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# BIOTECH EXPRESS

A man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a black leather jacket, is the central focus. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. Behind him is a large, ornate building with a red-tiled roof and several tall, pointed spires, characteristic of Gothic architecture. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

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# BIOTECH EXPRESS

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## Editorial

by Kamal Pratap Singh

# I will call him What SII's Adar Poonawalla is, a “Mass Murderer”: Yohan Tengra, after recent Bombay High Court Judgment

In the developed countries it is common to see general public suing big pharma companies and claiming compensation for life loss and other ailments but in India we witness such kind of situations rarely. But a recent case against biggest vaccine maker compel us to write an article as it is related to biotech product which though has been vaccinated to almost whole country but is under suspicion due to its side effects like thrombotic events. The company here is Serum Institute India (SII) and the complainants are Yohan Tengra and others on behalf of relatives whose kin died because of Covishield vaccine.

Yohan Tengra and others are constantly pursuing cases against Adar Poonawalla & others and SII. This all started with vaccine mandates which govt. said is

voluntary but several govt. notices clearly showed that people were deprived of basic facilities in case they want to ignore vaccination. To oppose such mandates several NGOs and individuals came forward to support the people who do not want to take vaccine but had no choice.

In India roughly 90% vaccines were given of SII and most of the adverse events in AEFI reports were found in Covishield thus the complaints are mentioning only SII and not Bharat Biotech and Russia's Sputnik.

Let see what is in this whole story, how it started and what is next course of action by parties involved.

Recently, on June 5 2023, a Mumbai High court ordered Yohan Tengra and others to refrain from activ-



ities against defamation of Adar Poonawalla. But it was started much before, when the Covishield vaccine was administered in clinical trials, a Covishield COVID-19 vaccine volunteer, allegedly reported ‘memory loss, ability to reason and concentrate and personality change’ 10 days after being administered a shot. In this regard Serum Institute of India (SII) slapped a Rs 100 crore defamation suit against him.

On 100 crore suit, a Bioethics expert Professor Anant Bhan said ““A bad move by Serum to counter-sue, volunteers participate in studies mostly out for altruistic reasons. If there is an issue about the serious adverse event, it is better to engage with the participant to understand their concerns”.

**Case of Dr Snehal Lunawat**

In another case Dilip Lunawat, approached the court of Justice alleging that his daughter Snehal Lunawat, 33, who was also a Senior Lecturer at the SMBT Dental College in Nashik, was compelled to take the vaccine saying that that the vaccines were completely safe and posed no risks/threats to her body.





But suddenly after vaccination she (Snehal Lunawat) died on March 1, 2021, due to the alleged side-effects of the Covishield vaccine. In his petition filed in February 2022, he not only held responsible SII but also Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation which was hurrying to speed up the process of manufacturing and delivery of upto 100 million doses of Covishield vaccines in India and for other third world countries. The petition relied on a report submitted by the Centre's adverse events following immunization (AEFI) committee.

Dilip Lunawat also sought a declaration that the state authorities are responsible for causing his daughter's death "by false narratives" and asked the authorities to initiate steps to stop further deaths of citizens and publish the side-effects of the vaccines. Lunawat case is still ongoing and he seek justice for his daughter and "many more people who are likely to be murdered" due to similar cases of adverse effects, according to the petition. Possibly this was the first time when SII, its officials, and associates were called murderers.

On August 26, 2022, the Bombay High Court issued

a notice and provided petitioner Dilip Lunawat with a copy of the notice (Hamdast) in the vaccine murder case of Dr. Snehal Lunawat. The court in Pune sent this notice to the defendant, Adar Poonawalla. Dilip Lunawat had demanded compensation of Rs 1,000 crore from SII.

## NGOs in this fight

Soon after the pandemic started and restrictions were imposed, many organizations came forward for the welfare of people because according to them these restrictions were not required at first place and they also opposed several other Govt. orders. More than the last two years, the Awaken India Movement alongside like-minded NGOs including the Indian Bar Association (IBA) and the Universal Health Organization (UHO) are working to educate people about side effects of vaccines.

The volunteers lead by Advocate Nilesh Ojha, Ambar Koiri, Yohan Tengra, Dr Maya Valecha among others



Photo: Advocate Nilesh Ojha, Founder – Indian Bar Association



are educating the public about the potential fatal side effects of vaccinations and have supported the victims in their legal battles for restitution and the prosecution of responsible government and vaccine company officials. Due to their actions, The Union of India, Serum Institute, Adar Poonawalla, Bill Gates, Dr. Randeep Guleria, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Bill gates, Youtube, Google and many others have received court notices in many matters after the High Court and Supreme Court took cognizance of the proceedings.

## Who is Ambar Koiri and Awaken India Movement

Ambar Koiri is from Awaken India Movement NGOs who filed a plea in the Bombay High Court according to Section 340 of the Criminal Procedure Code, asking the court to issue an arrest warrant for Adar Poonawalla & Others. Additionally, he prayed for the properties of Serum Institute and Adar Poonawalla to be attached.

To support his claim he said that the accused (Adar Poonawalla) filed a false affidavit before this Honorable Court claiming that the Covishield vaccines are entirely safe despite the fact that the Investigation Report of the Government of India Committee on Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) had specifically stated that Dr. Snehal Lunawat died because of Covishield.

In this regard, Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute, and Sh. Rajesh Bhagwat, an authorized representative of the Serum Institute, are accused of obstructing justice and violating the High Court's rules of procedure by willfully concealing material facts and attempting to obtain an order based on a false and misleading affidavit.

He further said that the plaintiff had attempted to obtain an injunction from this Hon'ble Court against said truth and putting the life of citizens in danger with the

intention of immunizing people with the false belief that it is completely safe so he demanded action under Sections 201, 115, 302, 420, 471, 474, 120(B), 34, 191, 192, 193, 199, 200, 209, 469, 499, 500, 211, etc. of the Indian Penal Code define the accused's actions as an offence.

## Recent Judgment

In Dec, 2022, the Bombay High Court refused to grant immediate relief to the Serum Institute of India (SII) in its defamation suit seeking damages to the tune of Rs 100 crores from organizations and individuals Yohan Tengra and Ambar Koiri, who were allegedly posting defamatory content (calling Adar Poonawalla a mass murderer) against the company SII.

The SII in its affidavit wrote, that the individuals had been posting content that made allegations implying that Covishield, a vaccine produced by SII to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, was the cause of deaths of multiple persons due to side effects. The posts being released were not only targeting SII but also its Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla, the suit stated.

Complainant Ambar Koiri and others replied, Holding that the accused-plaintiff values their defamation at Rs. 100 crores, it is further held that he should be ordered to pay interim costs of Rs. 1 crore to each person who has received Covishield vaccinations, Rs.



## Post Judgment reaction of Yohan Tengra and others

After recent judgment, Yohan Tengra, Ambar Koiri and their lawyer Nilesh Ojha uploaded another video on YouTube titled "Illegality of High court order against AIM", discussing aftermath of judgment. Yohan said that this is not a failure but another opportunity. The judgment is not aligned with the facts nor the law.

Nilesh Ojha said, the judgment is against the binding precedent of Supreme Court and Bombay

high court, it can be called nullity because it was given based on wrong observations done by judge for any reason he should know. We have prepared an argument statement of 190 pages including many facts that were ignored by Judge. There are many other people who are calling him mass murderer but he is asking for injunction from these two people only. This is a case of order passing by ignoring material fact on record. Nilesh Ojha also categorized this order under judicial dishonesty, fraud on power, malice in law. So we will file a review petition describing the court that you have not considered our points completely, this judgment is against Supreme Court judgment and thus this order is null and void, he added.

On section 340 allegation he said, the suit filed by Adar Poonawalla is completely false. But don't worry this is just an interim order, the suit will follow, where we will file another review petition, then we have an option to go for two judge bench, and then Supreme Court where we can recall, review and if not satisfied we will go to international court of Justice, Advocate Nilesh Ojha said in a YouTube video.

Yohan Tengra said, the Covishield ban is not false, it is banned even now in many countries, also even after AEFI gross under reporting it is clear that SII vaccine has most side effects and even deaths, he added that I am not afraid and will call Adar what he is i.e. a mass murderer.

1000 crore for each death, and Rs. 100 crore for each person who has suffered severe injuries or vaccine side effects. They are also asking individuals who have suffered life threatening losses to come forward and file petitions against SII.

Also, a legal notice demanding compensation of around \$1 Lac Crore has been sent to Adar Poonawalla and Serum Institute of India with a defamation notice by NGO Awaken India Movement, demanding that they pay each member Rs. 1000 crores in damages within seven days for posting false and defamatory information and harming their name.

In a recent order of June 05, 2023 Justice Riyaz Chagla, restrained Ambar Koiri and Yohan Tengra from further posting defamatory content against SII and Adar Poonawalla. The court said that they have been considered to save four million lives in India with their vaccine.

The court also directed the defendants to issue an unconditional apology stating the defamatory contents were baseless, unsubstantiated and unwarranted. "Far from the plaintiffs being 'murderers' and 'criminals', the plaintiffs have been considered to have saved four millions lives in India," it added. The court also noted that defendants had relied on a petition filed by one Dilip Lunawat against SII alleging his daughter, a medical student, had died due to side-effects of Covishield vaccine on March 1, 2021.

Lastly Ambar Koiri added that, we were expecting order in our favor because of experience with the Judge but it's not an end and we will see what best we can do next to save our people.

