

Welcome note

Dear colleague,

Welcome to another edition of RDO News.

We have recently had several enquiries from NCBS and inStem Faculty requesting information on funding schemes relevant to their unique research interests and international collaborations. Consequently, to better serve the grants advice needs of the campus, we have now changed the presentation format of the submission deadlines section of the newsletter. This new way of presenting funding deadline information is a transition away from our previous tabular format and is work in progress. We hope this new presentation will make it easier for our researchers to follow deadlines information. We would welcome your views on how the content and presentation of this section could be enhanced for usability.

As before, we request applicants to allow at least two working weeks lead time prior to submission deadlines to allow RDO staff assist with grant submissions.

With best wishes, Savita Ayyar

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Feature: Swarnajayanti Fellowships

We have recently had some queries regarding the Swarnajayanti Fellowship scheme administered by DST. While the 2013 round of applications is yet to be launched, here are some general facts about the scheme.

The **Swarnajayanti Fellowships** were initiated to commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence. Under this scheme, a selected number of young scientists with strong track records are provided support to enable them to pursue research in frontier areas of science and technology. Funds available via the Swarnajayanti Fellowships include personal support (top-up) at Rs. 25,000/- per month and research costs for five years. Funds can be requested for equipment, computational facilities, consumables, contingencies, national and international travel and other special requirements.

Applicant eligibility criteria:

- Applicants should possess a Ph.D in Science/ Engineering/ Medicine.
- **The fellowship is open to scientists between 30 to 40 years of age.**
- Applicants should be active in frontier areas of science and engineering with outstanding contributions in the form of research publications and/ or patents, peer recognition from scientific community, awards etc. in their area of research.
- The Fellowship is open to Indian Nationals residing in India or abroad.
- Overseas applicants can apply to the scheme provided they choose to work at research institutions within India and provide a letter from Head of the institution at which they wish to pursue research, stating that administrative and basic infrastructural support to facilitate research will be provided.

The deadline for the 2013 round of fellowships is **likely to be April 30, 2013**. Applicants wanting to apply to the scheme should contact the RDO by early April.

Useful DST Weblinks:

Department of Science and Technology (http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/main-new.htm)

For recent calls for proposals to DST schemes

Science and Engineering Research Board (<http://serb.gov.in/about.php>)

For guidelines and proformas for regular DST schemes for funding project grants, start-up grants, Fellowships, travel grants, grants for organizing meetings/Symposia etc.

Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (<http://www.fist-dst.org/>)

For Announcement, guidelines and Proforma for requesting funds for infrastructure facility

Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (<http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in/index.html>)

Special schemes for early researchers including PhD studentships (INSPIRE fellowship) and research awards (INSPIRE Faculty scheme for young researchers)

Update: Grant Management System

The January 2012 edition of RDO News featured an online document management system that was being developed by the RDO to store and retrieve documents related to individual grants, and also facilitate timely reporting to the Agencies and information tracking for internal purposes.

This system, the Grant Management System (GMS) was successfully launched in July 2012. The GMS can now be accessed both by PIs and the RDO staff via the grants management tab on <http://intranet.ncbs.res.in/rdo>. The PI interface on the GMS will allow PIs to view documents and details pertaining to their pending, current, past and withdrawn grants using their NCBS email IDs and passwords. Some examples of these documents include the original grant proposal, papers relating to activation of the grant, annual scientific and financial reports and grant closure documents. This phase of the GMS does not include grant spend data, which will be available with colleagues in accounts.

