

RDO News



November 2010

RDO timeline

July 2010	Head, RDO recruited to NCBS
August 2010	First grant submissions handled
October 2010	Grants Adviser recruited to boost RDO efforts
Early November 2010	RDO Newsletter launched
Late November 2010	Launch of RDO external and intranet webpages

Welcome note

Dear Colleague,

I write to welcome you to read the first edition of the RDO Newsletter. This communication will be brought out every quarter and will contain information on new RDO services, forthcoming event deadlines, recent funding successes, policy news and grantsmanship.

Simply put, the RDO's mission is "To facilitate the research and training strategies of NCBS and its allied institutions". We aim to do this by offering expert guidance on applying for extramural funding, managing the internal institutional processes related to receiving grant funding, supporting the researchers with their career development needs, communications activities and policy development.

The RDO is a service to the researchers at NCBS/inStem and we seek your cooperation in making it a mutual success.

With best wishes, Savita Ayyar

Recent funding successes

Vatsala Thirumalai, Gaiti Hasan, Upinder Bhalla



Know your RDO colleagues



Savita Ayyar, Head RDO

Following my graduate and post-doctoral training at the University of Cambridge, I moved to the Wellcome Trust in London where I gained experience in a range of scientific administrative activities. My areas of expertise include managing review processes for Research Institutes, complex bid development, budgeting of grants, peer-review management, administering Fellowship schemes and evaluating outcomes.

I should be contacted for all matters relating to institutional eligibility, authorization and policy for grant funding. I am also your point of contact for all grant applications to the Wellcome Trust, WT-DBT India Alliance and HFSP. All comments, suggestions and queries on the RDO's services, website and Newsletters should be sent to me.

ayyars@ncbs.res.in

Vineetha Raghavan, Grants Adviser

I completed my Phd in ICGEB/Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in 2004. Thereafter, I joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer, New York, USA in the Department of Nucleic Acid Biochemistry for postdoctoral research. My second postdoctorate training was at Yale University, school of medicine in the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry.

I am your point of contact for all grant applications to international collaborative funding schemes partnered by the DBT and DST. I am also responsible for collating the content for the RDO's website and Newsletters and am your point of contact for information on all the schemes listed therein.

vineethar@ncbs.res.in



BS Swathi, Secretarial Trainee

After completing my secondary school education, I pursued a 3-year Diploma training course in Secretarial practice. Following that, I joined NCBS in August 2009 as a Secretarial Trainee. I have assisted in making travel arrangements, account settlements, visitor hospitality, dispatch and grant submissions for Faculty at NCBS.

Working with the RDO, I will be responsible for collation and dispatch of paperwork for all paper-based grant submissions from the RDO and can also create electronic signatures for use on grant applications.



facultyoffice@ncbs.res.in

All requests for grant submissions should be directed to ayyars@ncbs.res.in in the first instance.

Forthcoming scheme deadlines

The following section provides brief details of funding schemes with deadlines for submission in the period Nov 2010-Jan 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	Scheme	Deadline	Weblink
DST/ DIISR (Australia)	AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND (AISRF)	15-Nov-10	http://stic-dst.org/what.html
DBT/ DIISR (Australia)	Indo-Australian Fund for S&T Cooperation in Biotechnology	15-Nov-10	http://dbtindia.nic.in/news_management/PressreleaseDetails.asp?PressId=128&button=Edit
DST/ Russian Foundation for basic research (RFBR)	Indo-Russian joint research	30-Nov-10	http://stic-dst.org/what.html
DST/ Swiss Program Office	Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme Joint Utilization of Advanced facilities	30-Nov-10	http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new10/ISJRP_JUAF_call_text_DST.pdf
DST/ DAAD (germany)	DST-DAAD Project based personnel exchange programme	30-Nov-10	http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new10/IndoGerman_DST-DAAD_PPP_2011.pdf
DST/ Swiss Program Office	Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme Research Fellowships	30-Nov-10	http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new10/ISJRP_RF_call_text_DST.pdf
TWAS	International Scientific meetings	1-Dec-10 for meetings in period July-Dec 2011	http://twas.ictp.it/prog/meetings/support-for-international-scientific-meetings
American Cancer Society	International Fellowships for Beginning Investigators (ACSBI)	1-Dec-10	http://www.uicc.org/fellowships/beginning-investigators
Irish Research Council for Sci., Engg., and Technology (IRCSET)	EMPOWER/Enterprise partnership scheme (EPS)	08-Dec-10	http://www.ircset.ie/Default.aspx?tabid=78
DBT	CREST Award	10-Dec-10	http://dbtindia.nic.in/news_management/PressreleaseDetails.asp?PressId=125&button=Edit
DBT/ NIH	Khorana- Nirenberg Scholar Program	30-Dec-10	http://www.nei.nih.gov/jobs/nih_dbt.asp
Indo-US Science and Technology Forum	Indo-US Science and Technology Forum fellowships (IUSSTF)	31-Dec-10	http://www.indoussf.org/fellowship.htm
Company of biologists	Travelling Fellowships	31-Dec-10	http://www.biologists.com/cob_fellowship.html
Union for international cancer control (UICC)	Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial international study grants	15-Jan-10	http://www.uicc.org/fellowships/study-grants
DST	Fund for improvement of S&T infrastructure (FIST)	Jan/Feb each year	http://www.fist-dst.org/index.asp

