

Volume 10 | Issue 113 | December 2022
ISSN: 2454-6968 | RNI No. UPENG/2013/54102

e-copy - Rs. 50 | Print - Rs. 800

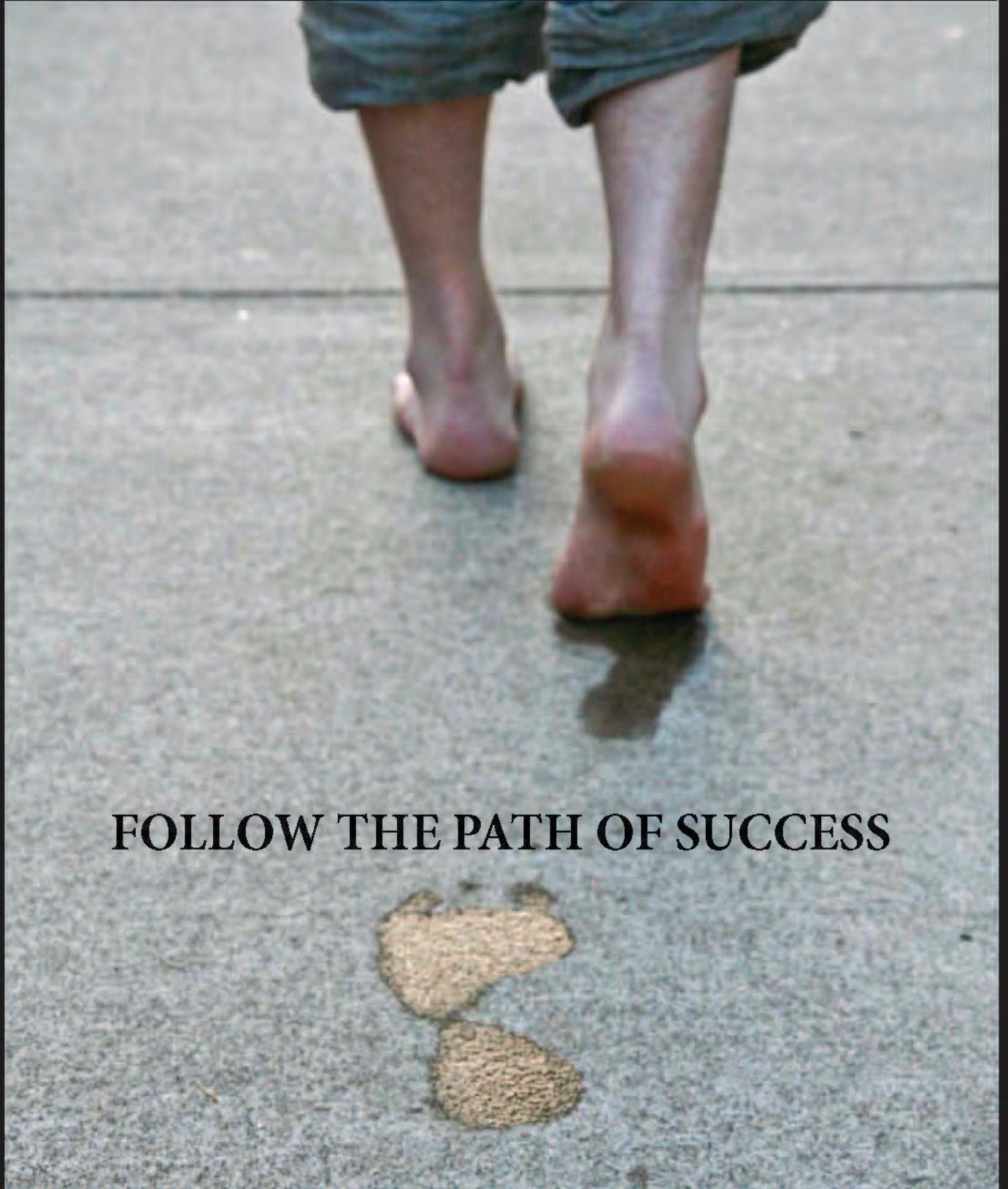
BIOTECH EXPRESS



**Covishield Controversy: Yohan
Tengra, an ordinary boy Vs Adar
Poonawalla, world famous billionaire**

BIOTECH EXPRESS

The gist of Life Science



FOLLOW THE PATH OF SUCCESS



BIOTECH EXPRESS

Chief Editor

Dr. Seema P. Upadhye

Managing Editor:

Kamal Pratap Singh

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 113
December 2022

ALL RIGHT RESERVED. No part of this issue can be printed in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher. Editors, printer and publisher do not take responsibility for any mistake though information are best to assess.