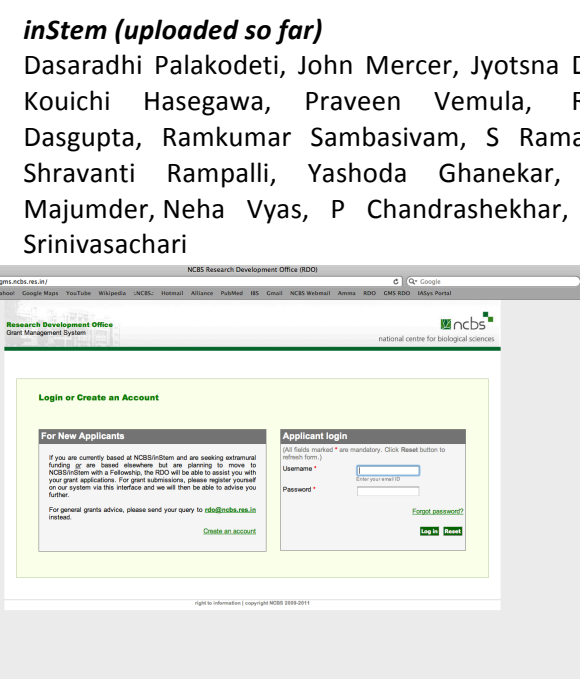
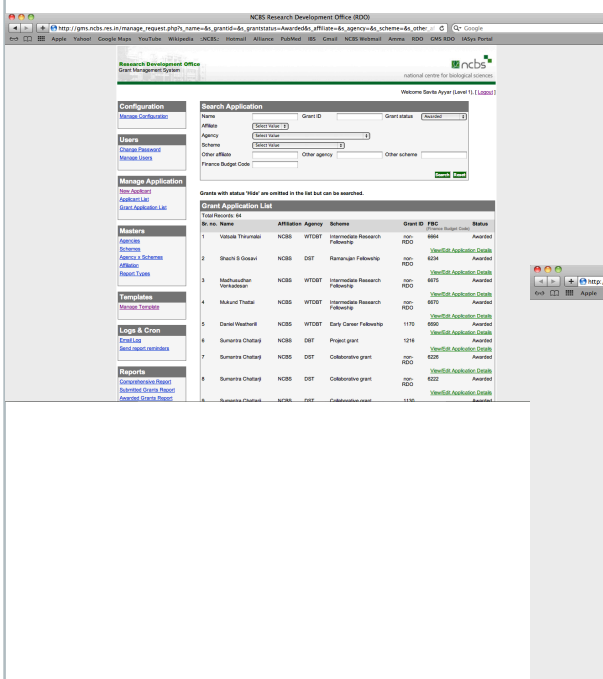
Grant data for twenty-one PIs at NCBS and fourteen PIs at inStem have now been uploaded onto the GMS as detailed below. The current priority is for uploading data for active grants with associated reporting obligations. The RDO aims to complete the transfer of grant data to the GMS, for all PIs with active grants by end of March 2013. We request all grant holders to send their feedback and queries regarding the online grant management system to rdo@ncbs.res.in.

NCBS (uploaded so far)

Aswin Seshasayee, Deepak Nair, Gaiti Hasan, K S Krishnan, K VijayRaghavan, Krushnamegh Kunte, Madhusudhan Venkadesan, Mahesh Sankaran, Mitradas M Panicker, Mukund Thattai, Raghu Padinjat, Sanjay Sane, Satyajit Mayor, Shachi Gosavi, Sumantra Chattarji, Uma Ramakrishnan, Upi Bhalla, Vatsala Thirumalai, Daniel Weatherill, Deepti Jain, Odity Mukherjee

inStem (uploaded so far)

Dasaradhi Palakodeti, John Mercer, Jyotsna Dhawan, Kouichi Hasegawa, Praveen Vemula, Ramanuj Dasgupta, Ramkumar Sambasivam, S Ramaswamy, Shravanti Rampalli, Yashoda Ghanekar, Abhijit Majumder, Neha Vyas, P Chandrashekhar, Sathya Srinivasachari



James S McDonnell Foundation grants (<http://www.jsmf.org/>)

2013 Scholar Awards in Complex Systems Science (submission deadline 13 March 2013)

About the McDonnell Foundation (<http://www.jsmf.org/>):

Established in 1950 by aerospace pioneer James S. McDonnell, the McDonnell Foundation supports scientific, educational, and charitable causes internationally. James S. McDonnell believed that science and technology give us unprecedented power to shape the future and oblige us to direct our intellectual, social, and cultural development responsibly. He pursued his philanthropic vision through the Foundation and promoted learning in fields such as space sciences, genetics and studies of the human brain. His sons, through the charitable Foundation he established, continue a program of directed philanthropy that reflects his legacy. Research support from the Foundation is currently available in three areas:

- Studying complex systems
- Understanding Human Cognition
- Mathematical and Complex Systems Approaches for Brain Cancer

About the CS program: The Complex Systems program supports research directed toward the development of theoretical and mathematical tools that can be applied to the study of complex, adaptive, nonlinear systems. It is anticipated that research funded in this program will address issues in fields such as biology, biodiversity, climate, demography, epidemiology, technological change, economic development, governance, or computation. The program's emphasis is on the development and application of the theory and tools used in the study of complex research.

About the JSMF Scholar Awards (CS):

- **Applicant eligibility:** It is anticipated that successful Scholar-Award (CS) applicants will have between 5 and 15 years post Ph.D experience and be in independent research positions. Scholar Awards-CS are one-time support. Recipients of a James S. McDonnell Scholar Award are not eligible to receive another Scholar Award.
- **Funding level:** Scholar Awards-CS provide upto \$450,000 over 3 to 6 years. Use of funds on these awards is flexible.
- **Collaborative work:** Scholar Awards-CS support an investigator's overall research program and not a particular project. If an application is funded, the research funds may be used to support collaborative research.
- **More information at <http://www.jsmf.org/apply/scholar-cs/>**
- **Internal application process:** Applications for a Scholar Awards-CS require an institutional nomination and must be routed via the RDO.

For grants funded by the Foundation in 2012: see <http://www.jsmf.org/grants/>

Forthcoming deadlines

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

The following section provides brief details of funding schemes with submission deadlines in the period **February- May 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.

Research grants/ Independent researcher Fellowships

Concept note – Plant improvement (DBT)

Remit: For R&D proposals in Biotechnological interventions for improving productivity of Fruits and Vegetable Crops
Duration: 3 years for R&D proposals
Agency Deadline: 15 March for concept note stage
Weblink: http://dbtindia.nic.in/uniquepage.asp?id_pk=60

Concept note – RNAi (DBT)

Remit: For R&D proposals in small RNA biology
Duration: 3 years for R&D proposals
Agency Deadline: 28 February for concept note stage
Weblink: http://dbtindia.nic.in/uniquepage.asp?id_pk=60

Innovation in Science Pursuit for inspired research (INSPIRE) Faculty Fellowships (DST)

Remit: All science areas
Budget: Personal Fellowship Rs 9.6 lakhs pa and research grant of Rs. 7 Lakh pa over 5 years
Applicant Eligibility: PhD, age limit 27-32 years
Comments: Under Assured opportunity for research career (AORC) scheme
Duration: 5 years
Agency Deadline: 28-Feb-13
Weblink: http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in/facultyScheme_CallforAppl.pdf

Intermediate Research Fellowship (Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance)

Remit: Biomedical Science
Budget: Salary, research expenses, equipment, 2 JRFs, 1 year collaborative travel, limit of Rs 3.5 crores
Applicant Eligibility: 5-7 years Post-Doctoral experience
Duration: 5 years
Agency Deadline: Preliminary application due 15-Mar-13
Weblink: <http://www.wellcomedbt.org/intermediate.html>

Margarshi Fellowship (Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance)

Remit: Biomedical Science
Budget: Salary, research costs, posts, equipment, collaborative travel
Applicant Eligibility: Strong scientific leadership with more than 10 years experience running an independent lab
Comments: For supporting relocation of scientific leaders from their current position in India or overseas to a non-profit institute in India
Duration: 5 years
Agency Deadline: 15-May-13
Weblink: <http://www.wellcomedbt.org/margarshi.html>

Forthcoming deadlines

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

Research grants/ Independent researcher Fellowships

Project Grant – Neurosciences (DBT)

Remit: For R&D proposals, multicentric R&D proposals and pilot projects in Neuroscience

Applicant Eligibility: PhD, regular appointment in a research institute

Duration: 3-5 years for R&D proposals, 18-24 months for pilot projects

Agency Deadline: 1-May-13 for September round

Weblink: http://dbt-neuro.ncbs.res.in/sites/dbt-neuro.ncbs.res.in/files/rfa_Sep2011.pdf

Scholar Awards in Complex Systems Science (JSMF see page 4)

Remit: Supports research directed toward the development of theoretical and mathematical tools that can be applied to the study of complex, adaptive, nonlinear systems.