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# Editorial

## Dr Sheffali Gulati bags DBT Janaki Ammal Award 2023 in senior category

by Dr Seema Pavgi Upadhye

This year Dr Sheffali Gulati, Professor from Department of Pediatrics has been conferred with Janaki Ammal- National Women Bioscientist Award in the senior category.

Janaki Ammal Award formerly known as National Women Bioscientist Award was instituted by The Department of Biotechnology the in the year 1999 to recognize the contributions of senior and young women scientists in the country who are working in the areas of Biology and Biotechnology. Dr. Janki Ammal Edavalath Kakkat the first woman to obtain a PhD in botany in the U.S. The Award. The Janaki Ammal Award carries a cash prize of Rs 5.00 lakh INR.

**Dr. Gulati Joined AIIMS in 1988 as MBBS student and joined as a faculty in July 2000, currently she is working as Professor. She has over 24 years post MD teaching / work experience and known to develop Pediatric Neurology in India as a specialty.**

Apart from her recent Janaki Ammal Award Dr Gulati, is a recipient of more than 25 international/national awards like Sheila Wallace award, International Child Neurology Association (1<sup>st</sup> Indian Recipient), “National Award for outstanding efforts in Science & Technology communication-innovative/traditional methods”, 6th DR I C Verma Excellence in Research Award 2018 for research in the field of Child Neurology in India; Dr



S. Janaki Memorial Oration (Gold medal) by National Academy of Medical Sciences in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of Child Neurology; Amrut Mody Unichem Prize - 2015 by ICMR for research in Epilepsy and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Dr Sheffali Gulati is fellow of Major international and national societies like FRCPC (UK), FAMS, FIAP, FIMSA, Fellow of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University 2006 & International Child Neurology Association – 2010 and Global Senior Leader-IN-SAR (International Society for Autism Research). She



was the Founder Member of the Association of Child Neurology India (AOCN India) in 2022, and is currently the President, AOCN India (2023 – 2025). She was also the past chairperson (2021) and the National Guidelines Coordinator in the Academy of Pediatric Neurology, IAP. Currently, she is also the Founder & Chairperson of the Academy of Pediatric Neurology, Delhi. and Vice-Chairperson, Technology Governance Steering Committee Healthcare, All India Council for Robotics and Automation (AICRA)

Dr Sheffali Gulati was part of the team that started the first DM-Pediatric Neurology Program in South-Asia (2004) and has been heading the specialty since 2008. She has helped in establishing such programs in SAARC countries.

She also envisioned, conceptualized and is currently the faculty in-charge-Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research for Childhood Neurodevelopmental Disorders where she coordinate to facilitate high-end diagnostic/therapeutic research, National registry, National Child Neurology Helpline(24X7;toll-free)/Tele-Consultation Services ([www.pedneuroaiims.org](http://www.pedneuroaiims.org)); E-learning modules: [www.pedneuroaiims.chalopadho.com](http://www.pedneuroaiims.chalopadho.com)).

Dr Gulati has developed virtual reality devices/software for assisting in rehabilitation of hemiplegic cerebral palsy; and has developed virtual reality, augmented reality, artificial intelligence based devices and softwares for improving spatial and temporal prediction and joint intention & also AI-based robo toys to improve prediction scales.

She is also working on humanoid robots for diagnosis and management of ASD; and is in the process of developing a brain computer interface based model to improve the cognition in these children. She is also working towards the development of an app for alternative augmentative communication. She has been running Tele-Helpline and Tele consultations for Neurodevelopmental and Neurological Disorders for over 5 years.

Dr Gulati has/had Research projects from NIH, MRC, UK, DBT, ICMR, DST, UNICEF, WHO, National-trust, USAID, MOHFW, AIIMS-UCL collaboration.

## Areas of research interest of Dr Gulati

ASD: etiopathogenesis; RCTs-Probiotics, iPSC, exosomes GFCE-diet, Music therapy; sleep disturbances, neurorehabilitation (virtual/ augmented-reality/ Artificial-intelligence/ Robotics/ textile-based/Alternative-Augmentative Communication app, screening mobile-platform, Communication-centered Parent-mediated treatment-ASD/neuro-developmental disorders in pan-India/SAARC countries)

Neuromuscular disorders: Skin-biopsy use, RCTs; DMD-Ataluren, exon-skipping; SMA-Gene therapy/ASO; Cerebral palsy: Constraint-induced movement therapy + Virtual reality/rTMS.

Dr Gulati has Over 399 publications with more than 6214 Citations- and H-Index-38. She is also Editor of Journal Autism which has impact factor around 6.7.

Dr Gulati is pioneer in Pediatric Neurology in India, her contributions in pediatric neurology are creditable and unmatched. On receiving this award I wish her the very best on behalf of Editorial Board of Biotech Express magazine.

Dr Seema Pavgi Upadhye



# Guestorial

## Unveiling the Hidden Enemy: Cryptic Infections of Malaria in India

by Dr Shrikant Nema,

Parasite-Host Biology Group, ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, Sector 8, Dwarka, 110077, New Delhi, India, Email: [drshrikantnema@gmail.com](mailto:drshrikantnema@gmail.com)



**MI**alaria continues to pose a significant public health burden in India, with efforts focused on its control and eventual elimination. However, a formidable challenge lurks beneath the surface: cryptic infections of malaria.<sup>1</sup> These hidden infections, characterized by low-level or sub microscopic parasitemia, evade routine diagnostic tests, perpetuating the cycle of transmission.

Cryptic infections of malaria present a significant hurdle in achieving malaria elimination goals in India. Traditional diagnostic methods, such as microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), often fail to identify sub microscopic parasitemia, resulting in the underestimation of true malaria prevalence. Con-

sequently, individuals with cryptic infections may go untreated, becoming unrecognized reservoirs for ongoing transmission. This phenomenon poses challenges for surveillance, prevention, and treatment efforts, impeding progress in curbing malaria's impact.

Several factors contribute to the prevalence of cryptic infections in India. Use of highly sensitive molecular method like polymerase chain reaction (PCR) has revealed the extent of sub microscopic malaria, unmasking the hidden burden.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the presence of asymptomatic carriers, who harbour low-level parasitemia without displaying typical malaria symptoms, contributes significantly to cryptic infections. These individuals un-

knowingly sustain the malaria transmission cycle, making targeted interventions more challenging.

The role of human behaviour and vector dynamics cannot be overlooked. In areas of high transmission intensity, where individuals are frequently exposed to malaria, acquired immunity may suppress symptoms but not eliminate the parasite completely. Consequently, low-level parasitemia persists, resulting in cryptic infections. Moreover, the behaviour and feeding preferences of malaria vectors, particularly the *Anopheles* mosquitoes, influence the transmission dynamics, allowing them to maintain the cycle of infection even in the absence of apparent clinical cases.<sup>3</sup>

Addressing the challenge of cryptic infections requires innovative approaches in detection, surveillance, and control. Implementing more sensitive diagnostic tools like Truenat in surveillance systems can unmask hidden infections<sup>4</sup>, enabling targeted interventions. This should involve regular screenings of high-risk populations, such as asymptomatic individuals in endemic areas and those involved in high-risk occupational activities like forestry or construction.

Strategies like mass drug administration (MDA) and community-wide screening and treatment campaigns can be effective in combating cryptic infections.<sup>5</sup> These approaches, when carefully planned and executed, have the potential to interrupt transmission chains and reduce the overall malaria burden. Additionally, enhancing vector control measures, such as insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor residual spraying, can help mitigate the impact of cryptic infections by reducing vector-human contact.

Improved public health education and awareness campaigns play a crucial role in combating cryptic infections. By educating communities about the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, as well as the potential risk of sub microscopic infections, individuals can seek appropriate healthcare promptly.

Digital surveillance for cryptic malaria infections can enhance the effectiveness of traditional surveillance systems by providing real-time, granular, and comprehensive data.<sup>6</sup> This can enable public health authorities to detect, monitor, and respond to low-level malaria infections, contributing to better control and elimination efforts.

Encouraging community participation and active involvement in malaria control efforts can strengthen the collective commitment towards achieving elimination goals.<sup>7</sup>

Cryptic infections of malaria in India represent a formidable challenge to the control and elimination efforts. Their prevalence, facilitated by factors such as submicroscopic parasitemia

and asymptomatic carriers, hampers accurate surveillance and perpetuates transmission. Nonetheless, through the integration of sensitive diagnostic tools<sup>8</sup>, targeted interventions, and robust community engagement, the impact of these hidden infections can be mitigated.

By unveiling the hidden enemy and adopting innovative strategies, India can march forward towards a future free of malaria, ensuring the well-being and health security of its population.

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# Guestorial

## Tuberculosis: Where India Stands in the Fight?

by Dr Vijay Soni



**T**uberculosis (TB) has been plaguing humanity for centuries. However earliest written mentions of tuberculosis were found in Indian literature (3,300 year ago) and in 2,300 years old Chinese documents, but it was Dr. Robert Koch who, on 24th March 1882, first identified the bacterium that causes tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb).

Despite developments in medicine, TB continues to be a major public health concern, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought renewed attention to the issue of infectious diseases, but TB remains a silent and parallel pandemic that demands urgent action. Mtb primarily affects the lungs, but it can also spread to other parts of the body such as the brain, kidneys, and bones.