Online and Social Media

www.biotechexpressmag.com

www.facebook.com/BiotechExpressmagazine

www.linkedin.com/in/biotechexpressmagazine

<https://twitter.com/KBiotechexpress>

Subscription: <http://www.biotechexpressmag.com/subscription/>

Contact: Biotech Express, V-31/4, Ext-1, Shalimar Garden, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P.- 201005.

Phone: +91- 9311986177

Article and Ad submission

All queries related to article and ads submission can be sent to biotechexpressindia@gmail.com. For more information kindly visit website: www.biotechexpressmag.com

Publisher : Kamal Pratap Singh

Printed at : Monex offset, B-12 SD complex, near MMG hospital, Ghaziabad- 201005.

Individual rates available to subscribers paying by personal cheque or NEFT. Order for Students, PhDs, postdoc subscription must be accompanied by a copy of student ID.

The Biotech Express magazine publishes between 10th to 15th of every month.

CONTENT

Editorial: Covishield Controversy: Yohan Tengra, an ordinary boy Vs Adar Poonawalla, world famous billionaire | **p8**

Editorial: DBT's 14 autonomous institutions subsumed into single apex body | **p13**

Featured BioNews | **p24**

- ▶ Winners awarded Rs 16 crore at National Bio Entrepreneurship Competition 2022
- ▶ Ayush Ministry appoints Academic Chair in Ayurvedic Science at Western Sydney
- ▶ Department of MSME joins hands with BioAsia 2023
- ▶ First Centre of Excellence for 3D bioprinting launches in India
- ▶ Health Canada adds autoimmune disorder warning to AstraZeneca, J&J COVID-19 vaccines
- ▶ ICRISAT intern wins top awards for developing bio-insecticide
- ▶ ICT-Mumbai to organize 'Biosimilar Workshop 2023' in Goa
- ▶ India will make significant investment in vaccine R&D, assures govt
- ▶ India's bioeconomy has grown 8 times in the last 8 years: Dr Jitendra Singh
- ▶ New digital platform to enhance national disease surveillance initiative

Industry News | **p34**

- ▶ Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine Linked to Blood Clotting: FDA
- ▶ Takeda's dengue vaccine candidate granted priority review by US-FDA
- ▶ The Vegan Leather Made from India's Waste Flowers

Bad Science | **p34**

- ▶ Lancet long COVID paper under investigation for 'data errors'
- ▶ Cancer researcher banned from federal funding for faking data in nearly 400 images in 16 grant applications
- ▶ PLOS flags nearly 50 papers by controversial French COVID researcher

SECURE THIS SPACE

Visit for more information: <http://www.biotechexpressmag.com/advertise/>

Subscription Biotech Express

The Monthly magazine of Biotechnology



Subscription packages

RNI No. UPENG/2013/54102

ISSN: 2454-6968

Period	Print				Digital			
	Indian Subcontinent		Other countries		Indian Subcontinent		Other countries	
	Institutional	Individual	Institutional	Individual	Institutional	Individual	Institutional	Individual
Single	₹1000	₹1000	USD 150	USD 50	600	₹ 100	USD 50	USD 15
1 Year	₹10,000	₹ 5,000	USD 1000	USD 500	5000	₹ 600	USD 500	USD 100
2 Year	₹19,000	₹ 9,000	USD 1900	USD 900	9000	₹ 1000	USD 900	USD 180
3 Year	₹28,000	₹ 14,000	USD 2800	USD 1400	13000	₹ 1500	USD 1300	USD 250
5 Year	₹45,000	₹ 14,000	USD 2800	USD 1400	20,000	₹ 2200	USD 2000	USD 400

Note: Print subscription includes digital subscription as gratis (no extra cost) for the subscribed period.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Please fill the form in CAPITAL letters.
2. Print Subscription is valid in India only.
3. Print Subscription cost includes first class courier charges.
4. Print subscription includes digital subscription as gratis (no extra cost) for the subscribed period.
4. The mode of payment should be cheque/DD/NEFT favouring "Biotech Express". Please write your name and contact details on the back side of cheque/DD.
5. Your subscription will commence from the next available Issue OR within four weeks.
6. For Multiple Subscriptions/error use separate forms (Photocopies allowed).
7. Biotech Express will not entertain cancellation of subscription after commencement of the same. No request for refund will be entertained.
8. In case of changing address, kindly send us in writing one month in advance.
9. Non delivery should be reported within 20 days of publishing of monthly issue to consider repost by us. After which no request will be entertained under any circumstances.
10. Annual Subscription can be avail throughout the year.
11. Previous Volumes are available on request.

