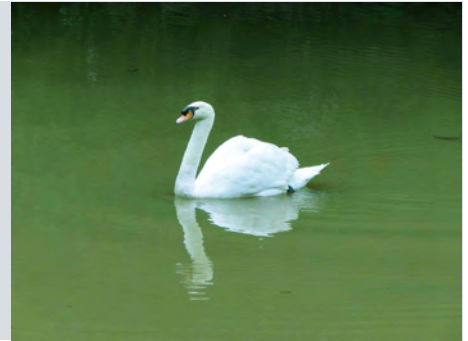


RDO News

November 2012



Welcome note

Dear colleague,

We recently hosted some visitors from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, who were here to see our campus first-hand, interact with the community and to tell us more about their Indo-German funding schemes. Read more about some of these schemes on Page 3.

The RDO now manages a reporting calendar, designed to aid management of annual reporting and follow-on funds release on grants. Read more about these activities on Page 4.

With an increasing number of new grants being activated across the campus, it is becoming imperative for PIs to have the necessary regulatory approvals in place. We request all grant applicants (or laboratory heads for early career researchers) to either have the approvals in place or in the pipeline prior to submitting new grant. Read more about this on Page 5.

With best wishes, Savita Ayyar

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Awarded grants

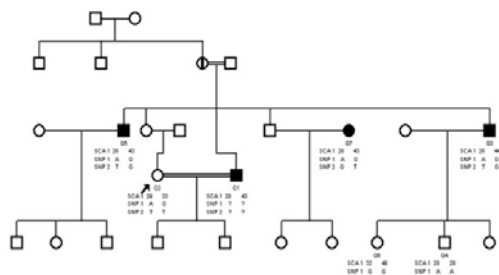


The following section provides brief details of our recent funding successes. We wish all the investigators well for their proposed programmes of research.

NCBS/inSTEM	PI name	Title	Agency	Awarded amount (INR in Laks)	Duration
NCBS	Gaiti Hasan	A longitudinal study of molecular & cellular changes in intracellular calcium signaling with neurological correlates in SCA1 cohort in South India	DBT	81.32	60 Months
NCBS	Sanjay Sane	From swarm intelligence to living buildings. Novel concepts of managing internal climates	HFSP	TBC	36 Months
NCBS and inStem	Satyajit Mayor and S Ramaswamy	Targeting Head & Neck Cancer Stem Cells	SANOFI	90.00	36 Months
NCBS	Umesh Srinivasan	Investigating the impact of logging on the population dynamics of birds in the Eastern Himalayas, India	IFS	6.1	12 months
NCBS	Satyajit Mayor	Nano-Mechano-Biology: spatiotemporal remodeling of membrane nanoplateforms under mechanical forces	HFSP	61.6	36 Months

DBT grant to Gaiti Hasan: Awardee perspective

This collaborative grant is between three departments of the Christian Medical College, Vellore and my group at NCBS. It began with an interest from Prof. Mathew Alexander (Head of the Dept of Neurology) in helping us identify possible changes in intracellular calcium signaling in the peripheral blood monocytes of pre-symptomatic and symptomatic spino-cerebellar ataxia (SCA) patients. The idea stems from the “calcium hypothesis” of neurodegeneration in SCA patients. The hypothesis proposes the existence of early changes in intracellular calcium homeostasis as a key causative feature leading to neurodegeneration. Prof. Alexander helped my graduate student Dhanya and myself meet up with the Community Health Department in CMC (also collaborators on the grant), who in turn introduced us to a community of villagers in the vicinity of CMC, Vellore where there is a high incidence of a genetically inherited dominant form of SCA. Our preliminary work, funded by a small grant from NCBS, first confirmed the SCA subtype as SCA1, and then went onto identify the presence of the SCA1 polyQ repeat amongst the villagers. Analysis of the preliminary human genetic data was helped considerably by Dr. Odity Mukherjee from NCBS, and our third CMC collaborator, Prof. Sumita Danda who heads the Dept of Clinical



Genetics. The current grant aims to measure changes in transcripts and miRNA profiles of pre-symptomatic and symptomatic individuals over a five year time scale, and correlate these changes with disease progression. In parallel we hope to measure calcium signals in freshly isolated PBMCs of the same individuals to ascertain if changes in neuronal function are reflected in blood cells. The long term aim is to understand the extent of calcium signaling changes during the process of neurodegeneration with the hope of providing drugs that can alleviate these changes and thus slow down or prevent neurodegeneration.

Feature: Humboldt Fellowships



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

If you are looking for funding opportunities to support your research in Germany, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation offers several fellowships for this purpose at all stages of researchers' careers. The Humboldt Foundation was established by the Federal Republic of Germany on 10 December 1953 and promotes academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars from abroad and from Germany. Detailed information on the funding schemes can be accessed via the Foundation's website <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/web/home.html> which also has a useful filter search tool to help applicants narrow down funding opportunities based on eligibility criteria. Some funding schemes from the Foundation are listed here.