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.



Principal Applicant	Agency	Title	Amount (Rupees)	Duration
Vatsala Thirumalai	WT-DBT	The developing brain and the emergence of behavior – a case for neuromodulation	2,47,31,937	60 months
Gaiti Hasan	DST	Regulation of intracellular Calcium in the Drosophila nervous system and it's relevance to neuronal function.	43,99,600	36 months
Upinder S. Bhalla	DBT	Finding the neural correlates of olfactory guided behaviours in awake, behaving rats in both controlled and natural environments.	79,73,000	36 months

Spotlight



HFSP Awardees meeting 2010, Kovalam, India

Some of us from NCBS and inStem spent last week in sunny Trivandrum, by the sea and attending the 2010 meeting of the HFSP awardees.

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) is a leading agency for funding international collaborative science, supporting researchers in nearly 35 countries worldwide, including India. The organization operates in a very niche setting, funding basic multidisciplinary work at the interface of biology and other disciplines such as chemistry, physics and engineering. Generous funding support is provided via Fellowships for post-doctoral researchers and Program grants for more established independent researchers.

Since 2001, the Program has organized an annual meeting for its awardees. These meetings are held at different international venues each year and allow awardees to meet, exchange ideas, establish linkages and initiate collaborations. This year's awardees meeting was hosted by India at Kovalam in Kerala and also included as attendees, a selection of young Indian investigators recently recruited to scientific institutions across the country. The meeting showcased the best in science funded by the HFSP, including talks from Fellows and Program grant awardees. There was also a session titled "Spotlight on India" with talks from eminent Indian scientists such as Prof MS Valiathan, who gave an extremely interesting perspective on examining principles of Ayurveda using modern scientific tools. The meeting concluded with a session on funding opportunities for Indian scientists with talks on grantsmanship and funding from NCBS, HFSP and DBT.

HFSP will soon be accepting Letters of Intent for the next round of Program grant applications to be received no later than **31 March 2011**. HFSP Research grants are provided for teams of scientists from different countries who wish to combine their expertise in innovative approaches to questions that cannot be answered by individual laboratories. Emphasis is placed on novel collaborations that bring together scientists preferably from different disciplines to focus on fundamental problems in the life sciences. The research teams should preferably be intercontinental. **Applicants based at NCBS/inStem are eligible to apply.**

If you have a query regarding the scheme and the application process, please contact either the RDO or the HFSP at grant@hfsp.org.

Grantsmanship corner

Art of Grantsmanship by Jacob Kraicer

<http://www.hfsp.org/how/grantsmanship.php>

This is a very comprehensive article on grantsmanship written by Dr. Jacob Kraicer, former Director of Research Grants at the HFSP. His philosophy is that "Good writing will not save bad ideas, but bad writing can kill good ones." The article is intended both for experienced and new investigators and includes a very helpful countdown to submission. This is recommended reading for all potential applicants for HFSP awards and is also useful for scientists submitting applications to most international funding agencies.



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

