awards

The Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) supports innovative research that focuses on a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying autism spectrum disorders or potential therapeutic approaches.

The SFARI Explorer Awards are intended to provide resources to support exploratory experiments that will strengthen hypotheses and lead to the formulation of competitive applications for subsequent larger-scale funding by SFARI or other organizations. Innovative, high risk/high impact proposals are encouraged, especially from junior and senior investigators who are new to the field of autism, but who have expertise that could be brought to bear on this complex disorder. The awards are on a one-time basis, not to exceed maximum direct costs of \$50,000 for a period of one year. There are no citizenship or country requirements to apply for this scheme.

The applications will be accepted online starting **1 June 2011**. Applications are considered on a rolling basis, with a response time as early as 30 days. More details on this scheme can be accessed at <https://sfari.org/explorer-awards-rfa>.





## Save our trees....

RDO staff collating a grant application for dispatch.

When will it all go online!!!

For any comments, suggestions and queries on this newsletter, please contact Savita Ayyar at [ayyars@ncbs.res.in](mailto:ayyars@ncbs.res.in)

Pictures courtesy of Shreyas Rao and Savita Ayyar