Budget: Flexible funding of \$450,000

Applicant Eligibility: 5-15 years post PhD with an independent position, no nationality restrictions

Duration: 3-6 years

Agency Deadline: 13-Mar-13

Weblink: <http://www.jsmf.org/apply/scholar-cs/index.htm>

Senior Research Fellowship (Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance)

Remit: Biomedical Science

Budget: Salary, research costs, posts, equipment, collaborative travel, limit of Rs 4.5 crores

Applicant Eligibility: 5-7 years Post-Doctoral experience

Duration: 5 years

Agency Deadline: Preliminary application due 15-Mar-13

Weblink: <http://www.wellcomedbt.org/senior.html>

International collaborative grants

Australia: Indo-Australian Fund for S&T Cooperation in Biotechnology- Collaborative research projects (DBT/DIISTR)

Remit: Vaccines, immunomodulators, immuno therapeutics, biotechnological interventions for increasing agricultural productivity

Budget: Rs. 1 – 1.5 crores

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: 05-Mar-13

Weblink: <http://dbtindia.nic.in/docs/Indo-Australia7thRoundGuidelinesfinal.doc>

Australia: Indo-Australian Fund for S&T Cooperation in Biotechnology- Collaborative workshops (DBT/DIISTR)

Remit: Themes supported in this round include-Biomedical Devices and Implants, Stem Cells, Transgenic Crops and Marker-assisted Breeding, Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods, Bioremediation, Bioenergy and Biofuels, Vaccines/Medical Diagnostics

Budget: Rs. 15,00,000-20,00,000

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: 05-Mar-13

Weblink: <http://dbtindia.nic.in/docs/Indo-Australia7thRoundGuidelinesfinal.doc>

Forthcoming deadlines

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

International collaborative grants

Australia: AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND (AISRF)- Collaborative Research Projects (DST/DIISTR)

Remit: includes Marine Sciences, Earth Sciences

Budget: Travel, accomodation, JRF/RA, consumables, minor equipment, work-shop specific funding for bilateral workshops

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: 05-Mar-13

Weblink: http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new13/cop_indo-australia.pdf

Australia: AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND (AISRF)- Collaborative workshops (DST/DIISTR)

Remit: Themes supported include- Agricultural Research, Astronomy and Astrophysics, Environment Sciences (including climate change research), Material science (including nanotechnology), Renewable Energy, Marine Sciences, Earth Sciences

Budget: Travel, accomodation, JRF/RA, consumables, minor equipment, work-shop specific funding for bilateral workshops

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: 05-Mar-13

Weblink: http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new13/cop_indo-australia.pdf

Austria: DST-FWF Joint Research Projects

Remit: open to all scientific disciplines of natural sciences, agricultural and veterinary sciences, engineering, earth sciences, mathematics, theoretical computer science, informatics, medicine, life and health sciences and material sciences

Budget: manpower (max up to 2 JRF/SRF/RA etc); chemicals/ consumables (max up to Rs. 5.0 Lakh per year) minor equipment/ accessories (max of Rs. 5.0 lac) and mobility / travel costs

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: 31-Mar-13

Weblink: http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new12/COP_%28DST_FWF%29_2012.pdf

France: Indo-French Collaborative research projects (CEFIPRA)

Remit: Pure and applied mathematics, life sciences, pure and applied chemistry, earth sciences, environmental sciences, others

Budget: travel, DA for visiting scientist, marginal costs of project including equipment, personnel (only postdocs or PhD students)

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: 1 April and 1 Oct each year

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

Germany: Indo-German Programme (DST/DFG)

Remit: Priority areas in Chemistry and Chemical Biology

Budget: Project specific direct costs viz. consumables, personnel and exchange visits