It spread through the air when an infected person

coughs, sneezes, or talks, and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or water. It is particularly deadly for people with weakened immune systems, such as those living with HIV, malnutrition, or other diseases.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), TB is one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide, with an estimated 10.6 million people falling ill with TB in 2021 alone. Furthermore, TB kills around 1.6 million people every year, making it one of the leading causes of death from a single infectious agent. Considered as a third-world problem, TB receives far less attention and funding than other infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS or malaria. This lack of attention has led to inadequate diagnosis and treatment, resulting in many people going undiagnosed and untreated. In fact, the WHO estimates that around 3 million people with TB are missed by health systems every year, which is a significant obstacle in efforts to control and

eliminate the disease. A mathematical modeling study by the WHO estimated that there could be an additional 1.4 million TB deaths between 2020 and 2025 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This highlights the urgent need to strengthen health systems and ensure that essential services for TB diagnosis and treatment are maintained, even during crises.

India has a high burden of tuberculosis (TB) infections, with an estimated 27% of the global TB burden. In 2021, there were an estimated 2.6 million cases of TB in India, with 4.93 lakh deaths attributed to the disease. India also has a high burden of drug-resistant TB, with an estimated 130,000 cases of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and 35,000 cases of extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) each year.

The Indian government, health system, and scientists are trying their best to overcome this burden but there is a long way to travel. Major concerns include poverty, malnutrition, limited access to diagnosis, lack of treatment management, limited numbers of trained healthcare workers, improper surveillance, high prevalence of HIV, and lack of public awareness. In 2020, to control the spread, India implemented the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP). It includes free diagnosis and treatment for TB, even for MDR-TB. The program also includes efforts to improve TB findings and treatment among marginalized populations, such as women and children. But there is a need to improve hygiene, a faster diagnosis system, and effective treatment strategies.

Besides this, another biggest challenge in addressing TB is the emergence of drug-resistant strains of the bacterium. Drug-resistant TB occurs when the bacteria evolve to resist the drugs used to treat it, making it more difficult and expensive to treat. Drug-resistant TB is particularly prevalent in low- and middle-income countries, where access to diagnostic tests and effective treatments is limited. In 2020, there were an estimated 465,000 cases of drug-resistant TB globally, and only around one-third of those cases received appropriate treatment. To address the challenge of drug-resistant TB, there is a need for innovative new treatments and diagnostics. One promising approach

is the development of new drugs that target specific mechanisms of the bacteria, making them less likely to develop resistance. In addition, there is a need for rapid and accurate diagnostic tests that can identify drug-resistant TB so that appropriate treatment can be given. These innovations will require sustained investment in research and development, as well as strong partnerships between governments, industry, and civil society. Another challenge in addressing TB is the stigma associated with the disease. TB is often associated with poverty, overcrowding, and poor hygiene, and people with TB may face discrimination and social exclusion. This stigma can lead to delays in diagnosis and treatment, as well as poor treatment adherence. Addressing TB stigma requires a multi-sectoral approach that involves not only the health sector but also education, media, and civil society.

Despite these efforts, there are still significant challenges to controlling TB in India. However, with sustained efforts and investment in TB control, it is possible to reduce the burden of TB in India and improve health outcomes for millions of people. While TB disproportionately affects low- and middle-income countries, it is a global health problem that requires a coordinated and comprehensive response from the international community. Efforts to control TB must address the social and economic determinants of the disease, as well as improve access to effective TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for all populations.

## About the author:

Vijay Soni, Ph.D. is a junior research faculty at Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, and studying metabolic aspects of anti-tuberculosis treatment. Mainly focused to enhance the efficacy of antibiotic treatment, he has published many research articles, reviews, books, and book chapters.



# StartUp Story

## Breakthrough innovation in cancer diagnostics: UoH startup develops novel platform for early detection of cancer



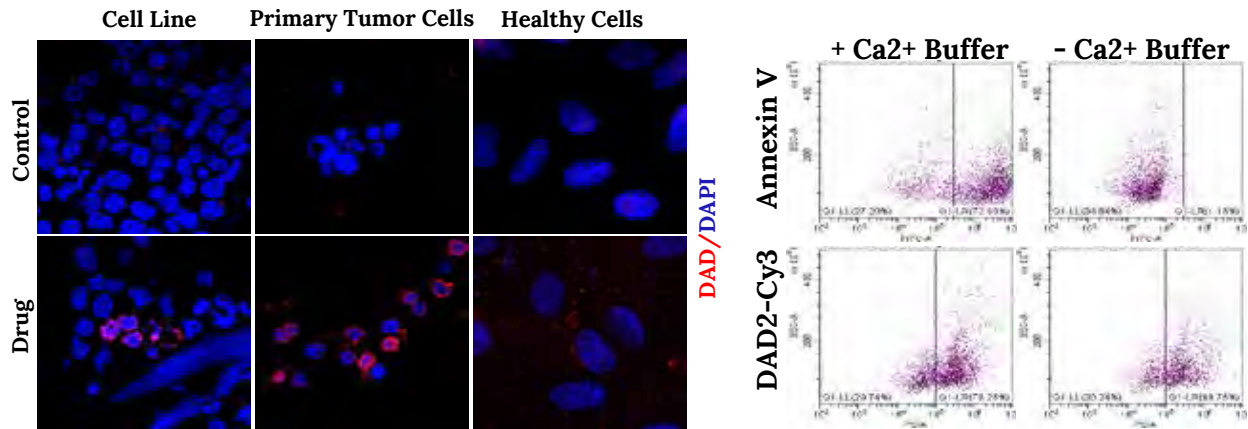
**UR Advanced Therapeutics**, a startup incubated at ASPIRE BioNEST, has made a remarkable breakthrough in the field of cancer research. The company has successfully developed novel synthetic peptides that have the potential to revolutionize early cancer detection and therapy, offering hope to millions of people worldwide.

Every cell in our body, when subjected to stress, dysfunction, or natural aging, undergoes a self-sacrificial cell death mechanism known as apoptosis. During this process, dying cells express a lipid molecule called Phosphatidyl Serine on their outer membrane, which acts as a signal for the body's recycling mechanisms to clear them away. Unfortunately, cancer cells tend to develop an escape mechanism by disguising these signals, allowing them to persist and evade the body's natural clearance system.

UR Advanced Therapeutics has ingeniously designed miniature synthetic peptides that specifically bind to the "eat me" signals released by cancerous cells. These peptides exhibit an unprecedented level of precision in detecting these signals present in various bodily fluids, including blood, urine, saliva, and even tears.

These peptides replace existing detection methods reliant on antibodies, such as point-of-care lateral flow strips and high-throughput screening and imaging platforms, with exceptional accuracy and potency. One of the remarkable features of these synthetic peptides is their stability within the human body for an extended period. Being micro mirror images of their larger biological counterparts, they remain intact and do not trigger unwanted immune responses or rejections.

Additionally, the production process of these peptides is animal-free, ensuring ethical and sustainable manufactur-



Drug induced cell death detected by DAD kit developed at URAT in cancer cell lines, primary tumors and normal healthy cells. The dying cells are stained red.

Current existing method needs calcium buffer, which is toxic to the cells thus the estimation of cell death induced by the drug is not accurate. The new method developed by UR Advanced Therapeutics is a single step method, that do not require such buffers and thus providing most accurate cell death estimation. Such a method plays a great role screening large number of drugs in automated system for diseases including cancer and providing most exact drug efficacy.

ing practices. These synthetic peptides are not only highly effective but also cost-efficient, providing an economical solution for cancer detection and therapy. UR Advanced Therapeutics plans to introduce their synthetic peptide-based kits initially as Dynamic

Apoptosis Detection kits, catering to drug discovery companies and research laboratories. In the near future, the company is pursuing regulatory clearances to utilize these innovative peptides for cancer diagnosis and therapy, making a significant impact in the medical field.

The visionary behind UR Advanced Therapeutics is Dr. Jagamohan Reddy, an experienced ex-academic scientist turned entrepreneur. Driven by a vision to integrate advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning prediction algorithms with high-throughput in vitro platforms, he aims to develop miniature synthetic peptides as alternatives to larger biological proteins such as enzymes, growth factors, and antibodies.

Apart from cancer research, these versatile peptides hold tremendous potential in fields like tissue engineering and laboratory meat production, offering cost effective and groundbreaking solutions for various diseases including.

UR Advanced Therapeutics' groundbreaking work has the potential to transform cancer detection and therapy, pro-

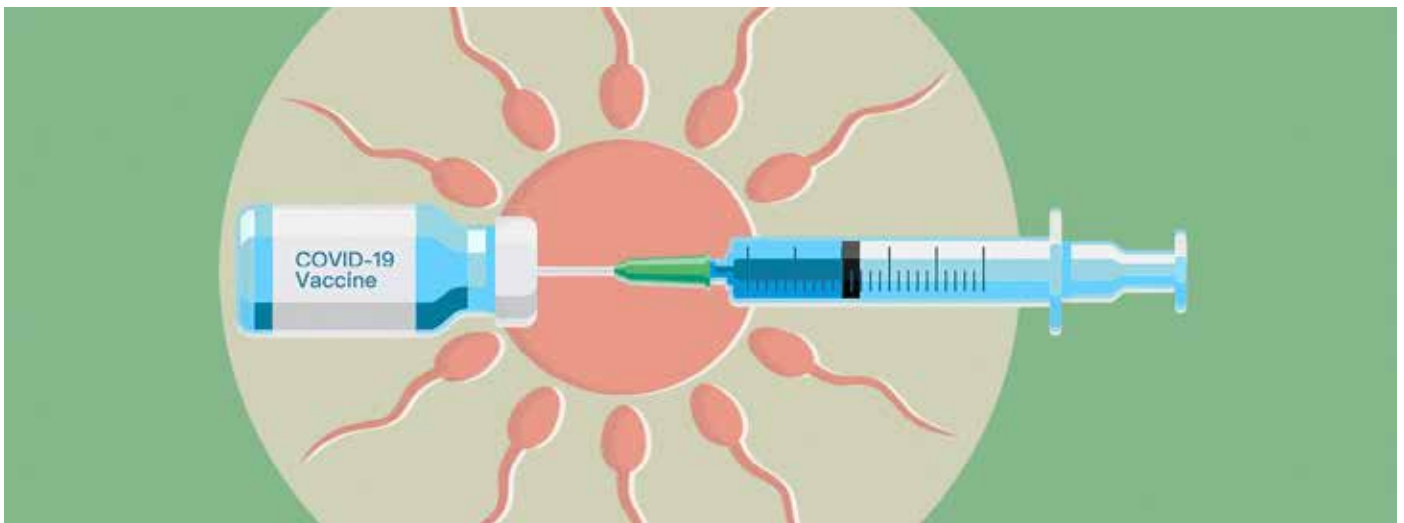
viding an early intervention strategy and enhanced treatment options. With their commitment to innovation and affordable healthcare, the Hyderabad startup is poised to play a pivotal role in advancing medical technologies and improving the lives of individuals affected by cancer. UR Advanced Therapeutics is a recipient of highly competitive Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) from BIRAC, IKP Fellowship (ICICI Knowledge Park) with a potential to have a global impact and several other recognitions for their innovations.