For researchers with more than 18 years postdoctoral experience:

- **Humboldt Research Award-** Application by nomination by a collaborative partner from Germany and award valued at 60,000 EUR. Award winners are invited to spend a period of up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project with specialist colleagues at a research institution in Germany. The stay may be divided up into blocks.
- **The Max Planck Research Award 2013** will be awarded in the life sciences with the subject **The impact of climate change on ecosystems**. Application by nomination by a collaborative partner from Germany, award endowed with 750,000 EUR and may be used over a period of three to a maximum of five years to fund research chosen by the award winner..

For researchers with 12-18 years postdoctoral experience:

- **Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award** Application by nomination by a collaborative partner from Germany and award valued at 45,000 EUR. Award winners are invited to spend a period of up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project with specialist colleagues at a research institution in Germany. The stay may be divided up into blocks.
- **Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award** Application by nomination by a collaborative partner from Germany and award valued at 45,000 EUR. Award winners are invited to spend a period of up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project with specialist colleagues at one of the Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany. The stay may be divided up into blocks.
- **Humboldt Research Award** Application by nomination by a collaborative partner from Germany and award valued at 60,000 EUR. Award winners are invited to spend a period of up to one year cooperating on a long-term research project with specialist colleagues at a research institution in Germany. The stay may be divided up into blocks.

For advanced career researchers (not more than 12 years postdoctoral experience):

- **Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers** By direct application and award, enables holder to carry out a long-term research project (6-18 months) selected in cooperation with an academic host selected at a research institution in Germany. The stay may be divided up into 3 blocks. The value of the fellowship is 3,000 EUR per month along with additional allowances for family etc.

For early career postdoctoral researchers (not more than 4 years postdoctoral experience):

- **Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers** By direct application and award enables holder to carry out a long-term research project (6-24 months) selected in cooperation with an academic host selected at a research institution in Germany. The value of the fellowship is 2,500 EUR per month along with additional allowances for family etc.

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. 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.

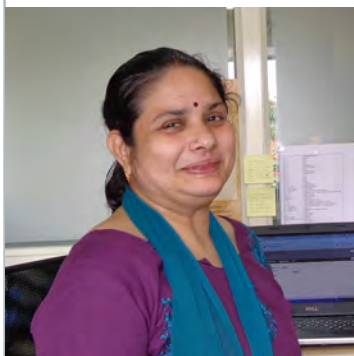
To aid management of grant reporting, we have generated a reporting calendar for all PI-based extramural grants and competitive post-doctoral fellowships at NCBS and inStem. A copy of this calendar is available for viewing on request from the RDO.

Based on the dates in this calendar, new starter Aruna (see below) has started writing to the Principal applicants on these grants to verify details and request copies of the appropriate scientific reports. 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. PIs are requested to review grant spend data with colleagues in Accounts prior to finalizing the UC/SoEs. It would be advisable to run down available funds and work towards reporting a “zero-balance” on all extramural reports going out to the Agencies.

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.

New Starter: Mrs MC Aruna



arunamc@ncbs.res.in

Team Administrator

I did my graduation in Zoological Science from Madras University and Post graduation from Annamalai University. Continuing my pursuit in education, I did Post graduation in Information Technology from Alagappa University and PG Diploma in Environmental Science from Ambedkar University, Hyderabad. Besides my training in Science, I am also a technically qualified professional Secretary. Before joining NCBS, I have worked in various organizations ranging from Manufacturing & Service Industries to Educational Institutions. I have immense experience and expertise working in different capacities like Secretary to the Chief of the Institutions, Senior HR & Admin Executive and Lecturer to the undergraduate students in Zoology and Computer Science.

Working at the RDO, I will now be responsible for collation and dispatch of all paperwork relating to grant submissions and award management to Agencies. I will also be working alongside my RDO colleagues to assist with collation and dispatch of annual technical and financial reports to agencies for release of follow-on funds.

Ethical approvals on grants



We request that Principal Applicants and post-doctoral supervisors on grant applications ensure that the work proposed in an application has all the required regulatory approvals. This is in compliance with national regulations and will be needed for release of funds if the grant is awarded. The RDO will also require copies of all the relevant approval documents for records and for assisting with negotiating the release of funds at pre-award stages.

Specifically, regulatory approvals are required if the research program involves the following:

- Recombinant DNA
- Transgenic animals (worms, flies, fish included)
- Animals (worms, flies, fish included)
- Human samples/ subjects
- Stem-cells

Proposals for these categories of research are considered by institutional committees as detailed below. Forms for these applications are available with Shantha (NCBS) and Valsala (inStem), respectively. Should you have any queries regarding any of these approvals or the processes, please check with MK Mathew (NCBS IBSC and IAEC), Panicker (NCBS and inStem ICSCRT) and Jyotsna Dhawan (inStem IBSC, IAEC, HEC) respectively. Please do not direct any queries regarding the ethical approvals to the RDO.

