

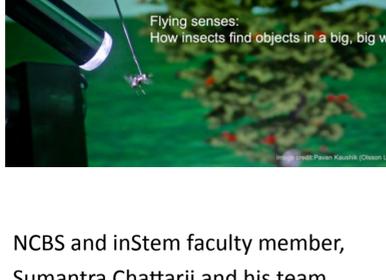
The NewsKeeping Gene

ncbs@25

Issue 4: October — December 2016

A Quarterly Newsletter highlighting activities at the Bangalore Life Science Cluster

Research Highlights



[Flying senses: How insects find objects in a big, big world](#) is a feature story that covers work from the Naturalist Inspired Chemical Ecology (NICE) lab at NCBS headed by Shannon Olsson.

NCBS and inStem faculty member, Sumantra Chattarji and his team decode some of the [late effects of stress to gain new insights into how the brain reacts to trauma](#). The work, published in [Physiological Reports](#), pinpoints key molecular and physiological processes that could drive changes in brain architecture leading to long-term psychological trauma following a single instance of severe stress.



Press links: [EurekAlert!](#), [CBC News](#), [Times of India](#), [Roundhouse radio Vancouver](#), [United Press International](#)

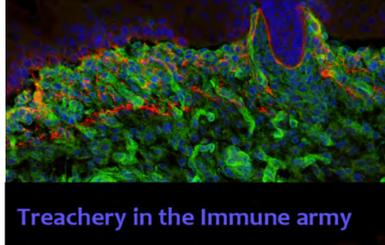


In their efforts to better understand how cells maintain the surface areas of their membranes, NCBS faculty member Raghu Padinjat and his group have uncovered one of the secrets to [the balancing act in membrane turnover – an enzyme that links endocytosis to membrane recycling](#).

Press links: [EurekAlert!](#), [Economic Times](#), [Bangalore Mirror](#), [The Asian Scientist](#), [The Free Press Journal](#), [Pharmabiz.com](#)

Published in [eLife](#), the work identifies the enzyme Phospholipase D as a key component of a system that maintains membrane turnover.

Through a collaborative study on sterile inflammation, inStem faculty members Srikala Raghavan's and Praveen Vemula's teams have gained new insights into how the loss of the molecule beta integrin 1 in skin cells could lead to [treachery in the immune army](#). Furthermore, the study, published in [Cell Reports](#) also describes a novel drug-delivery method developed and tested by the two teams that could help treat chronic inflammatory conditions.



Press links: [Times of India](#), [Bangalore Mirror](#), [Biostandups](#), [Indian Science Journal](#), [Pharmabiz.com](#)

In the Spotlight



[inStem faculty member Minhaj Sirajuddin receives the EMBO-Young Investigator \(YIP\) Program Award](#).

Press links: [The Financial Express](#), [Ummid.com](#)

Sirajuddin is the first scientist from India to win this prestigious award that will offer him financial and practical support, including mentorship by EMBO members and access to core facilities at EMBL, Europe's flagship laboratory for basic research in Molecular Biology.

[NCBS welcomes new faculty – Anjana Badrinarayanan](#). Anjana is interested in understanding how cells maintain chromosome integrity, which is essential for survival. At NCBS, she will continue her investigations into the mechanisms of double-strand break repair in bacteria and how these pathways are regulated *in vivo*.



[Early career Indian researchers attend special training program in IPS technology at the Centre for iPS cell Research and Application \(CiRA\), Japan](#). The Indo-Japan collaboration has been made possible by the program "Accelerating the application of stem cell technology in human diseases" (ASHD), a multi-institutional initiative comprising several national research institutes located within the two countries, including CiRA.



NCBS@25

A part of the celebrations for the 25th year of NCBS were the NCBS25 meetings – [Conflict and Cooperation in Cellular Populations \(CCCP2016 #NCBS25\)](#) and [Biology and Theoretical Computer Science \(#BTCS2016 #NCBS25\)](#)



Celebrating 25 years of Science at NCBS this year also saw [the first edition of NCBS Science day](#), a gathering of people from all walks of life to celebrate one passion – Science.



Media Spotlights

- A new gecko species discovered in Chhatisgarh – articles in [Zee News](#), [The Pioneer](#) and the [Business Standard](#) feature NCBS post-doctoral researcher Varad B. Giri's voice.
- '[India can eliminate malaria if govt implements its 15-year plan between 2016-2030 properly: Dr. Amit Sharma](#)' in [Pharmabiz.com](#) covers the talk given by Dr. Amit Sharma who spoke at NCBS during the Infosys Prize lecture.
- '[Bangalore, la nouvelle mégapole High-Tech made in India](#)' a French article in the magazine [The Good Life](#) features describes NCBS and C-CAMP as premier research institutes in India, and features quotes from Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed.
- '[India's biotech capital spreads its wings](#)' in the [Economic Times](#) features quotes by C-CAMP honorary CEO Shrikumar Suryanarayana, C-CAMP director Taslimarif Saiyed, and inStem faculty member S Ramaswamy.
- '[The rise of oil palm and silent forests](#)' in the [LiveMint](#) features quotes by NCBS post-doctoral researcher Umesh Srinivasan from Mahesh Sankaran's group.
- '[Head Transplant in 2017?](#)' in the [Bangalore Mirror](#) features work on targeted drug delivery to reduce transplant rejections from inStem faculty member Praveen Vemula's group.

For any comments, suggestions or queries, please write to Savita Ayyar: comms@ncbs.res.in

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The Bangalore Life Science Cluster consists of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine (inStem) and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP). Each of these institutions has its own scientific mandate, though all three share a common campus space that promotes synergistic associations between them.