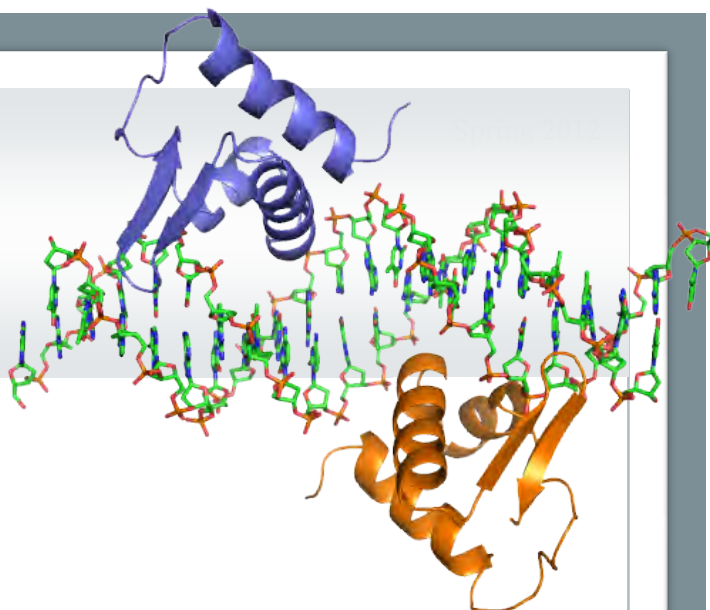


RDO News

November 2013



Welcome note

Dear colleague,

Welcome to another edition of RDO News.

As always, the campus has been a busy hive of activity over the past few months. The rooftops of the NCBS building have evolved to accommodate greenhouses! And the new space for the theory program will soon be a reality. Adding to the existing research facilities supporting campus researchers, there will soon be two new facilities: the macromolecular crystallography facility and the National Mouse Resource, respectively. Our congratulations to the investigators on the grants enabling creation of these facilities and to the Department of Biotechnology for supporting these endeavours (Page 3).

As before, we request applicants to allow at least two working weeks lead time prior to submission deadlines to allow RDO staff to assist with grant submissions. Please send any queries on awarded grants to rdo@ncbs.res.in.

With best wishes, Savita Ayyar

Awarded grants

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New facilities
on the block

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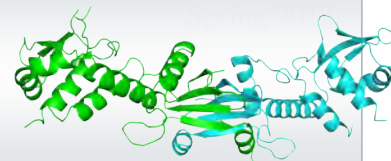
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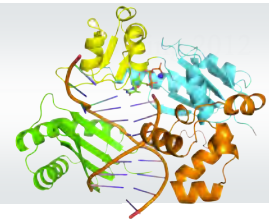
Awarded grants