Annual Sponsorship

Title	25 Lakh	40,000 US \$
Platinum	18 Lakh	27,000 US \$
Gold	15 Lakh	23,000 US \$
Silver	8 Lakh	12,500 US \$

Mode of communication: Cover Article, Other Pages Ads, Back Articles, Email Newsletter, Website Linking, Events etc.

Online/NEFT Payment

Account Name: BIOTECH EXPRESS
Account No: 65183799804
Bank Name: SBI, Dilshad Garden,
Bank Address: 7, Local Shopping Centre,
B-block, Dilshad Garden, Delhi, India.
Pin – 110095.
Branch code : 009370
IFSC: SBIN0009370,
MICR code: 110002183

Note: BEM Sponsorship will be valid for a period of one year from booking of the same.

Contact: biotechexpressindia@gmail.com, Phone: +91-9311986177

Advisory & Editorial Board



Chief Editor:
Dr Seema Pavgi Upadhye
PhD, Biochemistry



Managing Editor:
Kamal Pratap Singh
M.Sc Genetics



Assistant Editor:
Dr Piyush Kumar, PhD

From the very first issue, Biotech Express team has been delivering what's best for Biosciences community. The audience of this magazine includes students, researchers, faculties and executives of highly prestigious organizations of India. In year 2016, BEM has made new editorial Board combining experience of eminent Advisory Board Members who have been into Award winning Research and head of prestigious Administrative positions.

Advisory Board Members

Prof Sopory Sudhir Kumar, Ph.D., FNA., FNASc., FNAAS., FASc., FTWAS
Padma Shri, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awardee, SERB Distinguished Fellow,
DST, ICGEB 2018----, Vice -Chancellor, JNU, Delhi, 2011-16
Director, ICGEB 2014-15



Prof Pandey Ashok, D.Phil., FRSB., FNASc., FBRs., FIOBB., FISEES., FAMI
Distinguished Scientist, CSIR-IITR
Former Dy Director & Chief Scientist, CSIR- National Institute for Interdisciplinary
Science and Technology; Founder, Biotech Research Society of India (BRSI)



Prof Mishra Kaushala Prasad, Ph.D., F.M.A.Sc., FNASc.
Former Head, Radiation Biology Dept., BARC, India; Former Vice-Chancellor,
Nehru Gram Bharati University; Founder, Radiation Biology Society,
Founder President, Society for Radiation Research , India(SRRI), President,
Asian Association for Radiation Research (AARR)2017-2021



Prof Ramareddy V Guntaka, Ph.D
Chairman and Chief Scientist, Sudarshan Biotech Pvt Ltd., India &
Emeritus Professor, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, USA



Prof. Pallu Reddanna, Ph.D
BSR Faculty Fellow, School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India
Executive President, Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA)



Consulting Editors



Dr. S Venkata Mohan
FNAE, FBRs, FT(AP)AS,
FIEI, FABAP, FISEES
Principal Scientist
Bioengineering and
Environmental Sciences
(BEES), (CSIR-IICT)
Hyderabad, India.



Dr. Dubey K K
Associate Professor
School of
Biotechnology
Jawaharlal Nehru
University, New Delhi
(India)



Dr. Sunita Varjani
Scientific Officer
Gujarat Pollution
Control Board
Paryavaran Bhavan,
Gandhinagar, Gujarat,
India.



Dr. Rachna Agarwal
Associate Professor,
Neurochemistry
Institute of Human
Behaviour and Allied
Sciences (IHBAS),
Delhi, India.



Dr. Shailendra K.
Saxena
Professor and Head,
Centre for Advance
Research, King George's
Medical University
(KGMU), Lucknow,
India

Editorial Board Members

Dr. Barun K Bhattacharya
Scientist in charge, Biotechnology R&D,
East India Pharmaceuticals Works Ltd.