- Recombinant DNA - IBSC
- Transgenic animals (worms, flies, fish included) - IBSC
- Animals (worms, flies, fish included) - IAEC
- Human samples/ subjects - HEC
- Stem-cells - ICSCRT

With vertebrate animals, the Animal House Committee will also need to consider whether there is adequate space within the existing animal facilities to house the animals in the required numbers as proposed in the grant application. Please plan your work appropriately in advance.

Further information on regulatory matters and guidelines can be accessed at:

<http://dbtbiosafety.nic.in/>

http://icmr.nic.in/human_ethics.htm

http://icmr.nic.in/stem_cell_guidelines.pdf

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 November 2012- February 2013. 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
Human Frontiers in Science Program (HFSP)	Career Development Award			14-Nov-12
BBSRC (UK)	India Partnering Award	Promotes scientific exchange especially of early career scientists between India and UK	India/UK	14-Nov-12
Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance	Intermediate Research Fellowship		India/overseas	Preliminary application due 19-Nov-12
Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance	Senior Research Fellowship		India	Preliminary application due 19-Nov-12
DST/ DAAD (germany)	DST-DAAD Project based personnel exchange programme		India/Germany exchange	30-Nov-12
Gates/ICICI Knowledge Park (IKP)	IKP-Grand Challenges Explorations	R&D that will lead to new drugs, medical devices, vaccines, diagnostics, delivery systems and service models for equitable healthcare	No restrictions	30-Nov-12
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			1-Dec for July-Dec meetings and 1 June for Jan-June meetings following year
USAID/NSF	Partnership for enhanced engagement in Research (PEER)	Research on topics of importance to USAID and NSF including but not limited to food security, climate change, and other developmental issues		04-Dec-12
India US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF)	US- India Science and Technology Endowment	joint R&D, innovation, entrepreneurial and commercialization activities in science and technology. Needs US collaborator		15-Dec-12
DBT	Development of Next Generation Imaging Technologies for Biomedical Applications	Project grant	India	21-Dec-12
DBT	CREST Award	Stipend, travel and subsistence	International	31-Dec-12
DBT	Ramalingaswamy Re-entry Fellowship	Applications to be forwarded by sponsoring institute	India	31-Dec-12

Forthcoming deadlines

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



Union for international cancer control (UICC)	Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial international study grants (any country overseas)	Basic, applied or translational cancer research. Promotes international collab.	Any country overseas	15-Jan and 1-July
Company of Biologists	Small Meetings grants	For organising small local meetings in the areas covered by the 4 journals of the Company of Biologists		2 Jan, 1 Mar, 17 May, 9 Aug
Meetings	Company of Biologists	Scientific Meetings grants		15 Jan, 5 Apr, 15 Jun, 10 Sep
Meetings	Company of Biologists	Small Meetings grants		15 Jan, 5 Apr, 25 Jun, 10 Sep
Indo-US Science and Technology Forum	Indo-US Bilateral Workshops/ Symposia/ Conferences		India/USA	15-Feb, 15-Jun, 15-Oct each year
DBT/NIBIB/NIH	INDO-U.S. JOINT PROPOSALS IN THE AREA OF LOW-COST MEDICAL DEVICES	Technology development		24-Jan-13, 24-May-13
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	31-Jan-13
Indo-US Science and Technology Forum	Indo-US Bilateral Workshops/ Symposia/ Conferences			15-Feb-13
DBT	Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award	For nurturing innovative ideas in frontier areas of biotechnology	India	23-Nov-12
DBT	Ramalingaswamy Re-entry Fellowship	Applications to be forwarded by sponsoring institute	India	31-Dec-12
DBT/ NIH	Khorana- Nirenberg Scholar Program	Indo-US research career transition award program for biomedical research. Supports 2-3 years postdoc (NIH, USA)+ 2-3 years in independent DBT sponsored lab (India)	2-3 years postdoc (NIH, USA)+ 2-3 years in independent DBT sponsored lab (India)	31-Dec-12
Indo-US Science and Technology Forum	Research internships in science and engineering for American students in India (RISE)	Disciplines of science, technology, engineering and medicine		31-Jan-13
International Brain research Organization (IBRO)	International Research fellowship (any overseas developed country)	postdoctoral research in the field of neuroscience		1-Feb each year
European Molecular Biology Organization	EMBO Long-term Fellowship	Research to be conducted in European Union country		15- Aug, 15-Feb each year

Goodbyes



We bid farewell to BS Swathi and Baishali Goswami who have now left to pursue other interests. We thank them for their contributions to the RDO's activities while they were associated with us.



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

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Savita Ayyar, Dasaradhi Palakodeti, VV Robin &
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