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

PI	Institution	Co-PIs/ Supervisors	Agency	Scheme	Grant title	Award amount (in lakh INR)
Vatsala Thirumalai	NCBS	Sumantra Chattarji	DBT	Project grant	Investigating the role of gap junctions at an identified glutamatergic synapse in a developing vertebrate	84.36
Aswin Seshasayee	NCBS		DBT	Project grant	Exploring stationary phase genome dynamics in E. coli using next generation sequencing	79.7
Raghu Padinjat	NCBS	Gaiti Hasan	DBT	Project grant	The role of phospholipase D in regulating neuronal vesicular transport	63.22
Ravi Muddashetty	inStem	John Mercer, Raghu Padinjat	DBT	Project grant	Actomyosin-dependent transfer of RNA from glia to axons	54.21
P Shivaprasad	NCBS		DST-SERB	Ramanujan Fellowship	Ramanujan Fellowship	73
Satyajit Mayor	NCBS	Anandi Karumbati (CCAMP), Ram Vishwakarma (IIIM)	DBT		Validation of novel target for HIV-1: Nef-CD80/CD86 for potential therapeutic intervention	99 (NCBS and CCAMP)
Krushnamegh Kunte	NCBS	Chris Simon	NSF-USAID	PEER	Evolution, Diversification and Biogeography of Cicadas (Insecta: Hemiptera: Cicadidae) on the Indian Subcontinent	65832 USD = 36.2 L INR
Mahesh Sankaran	NCBS		DST-SERB	Project grant	Linking plant functional traits to ecosystem services across tropical forest communities in the Western Ghats	44.76
Ramanuj Dasgupta	inStem	Roel Nusse	CIRM-inStem	Project grant	Asymmetric stem cell division oriented by a local self-renewing signal	75
Gaiti Hasan	NCBS	Shyamala Mani (IISc)	DBT	CoE	Molecular genetics of intracellular calcium signaling in neurons with application to neurodegeneration and lipid metabolism in humans	171.05
Deepak Nair	NCBS	S Ramaswamy	DBT	Infrastructure grant	Macromolecular Crystallography and Scattering Facility at NCBS-inStem	729.49
Rakesh Khatri	NCBS	Sudhir Krishna lab	DST-SERB	Young investigator grant	Characterization of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) stem cells in terms of novel biomarkers and therapeutic targets	25
Imroze Khan	NCBS	Deepa Agashe lab	DST-SERB	Young investigator grant	An evolutionary ecological approach to the adaptive basis of immune priming in invertebrates and immunosenescence	23
Sumantra Chattarji	NCBS	Jyotsna Dhawan and S Ramaswamy	DBT	Infrastructure grant	National Mouse Research Resource (NaMoR)	3335
Muniaswmy Neerathilingam	CCAMP	Arto Urtti (University of Helsinki), Anu Koivula	DBT	Indo-Finnish	Bio-active protein synthesis in vitro with cell free platform (IV4SP)	391.288

New facilities on the block



Macromolecular Crystallography and Scattering Facility at NCBS-inStem

A visual description of biomolecules, in the form of three dimensional structures at atomic resolution, provides indispensable information regarding their mechanism of action. This information imparts fundamental understanding about the role of these biomolecules in physiology and life. Since the diameter of most biomolecules is smaller than the wavelength of light, it is impossible to use microscopy to obtain an atomic description of biological macromolecules. X-ray crystallography is the primary method of choice to determine three dimensional structure of biological macromolecules. X-ray crystallography can be utilized to determine the structure of molecules or ordered molecular assemblies of all sizes including that of virus particles.

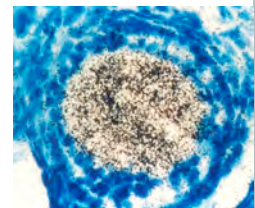
We employ X-ray crystallography to elucidate the mechanisms utilized by biomolecules to carry out their function. To substantially enhance the pace at which we can determine macromolecular structures, we applied for an infrastructure grant to build a modern facility for macromolecular crystallography. Our proposal titled "Macromolecular Crystallography and Scattering Facility at NCBS-inStem" was recently approved by the Department of Biotechnology and the facility should be operational shortly. The facility will also enable other investigators at NCBS and inStem to access macromolecular crystallography to study molecules of their choice. In addition, the facility will be open to other investigators from all over India.

Deepak Nair and S Ramaswamy

National Mouse Research Resource (NaMoR)

The Bangalore Biocluster has established state of the art facilities for cellular and molecular investigations of frontier questions in the life sciences. To facilitate these studies, a variety of model organisms are used, including zebrafish, flies and worms.

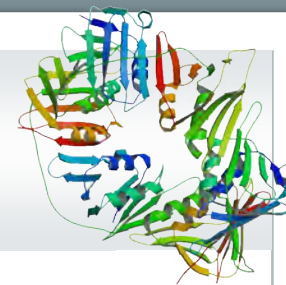
Because of its genetic tractability and physiological relevance to human biology and disease, the mouse has emerged as the most important model organism for testing hypotheses about genetic and molecular function, both in health and disease. The National Mouse Resource, funded by the Department of Biotechnology, is envisioned as a state-of-the-art rodent facility including transgenic and knockout mouse models of a range of human disorders. With strong professional management and both input and oversight from scientists, we expect that the facility will generate sufficient depth of research involvement to make this a sustainable high-level activity with strong support internally and the ability to deliver services to other groups outside of the Biocluster.