Dr. Dinesh K Gautam
Assistant Professor, Department of Zo-
ology, Hansraj College, Delhi University.

Dr. Rajni Gupta
Associate Professor, Botany, Kirori Mal
college, Delhi University.

Dr. Darshan Malik
Associate Professor, Biochemistry,
Shivaji College, Delhi University.

Dr. Anand Sonkar
Assistant Professor, Department of Bot-
any, Hansraj College, Delhi University

Dr. Sharvan Sehrawat
Asst Professor, IISER Mohali,
Punjab, India.

Dr. Tathagata Choudhuri
Professor, Dept of Biotechnology,
Visva Bharati University,
Santiniketan, West Bengal.

Dr. Shailesh K Tiwari
Scientist at IIVR, Varanasi.

Dr. Sumit Gandhi
Senior Scientist at CSIR-Indian Institute
of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM),
Jammu.

Dr. Yogesh Joshi
Assistant Professor at Department of
Bioinformatics Solapur, Maharashtra.

Dr. Deepak Kala
Assistant Professor, Chandigarh Univer-
sity

Dr. Kavita Mehta
Assistant Prof. biotech at Ganpat
University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

Dr. Seema Amin
Assistant Professor at Charotar
University of Science & Technology
(CHARUSAT), Ahmedabad, India.

Dr. Mukund Bodhankar
Teaching and research at Bharati
Vidyapeeth University, Pune.

Dr. Selvarajan Ethiraj
Research Assistant Professor at SRM
University (Sri Ramaswamy Memorial
University), Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu,

Dr. Burusa Prasad Rao
Senior Scientist at CLRI, Chennai Area,
India.

Dr. Paramjit S Panesar
SLIET University, Longowala, Punjab.

Dr. Sukanta Majumdar
Gour Banga University.

Dr. Rupesh Chaturvedi
Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi, Delhi, India.

Dr. Himani Jain
Teaching Associate at Deenbandhu
Chhotu Ram University of science &
technology, Murthal, Haryana.

Dr. Baskar Gurunathan
St. Joseph's College of Engineering,
Chennai.

Pratyush Kumar Das
Ph.D Scholar, Centre for Biotechnology,
Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Odisha, India.



Editorial

Covishield Controversy: Yohan Tengra, an ordinary boy Vs Adar Poonawalla, world famous billionaire

by Kamal Pratap Singh

SII has sought Rs 100 crore as damages and an unconditional apology from the defendants. It has also sought an injunction against social media platforms such as YouTube and Twitter to take down the defamatory content and to ensure that no such content is published against SII in the future.

The Bombay High Court has re-

fused 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 organisations and individuals who were allegedly posting defamatory content against the company.

Justice NJ Jamadar, during a hearing, looked at the bulky paper sets related to the case and said that it

would not be possible for him to hear the parties immediately for urgent relief. He, however, granted liberty to SII to approach the vacation bench in case of urgent relief and posted the petition for hearing on January 3, 2023.

SII's suit was moved for urgent



Yohan Tengra



Adv. Nilesh Ojha

prayers seeking an order to temporarily restrain some people from publishing and circulating any content against SII or its employees.

SII claimed in its suit that one Yohan Tengra and his organisation “Anarchy for Freedom, India”, and one Ambar Koiri and his organisation “Awaken India Movement”, have been posting and circulating defamatory content against the vaccine-maker.

The suit emphasized that the defendants had also been posting incorrect information about the legal proceedings where SII was involved. Their websites were freely accessible without any subscription and thus could be accessed by many, claimed the SII’s suit.

The company elaborated 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.

Tengra and Koiri not only replied through their advo-

cates Nilesh Ojha and Abhishek, seeking dismissal of the suit, but also filed a counter-claim seeking prosecution of SII for making incorrect statements about the effects of the Covishield vaccine.

Justice Jamadar granted time to SII to respond to this counter-claim before the next date of hearing, which is January 3.

Advocates Nilesh Ojha and Tanveer Nizam for the defendants submitted that the plaintiff was indulging in forum shopping. Ex-parte relief was earlier sought before two benches of the HC which was refused, Ojha said.

Using expletives against the vaccine manufacturer, the defendants claimed that the Covishield vaccine has been banned in 12 countries in the European Union. They added that there was no chance of interim relief till the petition was amended.