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: 15-Mar-13

Weblink: http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new12/COP_DST_DFG_2012.pdf

Forthcoming deadlines

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

International collaborative grants

Multiregion: Young Investigator's grants (HFSP)

Remit: Interdisciplinary

Budget: \$450,000 per year per team

Applicant Eligibility: Junior Independent PI, within 5 years of obtaining an independent position

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: Online registration by 20-Mar-13, LOI submission deadline 27-Mar-13

Weblink: <http://www.hfsp.org/funding/research-grants/information-and-guidelines>

Multiregion: Programme grants (HFSP)

Remit: Interdisciplinary

Budget: \$450,000 per year per team

Applicant Eligibility: Independent PI

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: Online registration by 20-Mar-13, LOI submission deadline 27-Mar-13

Weblink: <http://www.hfsp.org/funding/research-grants/information-and-guidelines>

Sweden: Strategic Indo-Swedish Cooperative Innovation Programme- Joint call in the field of Health (DBT/VINNOVA/ SRC)

Remit: Projects should be related to health areas, and should provide economical, societal and environmentally sustainable solutions.

Budget: Manpower, equipment, consumables, travel expenses etc

Duration: 18 – 36 months

Agency Deadline: 29-Apr-13

Weblink: <http://dbtindia.nic.in/docs/Strategic2ndCALL2013.doc>

Switzerland: Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology (DBT/ Swiss Embassy in India)

Remit: Technical thrust areas are to improve input efficiency, stress resistance and targeted delivery using biotechnologies or life sciences approaches by (i) genetic enhancement of crops and (ii) novel inputs for improved crop production. Target crops are small millets. Preference to projects organised in networks lead by the individual network partners

Budget: Personnel, recurring expenses, equipment and cost towards scientific exchanges, meetings/workshops for the entire project

Duration: 36 months

Agency Deadline: 01-Apr-13

Weblink: <http://dbtindia.nic.in/docs/FlagXrevisedAdvertisement28JAN2013.doc>

UK: DST-UKIERI Thematic Partnerships

Remit: Specific priority areas for support in this round include Sustainable energy supply, Food production and security, Water supply and security, Health and Disease, Innovation including social impact and intellectual property, Research and Science Policy

Budget: £60,000-75,000 covers travel, visa fees, local accommodation, limited research consumables

Duration: 24 months

Agency Deadline: soft copy submission by 30th May, hard copies to be submitted by 15th June 2013

Weblink: http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new13/DSTUKIERIGuidelines2013.pdf

Forthcoming deadlines

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

International collaborative grants

UK: International Exchange scheme (Royal Society, UK)

Remit: This scheme is for scientists in the UK who want to undertake collaboration with scientists overseas through either a one-off visit or bilateral travel.

Budget: £3000-£12,000 with max. £1000-£2000 research expenses depending on duration of travel

Applicant eligibility: Needs UK and Indian collaborators with independent positions

Agency Deadline: 26-Jun-13, 23-Oct-13

Weblink: <http://royalsociety.org/grants/schemes/international-exchanges/>

USA: INDO-U.S. JOINT PROPOSALS IN THE AREA OF LOW-COST MEDICAL DEVICES (DBT/NIBIB/NIH)

Remit: to 1) foster joint activities between U.S. and Indian scientists for the development of low-cost, medical devices, 2) address medical needs in low-resource settings, and 3) take advantage of opportunities and technological advances through the development of appropriate, low-cost medical devices.

Focus areas: Technology development for devices that address disease conditions such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, endocrine disorders, GI tract diseases, maternal health (among others)

Budget: Direct costs involved in technology development

Duration: 24 months

Agency Deadline: 24-May-13, 24-Sep-13

Weblink: http://dbtindia.nic.in/docs/Call_for_Proposal-Low-Cost_Diagnostics-December-2010.doc

Vietnam: INDO-VIETNAMESE PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION

IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (DST/ Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnam)

Remit: Themes supported include- Biotechnology applied in health care, pharmaceuticals and agriculture, Nanotechnology, Oceanography and Marine Sciences, Earth system sciences like climate change, climate research and disaster management.