Sumantra Chattarji, Jyotsna Dhawan and S Ramaswamy

Forthcoming deadlines

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



Research grants/ Fellowships

Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP)-Conservation Future conservationist Award (British Petroleum (BP)/Bird life International/ Conservation International/Fauna and Flora international/ Wildlife conservation society)

Remit: To develop leadership capacity amongst emerging conservationists to address the most pressing conservation issues of our time.

Applicant eligibility: Minimum team of three of early-career conservationists with no more than 5 years of paid work experience in the conservation sector

Comments: Support for Team based conservation projects with focus on globally important species or sites with special focus on species at risk.

Budget: US \$15000 (CLP funding must cover at least 50% of the total project budget)

Duration: 3 months- 1 year

Agency Deadline: 11- Nov-13

Weblink: <http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/FutureConservationistAward.asp>

Grand Challenges Exploration- Round 12 (The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)

Remit: To foster innovation in global health research.

Applicant eligibility: The grant program is open to anyone from any discipline, from student to tenured professor, and from any organization – colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies.

Comments: an agile, accelerated grant-making process with short two-page applications and no preliminary data required. Applications are submitted online, and winning grants are chosen approximately 5 months from the submission deadline. The program supports fields as defined in the call.

Budget: Initial grants of \$100,000 are awarded two times a year. Successful projects have the opportunity to receive a follow-on grant of up to \$1 million.

Duration: 1-6 years* (with extension)

Agency Deadline: 12- Nov-13

Weblink: <http://www.grandchallenges.org/Explorations/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

IFS Individual Research Grant (International Foundation for Science, IFS)

Remit: to support excellent individual and collaborative research, to build capability of early-career scientists in the developing world, and to contribute innovation to the sustainable management of biological and water resources.

Applicant eligibility: Citizen of a developing country with minimum Master's level education, under 40 years of age and with a regular employment at a research institute. Project needs to be based in a developing country (India Eligible).

Budget: USD 12000 for purchase of equipment, expendable supplies, and literature - and to arrange fieldwork activities related to the proposed project

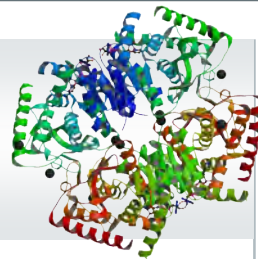
Duration: 1-3 years (maybe renewed up to 3 times)

Agency Deadline: Calls open from 1st Dec 2013. Submission deadline is yet to be announced.

Weblink: <http://www.ifs.se/ifs-programme/individual-research-approach/>

Forthcoming deadlines

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



Research Grants (EARTHWATCH Institute, USA)

Remit: to engage people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment

Applicant eligibility: Advanced scholars and professionals of any nationality, covering any geographic region. EARTHWATCH supports doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, or researchers with equivalent scholarship or commensurate life experience.

Budget: average \$850 per volunteer with average project grant range between \$17,000 and \$51,000 for one full field season. Funds cover food, accommodation, and in-country travel, PI travel to and from the field, basic field equipment, support of staff and associates from the host country

Duration: Principal investigators to indicate their projected research term. Grants renewed annually, long-term research projects are encouraged.

Agency Deadline: Concept notes to be submitted by 9-Dec-13

Weblink: <http://www.earthwatch.org/aboutus/research/scientiststopps/reqresprop/>

Research Grant Neurosciences (DBT)

Remit: to support proposals in all areas of neuroscience including but not limited to behaviour, physiology, anatomy, all medical aspects of neurobiology, computational neuroscience, neuroinformatics, imaging, genetics, systems neuroscience and developmental neurobiology.

Duration: 3-5 years

Agency Deadline: 1-Jan 2014 for consideration in the meeting of the Task force in April 2014

Weblink: <http://dbt-neuro.ncbs.res.in/>

International Collaboration

Ontario (Canada): Ontario (Canada) - India S& T Cooperation, Ontario (Canada)-India Joint Call for Proposals for Collaborative R&D Projects

Remit: To foster and support the development of collaborative R&D projects that bring together companies, research organizations and academics from both countries for the joint development of innovative products or processes in all areas of biotechnology including Life Sciences and Medical Devices.