Yohan tengra in a twitter said that Adar Poonawalla, the 7th richest person in world has filed a 100 crore defamation suit against me. When heard, I thought that my friend is making fun of it, but later I found that it is true. On reading petition I found that petition

Yohan Tengra

ANARCHY
FOR
FREEDOM

The Labyrinth #56

Round
3

has no ground because it is full of lies, he said in a video. Adar Poonawalla team has also used photos of Bill Gates and Prince Charles to save his reputation. This all they are doing to silence us, at first they tried with police but when they were rejected by police they went to the court but rejected again and directed to go to vacation bench, then second judge also did not take up the case, then third judge asked Adar team to serve notice to Tengra and others, when we got the notice we have filed our replies, Tengra said.

Advocate for Tengra, Mr Nilesh Ojha in the video said, the suit they have filed is completely false, they have suppressed facts. According to them (Adar Team), their vaccine is 100 safe and not causing any death and thus Tengra should be injured and a defamation of 100 crore should be provided by Tengra. In this case, they tried Ex parte relief but it was rejected by Justice Riyaz Chagla. Now we also filed 340 crpc application for the fraud they have committed by giving false information (affidavit) to the court.

We have proofs that vaccine has caused deaths and thus no defamation can be filed against Tengra but after this suit now because Adar has given wrong impression, Tengra should be provided defamation cost. AEFI data of GOI is shouting about the vaccine side

effects, which Tengra has with him and we will produce it in due course. Their vaccine is banned in 21 countries, and many more proofs we have. So this 100 crore suit should get rejected and a 1000 crore compensation should be provided to Tengra and others, we made a fresh prayer in the court, Nilesh Ojha said.

This is not all, a non bailable warrant should be issued against Adar Poonawalla and all directors of the company and their property should be attached so that they cannot dispose off the property in case they started to loose.

Mr Poonawalla just filed a 100cr defamation case against me for calling him a murderer. I won't stop saying it, you'll always be a murderer for killing lakhs of people in this country. This coward filed the petition to try & silence me, but you'll never be able to @adarpoonawalla, Tengra tweeted on Dec 9, 2022.

The matter will now be heard on January 3, 2023. Case no. – SL/33253/2022, Case Title – Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd. and Anr. v. Yohan Tengra and Ors.