Budget: upto Rs. 30 lakhs for exchange visits (airfare, visa fees, medical insurance, local travel and sustenance costs), limited manpower; minor equipments (max of Rs. 5.0 lac); chemicals/ consumables/ accessories etc

Duration: 24 months

Agency Deadline: 28-Feb-13

Weblink: http://www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new13/cop_indo-vietnam.pdf

Postdoctoral fellowships

DBT Research Associateship (DBT)

Budget: Salary and contingency

Duration: 24 months- extendable to 60 months

Agency Deadline: 25 March 2013

Weblink: <http://sid.iisc.ernet.in/dbtpdf.html>

Details for other funding schemes including "rolling" grant types and outgoing postdoctoral fellowships are available at <http://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo>.

Forthcoming deadlines

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

These grants are not generally routed via the RDO. However, we can provide advice on applying to these schemes if needed.

Travel grants

International Travel Grants (IBRO)

Remit: For participation in international Neuroscience meetings

Budget: Maximum funding of upto 1500 Euros

Agency Deadline: 1-Mar-13 for meetings in Jul-Dec and 1-Sep for meeting in Jan-Jun following year

Weblink: <http://ibro.info/professional-development/funding-programmes/travel-grants/>

Travelling Fellowships (Company of Biologists)

Remit: For researchers wishing to make collaborative visits to other laboratories

Budget: maximum upto £ 2500

Applicant Eligibility: Students/ Postdoctoral researchers

Agency Deadline: 30 Apr, 31 Aug, 31 Dec

Weblink: http://www.biologists.com/travelling_fellowships.html

Meetings grants

Small Meetings grants (Company of Biologists)

Remit: For organising small local meetings in the areas covered by the 4 journals of the Company of Biologists (Development, Journal of Cell Science, Journal of Experimental Biology, Disease, Models and Mechanisms)

Budget: Maximum funding of upto £ 300

Agency Deadline: 5 Apr, 25 Jun, 10 Sep

Weblink: http://www.biologists.com/small_grants.html

Scientific Meetings grants (Company of Biologists)

Remit: For organising meetings and workshops in the areas covered by the 4 journals of the Company of Biologists (Development, Journal of Cell Science, Journal of Experimental Biology, Disease, Models and Mechanisms)

Budget: maximum upto £ 6000 for support of young scientists, funding for plenary or keynote speakers attending meetings

Applicant Eligibility: Must be in the organising group for the meeting

Agency Deadline: 1 Mar, 17 May, 9 Aug, 2 Jan

Weblink: http://www.biologists.com/scientific_grants.html

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

Remit:

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

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

Comments:

Duration:

Agency Deadline: 15-Jun, 15- Oct, 15-Feb, each year

Weblink:

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

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 Name	NCBS/Instem	Title	Agency	Awarded amount (INR in lakhs)	Duration
Uma Ramakrishnan	NCBS	Genetic mating system and its evolutionary consequences in a harem-forming promiscuous bat <i>Cynopterus sphinx</i>	DST	43.93	36
Yamuna Krishnan	NCBS	DNA-encapsulated Quantum Dots for Bio-imaging	CEFIPRA	30.67	36
Praveen Vemula	Instem	Ramalingaswamy fellowship	DBT	74.5	60
R Sowdhamini and Satyajit Mayor	NCBS	Computational knockouts and functional validation by RNAi, and single-site mutation analyses for select protein domains in endocytosis and signal transduction	DBT (CoE grant additions)	447.72	36
S Ramaswamy	Instem	Molecular Mechanism of Target Recognition and Cleavage by the CRISPR-Cas Bacterial ImmuneSystem	DBT	57.26	36
Officiating Director	Instem	Establishment of Centre for Chemical Biology and Therapeutics (CCBT)	DBT	tbc	60
Sumantra Chattarji	NCBS	Characterization and reversal of the contrasting patterns of stress-induced changes in synaptic connectivity and its molecular mediators in the amygdale, hippocampus and medial prefrontal cortex	DBT	62.75	36

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

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