Applicant eligibility: Eligible leads from Ontario (Canada) and India include: researchers and managers of India/Ontario-based companies, academic institutions, research hospitals, other institutes or associations that operate and are headquartered in India/ Ontario (Canada).

Comments: Projects need to be innovative and have future commercialization prospects

Budget: Separate budget for Ontario (Canada) and Indian participants, need to demonstrate 25% of non-governmental support in addition to some participant contribution

Agency Deadline: Submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) by 19th Nov. Full application (if invited) submission deadline 19th Dec, 2013

Weblink: http://dbtindia.nic.in/docs/Application_Guidelines.pdf

Singapore: India -Singapore Joint Science and Technology Research Cooperation (DST-A*STAR)

Remit: Supports research in the area of "Advanced Materials & Energy"

Applicant eligibility: Indian and Singaporean researchers in regular employment

Budget: Consumables, Exchange visits. Sending side funds international travel, medical insurance, accommodation and living expenses. Max funding upto Rs. 45,00,000 by DST and SGD 300,000 by A*STAR

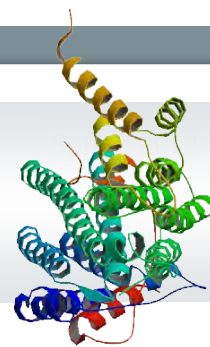
Duration: 3 years

Agency Deadline: 15-Nov-13

Weblink: http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new13/COP_DST-ASTAR.pdf

Forthcoming deadlines

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



USA: US- India Science and Technology Endowment (IUSSTF)

Remit: to support and foster joint applied R&D to generate public good through commercialization of technology achieved through sustained partnerships between US and Indian researchers and entrepreneurs.

Applicant eligibility: Entities from academia, national laboratories, non-governmental R&D institutions and start-up companies in India and USA. Inclusion of an entrepreneurial (small-scale as opposed to large-scale) entity that will receive a portion of the grant and take the technology to the market is mandatory.

Comments: Program Areas include: Affordable biomedical devices, diagnostic / preventive / curative measures, or food and nutrition products to improve health. Information and communication technologies with societal impact in areas such as water, agriculture, financial inclusion, and education.

Budget: Grants of up to INR 2.50 crores or approximately \$400,000 (subject to prevailing exchange rate).

Agency Deadline: Submission of executive summary by 30-Nov-13

Weblink: <http://www.usistef.org/>

USA: Partnership for enhanced engagement in Research (PEER) (USAID-NSF)

Remit: a competitive grants program that invites scientists in developing countries to apply for funds to support research and capacity-building activities on topics of importance to USAID and conducted in partnership with their NSF-funded collaborators.

Applicant eligibility: PIs in developing countries collaborating with a PI in US having a NSF grant active for the duration of the award.

Comments: Research on topics of importance to USAID and NSF including but not limited to food security, climate change, global health issues and other developmental issues

Budget: Direct costs of \$30000-\$60000 per year, in exceptional cases awards can be made upto \$100,000 per year

Duration: 1-3 years.

Agency Deadline: 13-Jan-14

Weblink: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/dsc/peerscience/PGA_071743

International exchange

Germany: Project-based Personnel Exchange Programme with India - Indo-German Joint Research Collaboration (DST/DAAD)

Remit: To strengthen the collaboration between Indian and German research groups, who are working jointly on a particular scientific project.

Applicant eligibility: University professors, scientists and post-doctoral researchers from German and Indian universities and those in permanent employment at independent research institutes are eligible to apply.

Comments: The programme is open to academics in the disciplines of agricultural sciences, veterinary medicine, forestry, engineering, earth sciences, mathematics, theoretical computer science, informatics, medicine, life sciences, health sciences, animal sci-ences, nutritional medicine, physics, material sciences and chemistry.

Budget: Short term stays of scientists and doctoral students are eligible for funding. All the expenses related to mobility and hospitality are covered.