Current existing method needs calcium buffer, which is toxic to the cells thus the estimation of cell death induced by the drug is not accurate. The new method developed by UR Advanced Therapeutics is a single step method, that do not require such buffers and thus providing most accurate cell death estimation. Such a method plays a great role screening large number of drugs in automated system for diseases including cancer and providing most exact drug efficacy.



# Featured Biotech News

## EMA admits COVID Vaccination causes Infertility



31 MAY 2023

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has finally admitted that Covid-19 vaccination can have an adverse effect on female fertility.

The admission comes months after it was revealed in confidential Pfizer documents revealed that shedding of the Covid-19 vaccine is possible by skin-to-skin contact and/or breathing the same air as a vaccinated person, and can, unfortunately, lead to menstrual cycle disruption among women and miscarriage among pregnant women.

On the 28th October 2022, the EMA

published new guidance that states “heavy menstrual bleeding should be added to the product information as a side effect of unknown frequency of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines Comirnaty (Pfizer) and Spikevax (Moderna)”.

The EMA says that heavy menstrual bleeding can be defined as “bleeding characterised by an increased volume and/or duration which interferes with the person’s physical, social, emotional and material quality of life.”

The new guidance comes after they belatedly reviewed the available data, including cases reported during clinical trials, cases spontaneously re-

ported in Eudravigilance and findings from the medical literature. The EMA confirmed, “cases of heavy menstrual bleeding have been reported after the first, second and booster doses of Comirnaty and Spikevax”.

This is an admission that Covid-19 vaccination can have an adverse effect on fertility in women.

A study published in 2016 found that alterations to a woman’s regular menstrual cycle are associated with reduced fertility, and have a negative effect on the chances of getting pregnant.



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# Dr. Naomi Wolf Uncovers Pfizer's Depopulation Agenda



11 June 2023

“These people [powers that be] don’t want us to be self-sustaining,” concluded Dr. Naomi Wolf in front of a live audience at a recent VAC family event. “They want us to be dependent and scared.” What self-sustaining quality are they targeting most? Our ability to reproduce, attested Dr. Wolf.

“There’s a section of the Pfizer documents in which Pfizer breaks down the adverse events and concludes that women sustain 72% of them,” she continued. “And of those — and these are Pfizer’s words — 16% are quote-unquote “reproductive disorders” compared to 0.49% for men. So they’re very focused on reproduction, on female reproduction.”

“It’s my belief that they were trying to disrupt especially female reproduction,” Dr. Wolf determined. “And the question is, how do I know that? And the answer is from the structure of what they looked at. Again, I’m a literary critic, but this is a mystery novel in which the question is, how do we stop women from having healthy babies? That’s the story of the Pfizer documents.”

Here’s a fraction of the 20-something different ways Pfizer admits the mRNA jab can dysregulate or affect women’s reproductive health:

Heavy menstrual bleeding – 27,685 cases; Menstrual disorder (pain, heavy bleeding, or absence of menstruation) – 22,145 cases ; Menstruation irregular (irregu-

lar cycle lengths) – 15,083 cases; Menstruation delayed – 13,989 cases; Dysmenorrhea (pain during menstruation) – 13,904 cases; Intermenstrual bleeding (bleeding in between periods) – 12,424 cases; Amenorrhea (absence of period) – 11,363 cases; Polymenorrhea (multiple periods) – 9,546 cases; Vaginal hemorrhage (excessive bleeding of the female reproductive system) – 4,699 cases; Oligomenorrhea (infrequent menstrual periods) – 3,437 cases

“Again, I keep saying this is a respiratory pathogen. Why are they so focused on sex? At one point, they mate vaccinated male rats and unvaccinated female rats. Then they kill them, and they dissect and look at the cells of their sexual organs. Okay? So they’re very, very focused on mammalian sexuality.”

“I think this is the tip of the iceberg,” she continued. “We’ve [DailyClout/War Room Volunteers] got a report on turbo cancers, we’ve got a report on strokes, we’ve got a report on liver damage, kidney damage.”

“I don’t want to depress you, but all around you are people who are suffering from illnesses,” mourned Dr. Wolf.

# Excess deaths in Germany only started appearing after COVID “vaccines” were unleashed, study finds



June 1, 2023

Christof Kuhlbandner and Matthias Reitzner compared the reported number of all-cause deaths (i.e., the number of deaths that occurred independently of all underlying causes) to the number of statistically expected all-cause deaths. They did this using a state-of-the-art method of actuarial science based on population tables, life tables, and longevity trends.

Put simply, the method of actuarial science Kuhlbandner and Reitzner used in the study estimates the expected number of all-cause deaths that would have occurred between 2020 and 2022 had there been no actual “pandemic” (which some argue was the case, as no sample of SARS-CoV-2 was ever isolated using Koch’s postulates).

For the year 2020, which was prior to

the release of the COVID jabs, the observed number of deaths in Germany was roughly what it was expected to be based on what the media was claiming about the virus. All in all, there were 4,000 recorded excess deaths that year in the country.

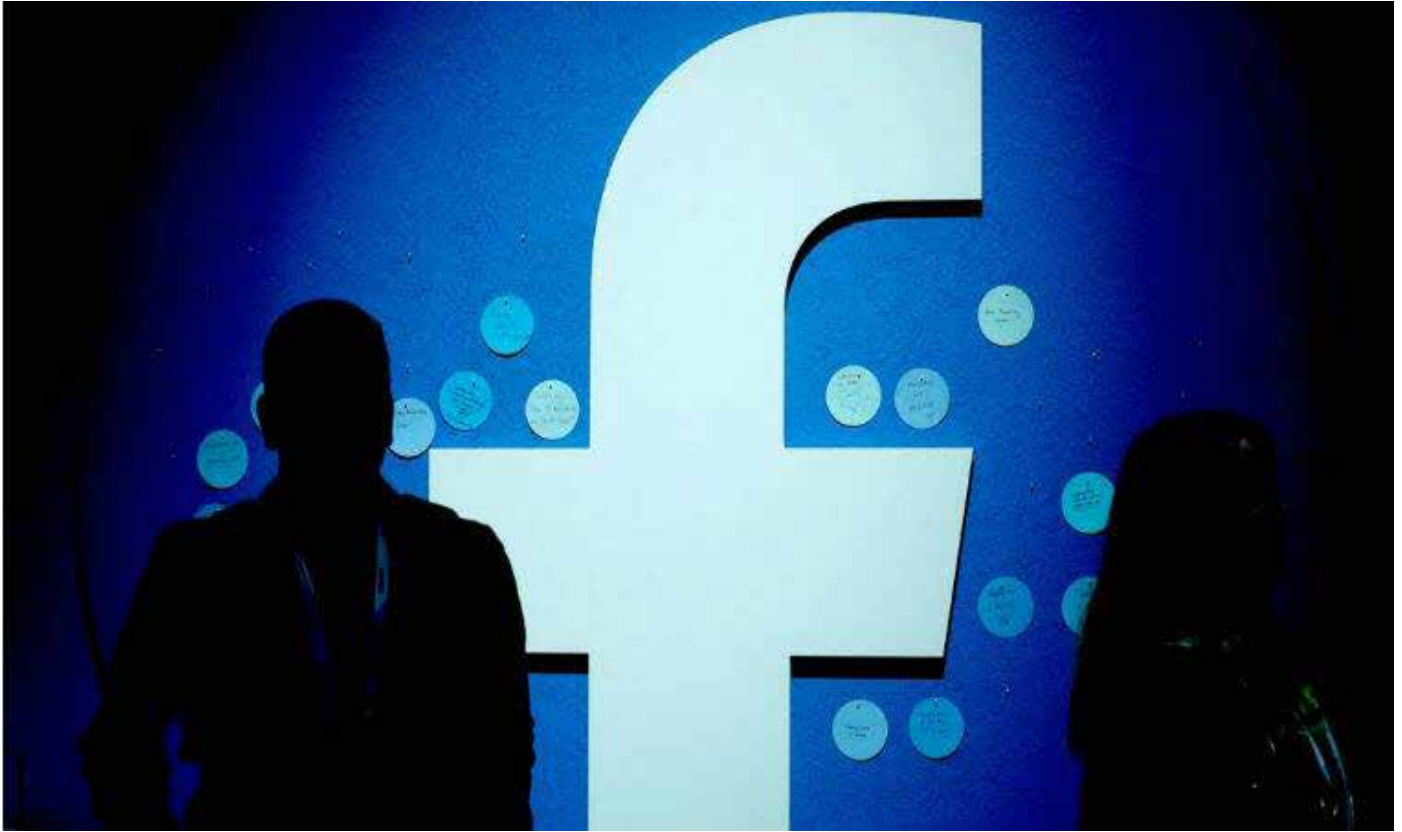
In 2021, however, the year immediately following the launch of Operation Warp Speed by the Trump administration in late 2020, the number of excess deaths in Germany “was two empirical standard deviations above the expected number,” reaching about 34,000. In 2022 after the release of “booster” jabs, excess deaths soared even higher, reaching “more than four times the empirical standard deviation” calculated by the scientists. Excess deaths in 2022 hit 66,000, which combined with 2021 numbers yields a cumulative 100,000 excess deaths in Germany following the release of COVID injections.