ADVANCING qPCR TOGETHER

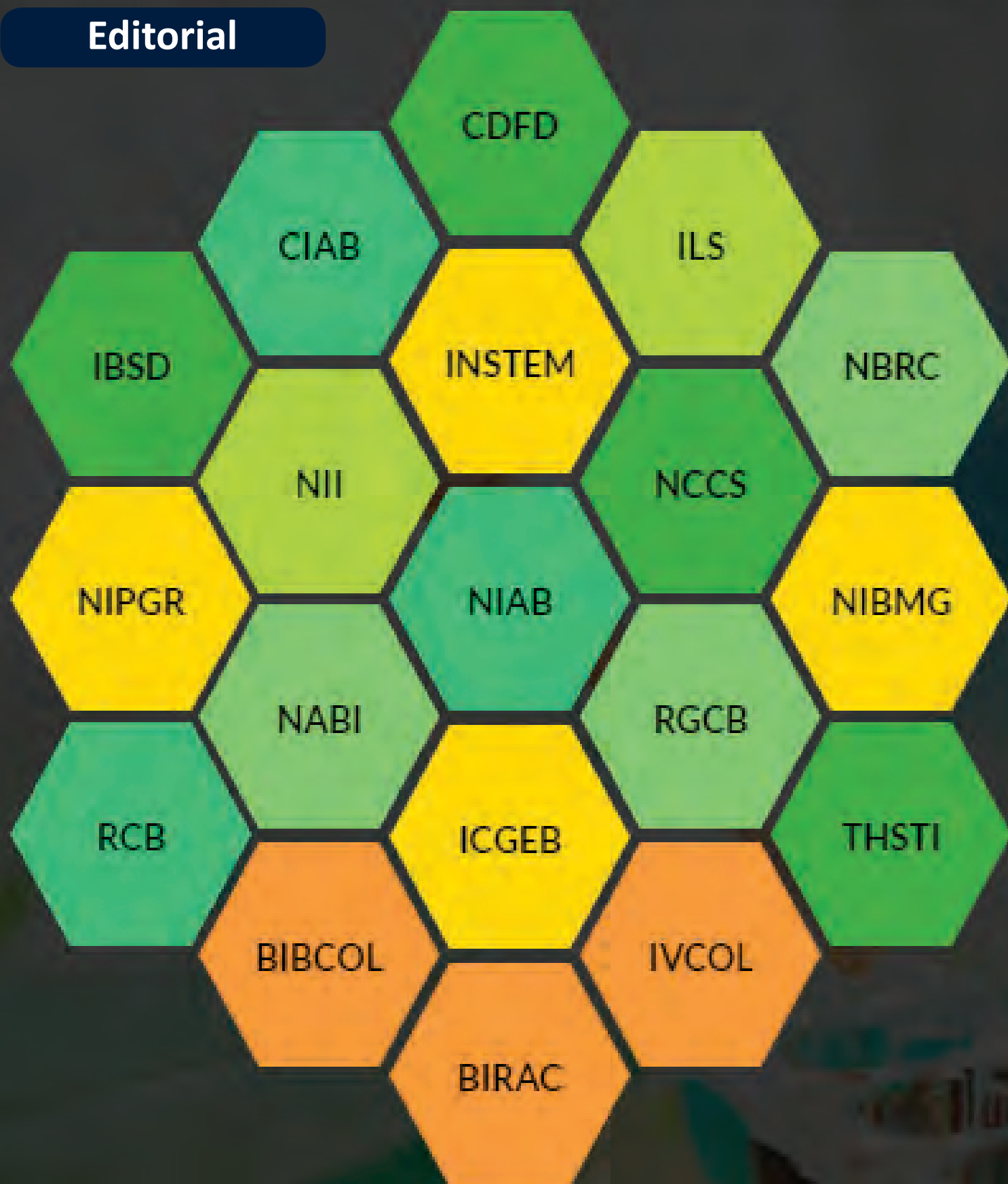


Easily start runs using the intuitive touch screen.

The CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR System is a flexible and precise real-time PCR instrument. Its unsurpassed thermal cycler performance and innovative optical design produce accurate, reliable data. The powerful and intuitive software accelerates every step of your real-time PCR research, shortening the time between getting started and obtaining great results.

Autonomous Institutes & PSUs

Editorial



DBT's 14 autonomous institutions subsumed into single apex body

by Dr Seema Pavgi Upadhye

Dec 04, 2022

The department of biotechnology has merged 14 autonomous institutions under it into an apex body called the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)**, which will help streamlining governance and outcomes in related research activities, officials said.

The 14 autonomous institutions were subsumed into one to achieve centralised and unified governance and maximise the impact of biotech research, junior science minister Jitendra Singh.

“Fourteen societies of biotechnology institutes have been merged into a single society in the interest of integrated working,” said Singh, who holds independent charge of the ministry. “This decision was approved during the annual general body meeting of the societies of autonomous institutions of DBT at the National Institute of Immunology in Delhi.”

“The restructuring of DBT institutes is being carried out with a larger goal to enhance the scientific character and science outcomes at the institutes by building

research synergies, new education programs in line with National Education Policy, improving human resource structures across cadres and effective management and monetization of assets emanating from the research being carried out,” Singh added.

The new integrated body, BRIC, will build on the foundations developed at the DBT institutions to foster synergies, while maintaining their distinct research mandates, officials said. With an emphasis on

interdisciplinary interactions that cut across institutional boundaries, BRIC will undertake cutting edge research addressing national priorities, they said, seeking anonymity.

The plan to merge these 14 institutions into one autonomous body was in the pipeline for the past three years but the Covid-19 pandemic delayed its execution, a DBT official said. There will be no rationalization of staff or resources in the merger, and it will only ensure enhancement and sharing of resources for better research outcomes, he added.

The Minister lauded the role of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and its PSU, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance (BIRAC) for supporting the development of world's first Intranasal vaccine for COVID by Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL).

The decision was taken under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of “minimum government, maximum governance” and his call for greater integration of ideas and institutions for cost-cutting and effective output, the minister said.



Featured Biotech News

Winners awarded Rs 16 crore at National Bio Entrepreneurship Competition 2022



December 29, 2022

The National Bio Entrepreneurship Competition NBEC 2022 declares 19 Startups/Innovators and 5 student teams as winners after an intensely contested four months that attracted ~3000 applications from 35 states and UTs including metros, Tier I, II and III cities.