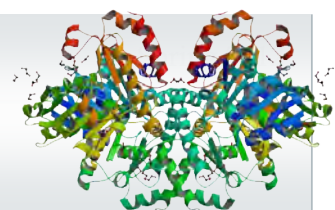
Duration: 2 years

Agency Deadline: 15th Dec 2013

Weblink: http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new13/DST_DAAD_PPP_2014_Engl.pdf

Forthcoming deadlines

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



International: Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial international study grants (Union for international cancer control, UICC)

Remit: to enable cancer investigators from any country to carry out bilateral research projects abroad which exploit complementary materials or skills, including advanced training in experimental methods or special techniques.

Budget: USD 10000

Applicant eligibility: PhD/MD with min 2 years postdoc experience

Duration: 3 months

Agency deadline: 15-Jan and 1-July

Weblink: <http://www.uicc.org/programmes/geti/our-activities/study-grants>

Netherlands: Visiting Teaching fellowship (Utrecht University, Netherlands)

Remit: To support exchange visits between NCBS, Bangalore and Utrecht University

Applicant eligibility: Professors in one of Utrecht University research focus areas

Budget: Maximum support of € 5000

Duration: 2 weeks- 1 semester

Agency Deadline: 11-Dec-2013

Weblink: http://www.uu.nl/SiteCollectionDocuments/Visiting_Fellowship_2013-2014_Application_form.docx

UK: Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship (UK Department for International Development (DFID)).

Remit: for mid-career academics from developing Commonwealth countries to enable award holders to spend three months at a UK university updating their skills and knowledge.

Applicant eligibility: employed for at least five years as an academic staff member of a university in a developing Commonwealth country

Comments: Nominations of mid-career scientist employed in Universities by the University Grants Commission

Budget: Return airfare, personal support, research support

Duration: 3 months

Agency Deadline: 3-Dec-2013

Weblink: <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/academic-fellowships/>

UK: India Partnering Award (BBSRC)

Remit: To set up partnership links between UK and overseas laboratories by promoting the exchange of scientists, particularly early career scientists and access to facilities

Applicant eligibility: Open to current BBSRC research grant holders and researchers employed at National Institutes of Bioscience who are in receipt of BBSRC funding

Comments: Indian partners may explore mutual funding from CSIR or DBT which have signed formal agreements with BBSRC

Budget: £ 30000 for Travel, subsistence and other activities such as workshops and exchanges

Duration: Upto 4 years

Agency Deadline: 27-Nov-2013

Weblink: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/internationalfunding/india.aspx>

Forthcoming deadlines

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



Equipment/Infrastructure Grants

Multi user Equipment grant (Wellcome Trust, UK)

Remit: intended to provide support for multi-user items of equipment, including equipment required to create a central resource for a number of disparate scientific programmes.

Applicant eligibility: This scheme is open to applicants in the UK who have a track record in obtaining grant funding. Researchers in low- or middle-income countries may be eligible to apply if they have a track record of Trust funding or if they can demonstrate that they have established a strong track record of independent research accomplishment.

Comments: Contribution from the host institution or other source, proportionate to the total amount requested is expected.

Budget: The maximum amount awarded for a successful application is anticipated to be £1 million. Expenses can include the purchase and essential running and maintenance costs of equipment; salaries for staff necessary to run and/or manage the apparatus (but not for experimental research personnel).

Duration: upto 5 years

Agency Deadline: Preliminary application deadline: 2 December 2013

Weblink: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/Strategic-awards-and-initiatives/WTDV031728.htm>

Entrepreneurship/Technology Development grants

Affordable Healthcare in India (Wellcome Trust, UK)

Remit: to fund translational research projects to deliver safe and effective healthcare products for India - and potentially other markets - at affordable costs. Encourages innovations that bring together researchers from both the public and private sectors to extend access of such innovations to the greatest numbers of beneficiaries, without compromising on quality.

Applicant eligibility: The principal applicant should be based in India with regular employment in Not-for-profit institutions, governmental or non-governmental organisations and international organisations operating within the territory of India. A significant proportion of the programme should be conducted in India. For-profit organisations and companies will normally be expected to sign up to specific terms relating to the scheme.