The study explains that this exceptionally high excess mortality rate both in 2021 and 2022 was mainly due to an increase in deaths among people aged 15 to 79 from about April 2021 and onward – this being right around the time when the injections were being mass-distributed.

“A similar mortality pattern was observed for stillbirths with an increase of about 9.4 percent in the second quarter and 19.4 percent in the fourth quarter of the year 2021 compared to previous years,” the paper further states, noting that prior to the release of COVID injections, excess stillbirths have not yet occurred at a noticeable rate.

Research Article: <https://www.cureus.com/articles/149410-estimation-of-excess-mortality-in-germany-during-2020-2022#!/>

# Facebook admits COVID Vaccines destroy Immune System & cause new form of AIDS



June 1, 2023

Back in August 2022, The Expose published an exclusive in-depth investigation into five months' worth of official UK Government released by the UK Health Security Agency that confirmed each Covid-19 "booster" dose provides a very short-lived temporary boost to the immune systems of the vaccinated population before decimating their immune systems much more rapidly than had already been seen in people who had received two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

In short, we discovered that official

UK Government data strongly suggests that the Covid-19 vaccinated population are developing some new form of Covid-19 vaccine-induced acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

That investigation was shared by a reader on Facebook on the same day that we published the article, and Facebook took it upon themselves to immediately remove the post and label it as "misinformation".

However, the reader who shared our article disputed Facebook's censorship and on the 27th October they finally responded to confirm that they were

in fact wrong, the investigation was entirely correct, and that the readers Facebook post is now back on the highly censored social media platform. So now that Facebook has confirmed what The Expose has been trying to tell the wider public for over a year, we have included the full original investigation below so that you can share this article far and wide.

<https://expose-news.com/2023/05/30/facebook-admits-covid-vaccines-cause-aids/>

# “During the pandemic, some have compromised on the ethical standards,” says vaccine researcher Gunnveig Grødeland



May 25, 2023

More than 300 covid articles have been withdrawn. Grødeland says she does not have enough basis for comparison to say anything about whether this is surprisingly high.

**“During the pandemic, there are relatively many people who have suddenly started conducting research on a topic they actually know relatively little about,” says Gunnveig Grødeland.**

There are various reasons why the articles have been withdrawn. The vaccine researcher at UiO clarifies that some of them are drawn from pre-print publication.

— It is probably because they have updated them or want to publish them in a different form when they are actually published. It is quite natural, she says.

But this only applies to some of the articles. Grødeland points out that some have been withdrawn because the researchers lacked informed consent

during the conduct of the studies. “It will of course be withdrawn when it is found that ethical guidelines have been breached,” she says.

The researcher points out that others have been withdrawn after the editors have discovered that the data has been used several times, in different articles. - This is not legal either, it is simply duplicates, Grødeland says and adds that she saw this herself when she was a peer for some articles during the pandemic.

Indeed, it appeared that some laboratories ran the same data, with tiny modifications, to different journals. They tried cross-publishing the same data several times. The rules dictate that you must publish the data only once, that is part of the research contract, says Grødeland and adds:

There are probably attempts by these research groups to get more publications on their publication lists, but it is the wrong way to do it.

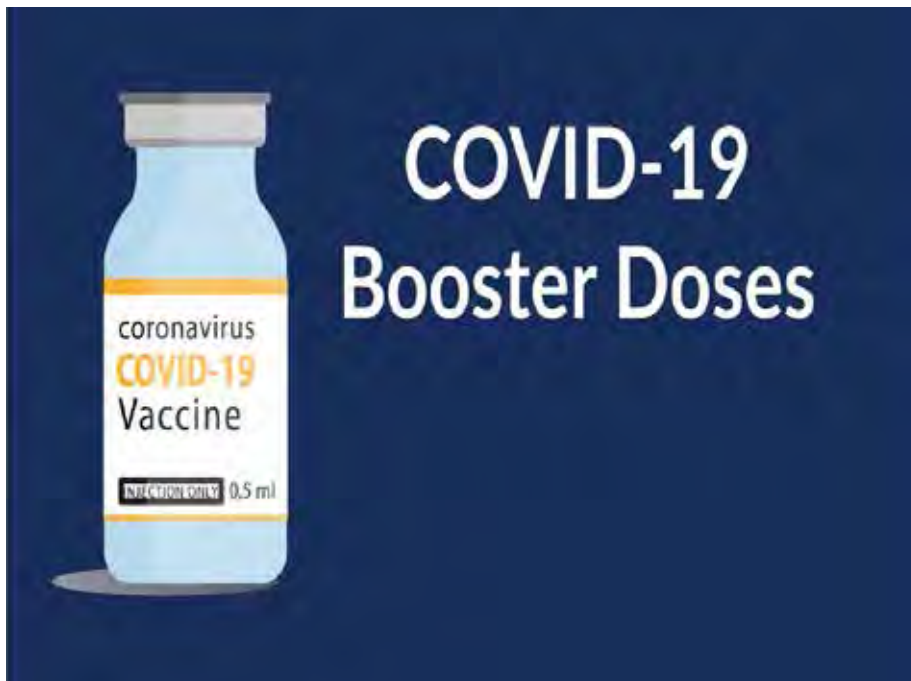
Grødeland also refers to cases with case studies around various traditional medicine strategies. — In the media, a false impression was created that these strategies were in any way recommended as actual treatment, or prevention of covid, which neither the authors of the various articles nor their institutions could vouch for. Therefore, articles were withdrawn for that reason as well, she says.

It has previously been questioned whether the need to get things out quickly may have exceeded the quality. Early during the pandemic, there was also a storm around a study published in the Lancet, which was later withdrawn following revelations in The Guardian newspaper.

“If you produce high-quality research, then you produce high-quality research even during a pandemic,” says Grødeland. At the same time, the senior researcher points out that there may also have been a number of environments that do not normally carry out research, which received funding from local hospitals or others, in order to suddenly start producing research.

“It may have caused things to get a little out of hand in some places,” she says.

# Repeated COVID-19 Vaccination Weakens Immune System: Study



4 JUNE 2023

Repeated COVID-19 vaccination weakens the immune system, potentially making people susceptible to life-threatening conditions such as cancer, according to a new study (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589004222017515>).

Multiple doses of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines lead to higher levels of antibodies called IgG4, which can provide a protective effect. But a growing body of evidence indicates that the “abnormally high levels” of the immunoglobulin subclass actually make the immune system more susceptible to the COVID-19 spike protein in the vaccines, researchers said in the paper.

They pointed to experiments performed on mice that found multiple boosters on top of the initial COVID-19 vaccination “significantly decreased” protection against both the Delta and Omicron virus variants and testing that found a spike in IgG4 levels after repeat Pfizer vaccination, suggesting immune exhaustion.

“In sum, COVID-19 epidemiological studies cited in our work plus the failure of HIV, Malaria, and Pertussis vaccines constitute irrefutable evidence demonstrating that an increase in IgG4 levels impairs immune responses,” Alberto Rubio Casillas, a researcher with the biology laboratory at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico and one of the authors of the

new paper, told The Epoch Times via email.

The weakened immune systems brought about by repeated vaccination could lead to serious problems, including cancer, the researchers said.

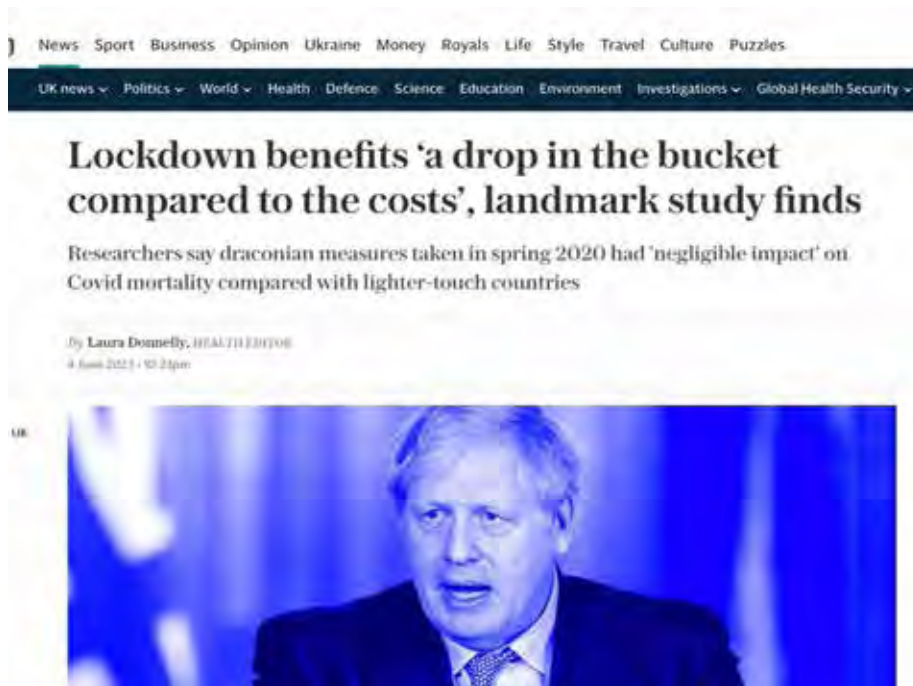
**“Increased IgG4 synthesis due to repeated mRNA vaccination with high antigen concentrations may also cause autoimmune diseases, and promote cancer growth and autoimmune myocarditis in susceptible individuals,” they wrote in the paper.**

Myocarditis is a form of heart inflammation that is caused by COVID-19 vaccination, with young males facing the highest risk.