Now in its 6th year, NBEC is a nationwide annual showcase of India's most promising business ideas with significant commercial, innovation and impact potentials in the Life Sciences and biotech domain. The winners this year addressed challenges in antimicrobial resistance, digital health, therapeutics, medical devices, animal health, agriculture, water and sanitation, food

and nutraceuticals, industrial biotechnology, maternal and child nutrition, green chemistry and clean technology. NBEC is organized every year by Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India supported organization, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms under the BIRAC Regional Entrepreneurship Centre (BREC), a C-CAMP – BIRAC joint initiative, to attract, identify and nurture year game-changing deep science ideas with business potential. This year it has received support from 30 partners with some of the biggest names in the biotech industry from India.

Winning startups stand to receive a cumulative of 16 Cr INR in cash prizes and investment opportunities while

student-led teams swooped up 9 lakhs in cash prizes over a total of 26 awards declared today at the Grand Finale. The competition will provide access to industry mentorship in tie-ups with key industry leaders to selected winners.

Dr. Alka Sharma, Senior Advisor DBT and MD BIRAC, said, "Happy to note that NBEC 2022 has received applications from all over India, especially from tier 2 & 3 cities! NBEC is an extremely encouraging scenario for entrepreneurship and for it also provides opportunities to young minds to find country-specific solutions! Post-finally, innovators will be handheld further!"

Ayush Ministry appoints Academic Chair in Ayurvedic Science at Western Sydney



22 November 2022

The Ministry of Ayush has formally announced setting up of Ayurveda Academic Chair based at Western Sydney University's NICM Health Research Institute, with tenure for a period of three years.

Dr Rajagopala S., Associate Professor & Head (Department of Kaumarabhritya) All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi has been selected for the post of Academic Chair in Ayurvedic Science at Western Sydney University, Australia.

The Academic Chair will undertake academic and collaborative research activities in Ayurveda, including herbal medicine and yoga, as well as design academic standards and short-term/medium-term courses and educational guidelines.

It will provide academic leadership in demonstrating and fostering excellence in teaching, research and policy development related to Ayurveda, within the robust Australian regulatory frame work, and develop strategies to promote the translation and integration of evidence based Ayurveda medicines into conventional health-care.

Prof Barney Glover, Vice Chancellor & President, Western Sydney University acknowledged that this collaboration will help in bringing together Western medicine and Ayurvedic Science.

“The collaboration strengthens the University’s reputation as Australia’s leader in integrative and complementary medicine, and is a significant step towards developing a new research stream for the NICM Health Research

Institute”, Prof Glover said.

NICM Health Research Institute’s Director, Professor Dennis Chang said, “There is great synergy between All India Institute of Ayurveda and NICM Health Research Institute in preclinical, clinical and translational research of traditional medicine.”

Dr Dilip Ghosh, Adjunct Fellow, NICM Health Research Institute was also present during the event along with other officials. “I am happy to see that this collaboration has finally taken place which was started three years ago. We hope to achieve high levels in the field of integrative medicine in the next few years”, he said.

Department of MSME joins hands with BioAsia 2023



December 8, 2022

BioAsia has partnered with the Department of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to promote the MSME sector in the upcoming 20th edition of BioAsia – Asia's largest life-sciences and Health Tech forum and the annual flagship event of the Government of Telangana.

The annual BioAsia conference to be held between February 24 to 26, 2023 at Hyderabad has been a catalyst for 20 years in bringing together prominent dignitaries and delegates, leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals from the life science and healthcare sector from around the world year on year.

The partnership with the Department

of MSME is expected to boost the growth of MSME organizations that play a significant role in strengthening the position of India in the global life sciences industry.

A dedicated MSME Pavilion has been proposed to be installed in the trade-show with around 60 companies from the MSME sector covering Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals, and allied industries. BioAsia 2023 will present a great opportunity for MSMEs to build key relationships, partnerships, and channels for extending businesses as well as effectively and collectively showcase India as the global life sciences destination. Through the Procurement & Market Support (PMS) – Market Access Initiatives of Di-MSME, the cost of participation for MSMEs are being subsidized upto 100%.

In this context, Mr. D. Chandra Sekhar, Additional Development Commissioner, MSME-DI, Hyderabad said, "The 20th celebratory edition of BioAsia 2023, with the theme Advancing for ONE: Shaping the next generation of humanized healthcare, is also expected to advance the growth opportunities for MSME units in India and benefit from its driving investments and global opportunities into the life sciences.