Comments: Projects covering any aspect of technology development for healthcare will be considered, including diagnostics, medical devices and regenerative medicine. Proposals drawing on the disciplines of the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering, as well as biomedicine, are equally encouraged

Budget: All directly incurred costs towards equipment, salaries, consumables, travel etc

Agency Deadline: Concept notes to be submitted by 4-Nov-13

Weblink: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Technology-transfer/Awards/Affordable-Healthcare-in-India/index.htm>

Biomedical resource and technology development grants (Wellcome Trust, UK)

Remit: intended to provide support for researchers wishing to establish a new resource/technology or to refine and maintain an existing resources/technology (including databases and collections) for the benefit of the wider scientific community.

Applicant eligibility: This scheme is open to applicants in the UK who have a track record in obtaining grant funding. Researchers in low- or middle-income countries may be eligible to apply if they have a track record of Trust funding or if they can demonstrate that they have established a strong track record of independent research accomplishment.

Comments: Contribution from the host institution towards the purchase and/or management of major items of equipment, where these are central to the proposal is expected.

Budget: salaries for staff; materials and consumables required for establishing and maintaining the resource/technology; the purchase and maintenance of animals; the purchase and essential running and maintenance costs of equipment; collaborative travel and attendance at scientific meetings to publicise the resource/technology.

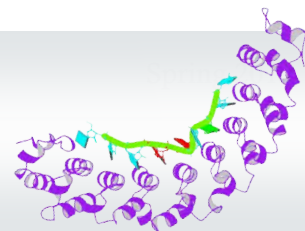
Duration: upto 5 years

Agency Deadline: Preliminary application deadline: 2 December 2013

Weblink: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/Strategic-awards-and-initiatives/WTDV031727.htm>

Forthcoming deadlines

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



Postdoctoral Fellowship

Long-term fellowship (EMBO)

Remit: The EMBO Long-Term Fellowships are awarded for a period of up to two years and support post-doctoral research visits to laboratories throughout Europe and the world..

Applicant eligibility: 0-2 years post PhD, at least one first author publication mandatory. All fellowships must involve movement between countries. The receiving institute or the applicant's nationality must be from one of the EMBC Member States.

Budget: Travel, stipend, dependent allowance

Duration: 2 years

Agency Deadline: 14 Feb, 15 Aug each year

Weblink: <http://www.embo.org/funding-awards/fellowships/long-term-fellowships#about>

Organising Meetings/Workshops

Indo-US Bilateral Workshops/ Symposia/ Conferences (IUSSTF)

Remit: To support activities, events, and initiatives that promote interactions between the scientific and research communities in India and the US.

Applicant eligibility: Qualified scientist from all science disciplines working at Indian and American institutions.

Budget: Travel, accomodation, events costs (typically not more than 50 participants), other associated costs

Agency Deadline: 15-Feb-13

Weblink:

<http://www.indousstf.org/fullstory.aspx?storyheadline=Symposia%20workshops%20and%20conferences&prevmytitl e=Apply%20for%20Funding§ionid=S156>

Support for International Scientific Meetings (TWAS)

Remit: To encourage the organization of high-level international and regional scientific activities in developing countries by offering financial assistance to the organizers of such events.

Applicant eligibility: Organiser must be developing country.

Comments: Grants are offered for meetings in the following fields of natural sciences: agricultural, biological, chemical, engineering, geological and medical sciences.

Budget: Travel grants for principal speakers from abroad and/or participants from developing countries other than the country where the meeting is held. The amount provided normally does not exceed US\$5,000.

Agency Deadline: 1 December for meetings to be held during July-December of the following year.

Weblink: <http://twas.ictp.it/prog/meetings/support-for-international-scientific-meetings>

Grantsmanship corner

How to Write Grants?

Two short video presentations by Geoff Hyde on behalf of the WTDBT India Alliance
Accessible at : http://www.wellcomedbt.org/how_to_write_grants.html



Image credits: Deepak Nair, S Ramaswamy and Wikimedia commons

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

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