Potential longer-term consequences of repeated vaccination include vaccinated people who get infected suffering from more severe cases of COVID-19, according to the researchers.

The paper was published by the journal Vaccines in May.

# Lockdown Benefits “Drop in the Bucket Compared to the Costs”, Landmark Study Finds



5 JUNE 2023

A new landmark meta-study by researchers at Johns Hopkins University and Sweden’s Lund University has concluded that that draconian restrictions imposed on the British population in the spring of 2020 saved fewer than 1,700 lives in England and Wales and were “a drop in the bucket compared to the staggering collateral costs”.

Scientists from Johns Hopkins University and Lund University examined almost 20,000 studies on measures taken to protect pop-

ulations against Covid across the world.

Their findings suggest that lockdowns in response to the first wave of the pandemic, when compared with less strict policies adopted by the likes of Sweden, prevented as few as 1,700 deaths in England and Wales. In an average week there are around 11,000 deaths in England and Wales.

The report authors said their findings showed that the draconian measures had a “negligible impact”

on Covid mortality and were a “policy failure of gigantic proportions”.

The study’s authors conclude: “The science of lockdowns is clear; the data are in: the deaths saved were a drop in the bucket compared to the staggering collateral costs imposed.”

**The detrimental impact of lockdown on children’s health and education, on economic growth and its contribution to large increases in public debt has become increasingly clear since the policy was introduced.**

However, The Telegraph recently revealed that a secretive government unit worked with social media companies during the pandemic in an attempt to curtail criticism of controversial lockdown policies.

The Covid Disinformation Unit monitored social media and asked tech companies to remove posts it considered to be “potentially harmful content”.

# Scientists Develop First Gene-Edited Calf Resistant to Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus



May 17, 2023

Scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA ARS), the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), the University of Kentucky, and industry partners Acceligen and Recombinetics, Inc. have developed the first gene-edited calf with resistance to bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV), which costs the U.S. cattle sector billions of dollars annually.

BVDV, one of the most significant viruses affecting the health and well-being of cattle worldwide, can be disastrous to pregnant cows as the virus can infect developing calves, causing spontaneous abortions and low birth rates.

In the past 20 years, scientists discovered the main cellular receptor (CD46) and the area where the virus binds to that receptor, causing infection in cows. Scientists modified the virus binding site in this recent study to block infection.

**They used gene editing to slightly alter CD46 so it would not bind the virus yet retain all its normal bovine functions. Promising outcomes were seen in the laboratory, so Acceligen edited cattle skin cells to develop embryos carrying the altered gene.**

These embryos were transplanted into surrogate cows to test whether this approach might also reduce virus infection in live animals.

The approach worked, and the first CD46 gene-edited calf, named Ginger, was born healthy on July 19, 2021. For several months, Ginger was observed and then later challenged with the virus to determine if she could become infected.

She was housed for a week with a BVDV-infected dairy calf that was born shedding the virus. Ginger's cells displayed significantly reduced susceptibility to BVDV, which resulted in no observable adverse health effects.



# Rise in heart attack cases in youngsters puzzles doctors



## HEALTH

HAS COVID IMPACTED OUR HEARTS?



May 26, 2023

An alarming rise in cases of youngsters suffering myocardial infarction (heart attack), especially in people who do not have any known comorbidities, has left cardiologists puzzled.

There is a spurt in cases of people who did not have any comorbidities having a heart attack or even cardiac arrest.

The incidence has tripled post Covid-19, which points to the vaccine as well,” said Dr M Raja Rao superintendent, Gandhi Hospital, which has

seen 15-16 cases of youngsters landing with myocardial infarction in the last one month alone.

Both the Covid as well as the vaccine seem to have contributed to these numbers, as a number of sudden collapses grew substantially post-pandemic across age groups and not just youngsters,” Dr Jyotsna Maddury, retired professor of cardiology, NIMS, said.

**While some experts list genetics, stress, irregular sleep and irregular food habits for the spurt in the cases, others point to the link between Covid-19 infection and vaccine.**



# IBBAC

## International Conference on Biochemical and Biotechnological Approaches for Crop Improvement

30<sup>th</sup> October to 01<sup>st</sup> November, 2023

### Venue

National Agricultural Science Complex  
New Delhi, India

BIOEVENT



Organized by



Indian Agricultural Research Institute



National Institute for Plant Biotechnology



Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology



CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute

[www.ibbaci.org](http://www.ibbaci.org)

# Notifications



**Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council**

## Title

**India-UK partnership to address farmed animal diseases and health**

## Funders involved

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), UK Research and Innovation Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India

## Funding available

£5 million from BBSRC for the UK applicants with matched equivalent resources from DBT for successful Indian applicants

**Total funding available (indicative) £10 million.**

Apply for funding to advance the mechanistic understanding of host-pathogen interactions in farmed animals and/or to tackle Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance (Vet-AMR)

## Key dates / timeline

Activity	Timing
Scoping phase between UKRI (BBSRC and UKRI India) and DBT	Current
<b>Deadline for DBT-BBSRC to agree call text</b>	<b>14 April 2023</b>
<b>Joint call opens</b>	<b>2 May 2023</b>
Community webinar	Wb 22 May 2023
<b>Proposal submission deadline</b>	<b>11 July 2023</b> 4pm BST 12pm IST



ACCELERATE  
विद्यया



HIGH END WORKSHOP (KARYASHALA)  
ON  
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Funded By  
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH BOARD



ACCELERATE VIGYAN SCHEME

Dates: 23 June -29 June, 2023



**Registration Link:** <https://forms.gle/mUHCp7twL6kciUui9>  
**Last Date for registration:** 19 June 2023

### Training Curriculum

**Lecture Series:** Molecular Cloning Techniques, PCR, RT-PCR, CRISPR/Cas9 methods and Applications

**Hand-on Training:** Pure culture techniques and Competent cell preparations, retrieval of gene sequences, primer designing, cloning, recombinant protein expression and purification, Western blotting

**Demonstrations:** Molecular cloning Software for Plasmid Mapping, retrieval and gene sequence selection from different databases

Organized By  
Department of Biochemistry  
School of Interdisciplinary and Applied Sciences  
Central University of Haryana



## Department of Science and Technology

### WISE-KIRAN Division

<https://dst.gov.in/>

## WIDUSHI

### (Women's Instinct for Developing and Ushering in Scientific Heights & Innovation)

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing several women centric programmes under its umbrella scheme "Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN)" in order to provide different opportunities to women in Science & Technology (S&T) domain. In this line, a new programme 'WIDUSHI (Women's Instinct for Developing and Ushering in Scientific Heights & Innovations)' is started by DST for senior women scientists to harness their knowledge and potential for betterment of Science and Society. WIDUSHI programme aims to encourage and support senior women scientists to conduct research in interdisciplinary areas of Science and Technology.

Proposal are invited from senior women scientists in following scientific disciplines *viz.*, i) Physical & Mathematical Sciences ii) Chemical Sciences, iii) Life Sciences, iv) Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, v) Engineering & Technology and vi) S&T based Societal Research.

**Target Group:** The target group is categorized in following 2 categories:

- a. Category-A: Retiring or retired Women Scientist
- b. Category-B: Senior Women Scientists who are not in regular employment

**Eligibility:** Following are primary eligibility criteria:

**1. Employment:**

- a. Women Scientists who are permanent employee but retiring in a year or already retired/superannuated from government academic/research institutions.
- b. Women who are not permanent employee in any institution but working temporarily and have completed 2 independent research projects as Principal Investigator.

**2. Age:** 57-62 years (for Category A) and 45-62 (for Category B)

**3. Qualification:** Women Scientists having Ph.D in Basic/Applied Sciences or equivalent degree.

**4. Research Experience:** Minimum 2 R&D projects as Principal Investigator with excellent track record.

**5. Publications:** Minimum 20 research publications (for Category A) and minimum 10 research publications (for Category B) with impact factor.

**Project Duration:** Maximum 5 years.

**Emoluments:** The Programme provides fellowship to the Principal Investigator @Rs.75,000/- per month (for Category A) and @Rs.85,000/- per month (for Category B), One Research Assistant, Research Grant of Rs. 5.0 Lakh per year and Institutional overhead charges @Rs.1.00 lakh per annum.

**Co-Investigator (Co-I):** WIDUSHI fellow should choose a permanent faculty as Co-I (male/female) of the project for academic and administrative support in project implementation. The service of Co-I has to be due for a period not less than the proposed period of the WIDUSHI project. The Co-I is not eligible for any separate grants under the programme.

**Selection Process:** The project proposals received will be screened and Principal Investigator (PI) of 'screened-in' proposals will be called for presentation before Programme Advisory Committee for final recommendation. The final decision of DST will be communicated to the applicants only after obtaining due administrative and financial approvals.

**Where to apply:** The proposal can be submitted at ePMS ([onlinedst.gov.in](http://onlinedst.gov.in)). The proposal format is available at [dst.gov.in](http://dst.gov.in), [onlinedst.gov.in](http://onlinedst.gov.in) and [online-wosa.gov.in](http://online-wosa.gov.in) under WISE-KIRAN Division.

**For detailed information,** please refer WIDUSHI Guidelines at [www.dst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in) and [online-wosa.gov.in](http://online-wosa.gov.in). For further clarification email [enquiry-wosdst@gov.in](mailto:enquiry-wosdst@gov.in).

**Last Date of Submission:** Proposal submission is open throughout the year.

Under CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative

# CSIR -CDRI Skill Development Program

## Pathological Tools & Techniques for Biomedical Applications

Course Starts from 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 to 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 (6 Weeks)

The objectives of this training course are to generate skilled human resources ready for employment in the hospital/ diagnostic pathology/ forensic laboratory/ research industry/laboratory and academia. This is a unique opportunity for skill development, training in the area of pathology starting from the basic steps of report preparation. The course will cover the important technique to work with the pathology/ diagnostic laboratory or drug research. To create livelihood opportunity for the youth is the main objective behind designing the course. This will provide excellent opportunities for the youth having a biological background and will bridge the gap in medical services of our country. The candidates will have excellent opportunity to work with pathology laboratory, practical exposure of equipment and sample handling of various laboratory animals at CSIR-CDRI.

**Essential Qualification: Minimum Intermediate with science**

**No of Seats: 20**

**Fees: Rs.10000/-**

**Training Curriculum-** The course structure consists of theoretical and hands on training. General introduction to Pathology & Pathological techniques with hands on exposure to basic laboratory instruments used in Pathology Laboratory. It includes:

- ◆ Blood collection and necropsy of laboratory animals
- ◆ Clinical Pathology-Reception & labeling of samples, analysis, record keeping, cleaning
- ◆ Preparation of various stains & reagents
- ◆ Stool Examination-Routine & Microscopic, Occult blood test
- ◆ Urine Examination-Routine & Microscopic, Preservative and fixation of various samples
- ◆ Haematology analysis
- ◆ Blood smear preparation
- ◆ Staining of blood smear and Differential Leucocyte Count (DLC) analysis
- ◆ Biopsy/ Cytology-Collection of material, preparation of stain and staining by Leishman /Giemsa
- ◆ Diagnosis & Interpretation
- ◆ Demonstration the process of Histopathology, slide preparation and staining
- ◆ Genotoxicity test procedure
  - 1) Micronucleus test
  - 2) Chromosomal aberration
  - 3) Bacterial reverse mutation assay (Ames assay)
- ◆ Organization and management of laboratory
- ◆ Quality control

**CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow**

**Program Coordinator: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Shukla**  
Sec-10, Jankipuram Extension, Sitapur Road  
Lucknow 226031 (Uttar Pradesh)  
E-mail: [sdp@cdri.res.in](mailto:sdp@cdri.res.in)

**Resource Person: Dr. Madhav N. Mugale, Mo: 9849607144, Email: [madhav.mugale@cdri.res.in](mailto:madhav.mugale@cdri.res.in)**



## INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED VIROLOGY

Autonomous institution under Science & Technology Department Government of Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695317

IAV/600/Acds/2023/PhD

22.05.2023

### **PhD ADMISSION NOTIFICATION – 2023-24**

Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) Thiruvananthapuram focuses on conducting advanced research in diagnosis and management of emerging and re-emerging infectious viral diseases. The Institute is affiliated with Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad and Cochin University of Science & Technology for its academic programmes.

IAV invites applications from eligible candidates for the PhD program in various domains of Virology.

Eligibility Criteria:

- (i) MSc or an equivalent degree in Life Sciences **OR** MVSc /MBBS or an equivalent degree
- (ii) Qualifying Marks – 60% or equivalent grade (5% relaxation for OBC(NCL)/SC/ST/PWD)
- (iii) Fellowship – JRF from CSIR/UGC / DST-INSPIRE/ DBT-ICMR/other Govt. agencies having validity of five years.

Last date for submission of online application: **30.6.2023**

Application Fees: Rs.500/-

For detailed advertisement form log on to [www.iav.kerala.gov.in](http://www.iav.kerala.gov.in).

Link for online application <https://forms.gle/kTMaDCbuu13ffaR28>

**Sd/-  
Director**

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference**  
**on**  
**Biotechnology and Bioinformatics**  
**(ICBAB-2023)**



**11-13, July 2023**

**Organized by**

**Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics,  
Jaypee University of Information Technology Solan, Himachal Pradesh, INDIA**

**BIOEVENT**



**Venue: Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics  
Jaypee University of Information Technology, Solan  
Himachal Pradesh, INDIA**





# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NANOMATERIALS IN BIOLOGY



November 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Jointly Organized By



Biological Engineering Discipline, IIT, Gandhinagar  
www.iitgn.ac.in

Soft Materials Research Society, Jaipur  
www.smrsi.org



<http://www.smrsi.org/icnb2023>

[nanobio@smrsi.org](mailto:nanobio@smrsi.org); [nanobiouor@gmail.com](mailto:nanobiouor@gmail.com)

## PATRON

**Prof. N. P. Padhy**  
President, Soft Materials Research Society Jaipur  
& Director, MNIT Jaipur

## CONFERENCE CHAIRS

**Dr. Dhiraj Bhatia**

Head, Biological Engineering Discipline,  
Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar

**Dr. Anjali Awasthi**

Soft Materials Research Society Jaipur  
& University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

## COORDINATORS

**Dr. Mukesh Dhanka**

Biological Engineering Discipline,  
Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar

**Dr. Kumud Kant Awasthi**

Soft Materials Research Society Jaipur  
& Dept. of Life Sciences VGU Jaipur

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the 3rd edition of the International Conference on Nanomaterials in Biology (ICNB 2023) during 19-22 November 2023. This time this event is being hosted by Biological Engineering Discipline at IIT Gandhinagar in association with SMRS, Jaipur.

SMRS has started the conference series on Soft Materials in 2014 and later Nanomaterials in Biology in 2019. With time, SMRS conference series has developed a strong reputation across the globe.

The conference is an amalgam of various applications of nanomaterials in the field of biology and focuses on their interplay with disciplines like medicine, tissue engineering, sensors, environment, agriculture, etc.

We have taken the initiative to bring together world-class professionals from various fields of nanobiology and provide a platform for young and budding researchers to share expertise, exchange technical information, and collaboration opportunities with distinguished groups working in these areas.

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is our pleasure to invite once again, all the scientists, academicians, young researchers, and students from all over the world to promote and enhance recent accomplishments in the field of Nanomaterials in Biology.

Looking forward to a professionally exhilarating and enjoyable another excellent conference (ICNB 2023).

A hearty welcome!!

**Organizing Committee  
ICNB 2023**

## TOPICS

3D  
Bioprinting

Big Data in  
Nanosciences

Bioinspired  
and Biomimetic  
Materials

Biological  
Nanodevices  
and Sensors

Engineered  
Nanomaterials

Nanomaterials  
and Environmental  
Effects

Nanomaterials  
for Bioenergy  
Applications

Nanomaterials for  
Sustainable Agriculture  
and Food Science

Nanomaterials in  
Biological Uptake  
and Nanotoxicology

Nanomaterials in  
Gene and Drug  
Delivery

Nanomaterials in  
Tissue Engineering  
and Medicine

Polymer  
Nanocomposites for  
Bio Applications

## PUBLICATIONS

The selected manuscripts may be published in peer-reviewed journals. Details will be available shortly on conference website.

## AWARDS

Soft Materials Research Society is pleased to announce the best presentation awards (Oral/Poster) for the students. For details, please visit the conference website.

## CONTACT US

**Conference Secretariat, ICNB 2023**

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Scan me

*If you have any specific query, please feel free to write us:*

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## VENUE



Biological Engineering Discipline,  
Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Gandhinagar,  
Palaj-382355, Gujarat, India.

Follow us on



For more details and updates, kindly visit: <http://www.smrsi.org/icnb2023/>

# 4<sup>TH</sup> HANDS ON WORKSHOP ON "INTEGRATED OMICS" (Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics)

 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST to 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023

Omics technologies have transformed the understanding of biological machinery in different physiological conditions. This six day hands on workshop aims to bring up and discuss about the latest OMICS technologies that support towards understanding of the biological processes, diagnosis and biomarker discovery.

Course Content: The course lectures will be delivered by experts in the field supplemented by practical, covering all aspects of Genomics and Proteomics

- Theory lectures on Genomics and Proteomics  
Sample preparation
- Extensive hands on Genomics and Proteomics technologies
- Data acquisition followed by data analysis using bioinformatics tools

Eligibility criteria: This workshop is primarily targeted to post-doctoral fellows, PhD students, SRFs, JRFs and senior researchers from academic and industry

**Selection Procedure:** Selection is based on qualification, statement on the requirement of expertise from this workshop for ongoing research and future projects. Only 16 applicants (Academic- 12 and Industries - 4) would be selected through a competitive selection process.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



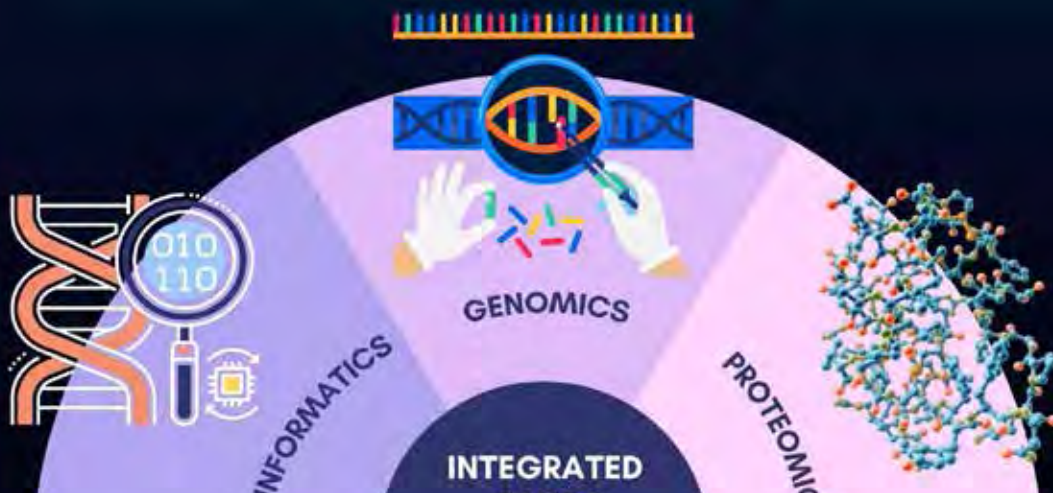
Last date to apply: July 25th, 2023 (Midnight)

**Selected participants will be informed by 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Participation Fee (INR): 20,000 for Academic and 25,000 for Industries  
(Includes shared accommodation and lunch for 6 days)

For Further queries, please write to [omics@ncbs.res.in](mailto:omics@ncbs.res.in)

**Sponsors: will be updated shortly**



International Conference  
on  
**Plant Biotechnology and Genome Editing**

27<sup>th</sup> June - 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

*Organized by*  
Department of Biotechnology  
Kakatiya University  
Warangal, India

*In collaboration with*  
Aberystwyth University  
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**BIOEVENT**



*Sponsored by*



# BioControversies



## Indian PhDs, professors are paying to publish in real-sounding, fake journals. It's a racket

May 15, 2023

Scopus, an index and citation database of journals and which claims to be the largest in the world is recommended for Indian academics. Presenting papers at conferences and getting published in journals is de rigueur, but the pressure is intense.

And this has led to the rise of an illegal industry of agents and touts who work in tandem with compro-

mised peer-review boards to get substandard and sometimes completely fabricated research papers published in journals that are indexed by Scopus for as little as Rs 15,000. If unchecked, it has a long-term impact both in terms of adding uncertainty to what can be conclusively said as well as in destroying public trust in science and scientists to uphold the truth, warns Gautam Menon, professor of physics and biology at Ashoka University. It also ruins the credibility of Indian researchers in the international academic



arena.

The Indian Institute of Science's journal *Current Science* also put out an advisory in July 2017 on its website after two fake websites with similar domain names [www.currentscience.org](http://www.currentscience.org) and [www.currentscience.co.in](http://www.currentscience.co.in) were found to copy its content and publish articles from researchers for a fee. Both fake sites are now defunct.

Authorships are up for sale and editors of lesser-known journals offer to publish papers for as little as a meagre amount of Rs 5,000. And for the right price, there are ghost writers who will write an entire research paper for a 'client'.

PhD students, for instance, need to publish at least two to three research papers in a Scopus-indexed journal before they can submit their thesis.

The University Grants Commission recommends a points-based system for appointment of faculty in Indian universities. As per the latest 2018 recommendations, a professor in the disciplines of Arts, Commerce, Humanities, Education, Law, Social Sciences, Sciences, Languages, Library Science, Journalism and Mass Communication requires 10 research publications and a 'score' above 120. For a publication in a peer-reviewed journal, an academic gets a score of 8 to 10. If the paper is published in a high-impact journal, there are additional points.

Menon calls for institutes and universities to consider where an academic is published, and not just how often.

"In more reputed universities that I have worked for, such predatory publishing was less prevalent because publishing in only the highest quality journals was prioritised," he said.

Social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook and Telegram are rife with advertisements and discussion groups with touts selling ready-made papers or acceptance letters from Scopus-indexed journals.

'New paper to join as authors,' reads one advertisement for a paper titled 'RNA AND kind of chemotherapy drug resistance'. It goes on to promise that the paper is in the 'revision stage' but will be accepted and published in a journal with an IF of 5.8.

For ready-made papers like these, academics can 'book' themselves for as co-authors of that paper. For one person to add their name on a paper, it can cost anywhere between Rs 7,000 to Rs 14,000 – depending on the position they book. Research papers written by multiple authors are often seen as more credible in the academia since it requires collaborative work. In one ad, the tout was selling the position of second author for \$ 400, the third for \$350, and the fourth and fifth authorship for \$300 each.

Academics looking to be published in a journal have to provide a fully written research paper, following which touts working in tandem with journal editors get the papers accepted. In a span of just about 10 days, the research paper appears on the website of the journal, after which the individual has to pay up to Rs 15,000. Many of these journals only have an online

presence, and if an academic does not pay up, their paper gets removed from the website.

Such networks are dubbed as peer-review rings in research communities. Last year, publishers Wiley and Hindawi identified these rings within their journals and retracted over 500 papers linked to them.

## Misconduct in Organisation Like ISRO cannot be ignored: SC Upholds Scientist's Dismissal

28 May 2023



The Supreme Court while rejecting an appeal has held that when there is misconduct from a scientist working in a sensitive and strategic organisation like ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), the decision to impose dismissal from service cannot be said to be illegal.

The two-Judge Bench comprising Justice M.R. Shah and

Justice C.T. Ravikumar observed, "... the organization is perfectly justified in casting suspicion on the honesty, integrity, reliability, dependability and trustworthiness in view of the factual situation obtained in this case, as explained in the counter affidavit, besides entertaining the stand that his unauthorized association with foreign institution, especially in the area of propulsion, which is a strategic research and development subject in the organization and based on which the nation's rocketry and ambitious launch vehicle programs are/were advancing, was a matter of concern for the security of the State. When such acts/conduct occur/occurs from a scientist in a sensitive and strategic organization, the decision to impose dismissal from service cannot be said to be illegal or absolutely unwarranted."

The Bench relied upon the decision in the case of Union of India and Anr. v. Tulsiram Patel and Ors. (1985) 3 SCC 398 wherein it was held that when the power of order of dismissal is invoked to dispense with inquiry, the consideration as to what penalty should be imposed upon a delinquent employee must be ex-parte i.e., no opportunity of being heard is given on that question.

Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan appeared on behalf of the appellant while ASG K.M. Nataraj and Advocate Shailesh Madiyal appeared on behalf of the respondents.

The appellant who was working as a scientist in ISRO had challenged the judgment passed by the Kerala High Court whereby it dismissed his plea against the order of the Central Administrative Tribunal. The appellant was appointed in Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram of ISRO, and thereafter got promoted.

The appellant was invited by the Head of School of Mechanical Engineering, Andong National University, South Korea to join as a post-doctoral trainee and assist for one year as a result of which he applied for a sabbatical leave for one year but the competent authority decided not to recommend the leave in the exigency of service and in public interest. The appellant hence applied for 9 days Earned Leave on personal grounds and soon went to South Korea and published a technical paper without approval due to which disciplinary action was initiated against him and he was dismissed from service without any inquiry.

# MSc Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

**ADMISSION OPEN 2023**

SRM University-AP, Andhra Pradesh

## About the Programme

The Department of Biological Sciences at SRM University-AP is offering a two-year MSc Molecular Biology and Biotechnology programme. The programme is research-intensive and covers a variety of sub-disciplines with Research Track or Industry Track.

## Highlights



State-of-the-art labs



100% internationally trained faculty members  
(<https://srmap.edu.in/seas/biology-faculty/>)



Merit-based scholarship including 100% tuition fee waiver based on BSc marks

► **The programme comprises of 82 credits that can be completed in two years**

Course	Credits
Core	32
Electives (Industry or Research Track)	12
Skill Enhancement	06
Summer Internship	03
Mini Project	04
Final semester Project	16
Open Electives	09
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

## Faculty members

The Department has outstanding, internationally recognised faculty trained from premier institutes of National and International level. Faculty members have publications in the top-most journals including Nature, Science, Nature Microbiology, Plos Biology, PNAS, Green Chemistry, Applied Materials and Interface etc.

## Funding

The Department has ongoing projects with a total value of 6 crores, supported by SRM-AP, DBT, DST-SERB, DBT-Wellcome Trust.

## Scopes and Opportunities

- Problem-based curricula to qualify National and International level exams (eg: CSIR, DBT, ICMR, ICAR, GATE, GRE etc.)
- Opportunity to work with Industry and Industry-supported projects
- Excellent chance for placement in biotech industries or prestigious PhD programmes within India or abroad

## Admission

**Eligibility:** Bachelor degree with minimum 60% marks in any science subject with Biology as a major or Honours subject

**Selection:** Based on UG marks and interview process

## Contact Us

### Department of Biological Sciences

Website link: <https://srmap.edu.in/seas/biology/>

For admissions, visit-link: <https://srmap.edu.in/#admissions>

Campus tour: <https://srmap.edu.in/campus-life/virtual-tours/>

Prof. Jayaseelan Murugalyan (hod.bio@srmap.edu.in)

Dr Pitchalah Cherukuri (pitchalah.c@srmap.edu.in - 87122-96502)

Dr Sutharsan Govindarajan (sutharsan.g@srmap.edu.in - 9361781758)

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