With this collaboration and participation in BioAsia 2023, we trust the MSME players will be immensely benefitted from its gained significant stature in healthcare industries across the globe."

First Centre of Excellence for 3D bioprinting launches in India



December 10, 2022

Sweden headquartered CELLINK, the global leader in developing 3D bioprinters, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru have opened the doors to the first 3D bioprinting Centre of Excellence in the Indian subcontinent.

Housed in the Centre for BioSystems Science and Engineering (BSSE) at IISc's Bengaluru campus, the CoE will provide access to 3D bioprinting systems, enabling researchers to accelerate their work across critical

applications with the ultimate goal of improving health outcomes.

The CoE was inaugurated by Dr Ashwath Narayan CN, Minister of Electronics, Information Technology – Biotechnology, Science and Technology, Higher Education, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood in the Government of Karnataka; Prof Govindan Rangarajan, the Director of IISc; and Tomoko Bylund, CELLINK's Head of Sales – APAC. The event was also attended by Dr Vishal US Rao, Group Director and Dean, HCG Cancer Centre, Ben-

galuru.

The CoE currently houses several CELLINK instruments, including the BIO X, BIO X6 and the BIONOVA X. It will now officially be accessible to the region's current and future researchers.

“This centre of excellence offers the most cutting-edge and industry-leading 3D Bioprinting technology that we at CELLINK have developed, systems that will enable significant strides in research and in developing the future of health”, said Tomoko Bylund.

Health Canada adds autoimmune disorder warning to AstraZeneca, J&J COVID-19 vaccines



November 24, 2022

Health Canada is updating the labels for the AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines to add immune thrombocytopenia (ITP), an autoimmune condition, as a potential side effect.

In a statement on Tuesday, the agency said very rare cases of ITP have been reported internationally after receiving the Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) and Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines.

ITP is a disorder that can cause easy or excessive bruising and bleeding, which results from unusually low blood platelet levels.

Such cases typically occur within 28 days after vaccination, the agency

said. Deaths as a result of post-vaccination ITP have been reported outside of Canada. Some cases occurred in individuals who had a prior history of the disorder.

The agency advised Canadians to seek immediate medical attention if any of the following symptoms occurred after receiving the AstraZeneca and J&J shots:

- unexplained bleeding
- unexplained bruising
- small purplish spots beyond the site of vaccination
- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- leg pain and/or swelling
- persistent abdominal pain.

Health Canada said if an individual has a history of a thrombocytopenic disorder, such as immune thrombo-

cytopenia, the risk of developing low platelet levels should be considered before administering the vaccine and platelet monitoring is recommended after vaccination.

In its label update on Tuesday, the agency said there was also the rare risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE) – a type of blood clot that starts in the vein – following vaccination with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

In March, Health Canada added a warning about blood clots to the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine following several reports after immunization.

In June, the agency updated the label for the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Covishield COVID-19 vaccines to also add capillary leak syndrome as a potential side-effect.

ICRISAT intern wins top awards for developing bio-insecticide



December 16, 2022

Sarvesh Prabhu, a 17-year-old research intern at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), represented India at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, USA and won the third prize and US \$1000 in the biochemistry category for developing a cost-effective bio-insecticide from the leaves of bullock's heart (*Annona reticulata*) popularly known as ramphal.

The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, also awarded him the first prize and ₹100,000 (US \$1224) as part

of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Innovation Award for School Children.

The high school student from FIITJEE Junior College, Hyderabad, conducted research experiments at the entomology unit at ICRISAT headquarters in India early this year, and the outcome of his research was presented at the world's largest pre-college science fair in Atlanta, USA.

ICRISAT's Deputy Director General-Research Dr Arvind Kumar said, "The Institute encourages participation of youth in agricultural research and has nurtured over 7000 interns and research

scholars since its establishment by offering them access to world-class facilities and multidisciplinary mentoring."

The project titled, 'A novel study of bio-insecticidal properties of *Annona reticulata*' showcased the bio-insecticidal properties of the leaves of the plant. Traditionally, the extracts of various parts of this plant have been used to treat diseases like dysentery and pediculosis. The study revealed that extracts from its leaves could be effective against three disastrous pests, with the mortality rate ranging from 78-88%.

ICT-Mumbai to organize 'Biosimilar Workshop 2023' in Goa



December 17, 2022

Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai, is all set to hold its 4th Biosimilar Workshop on February 02-03, 2023, in Goa.

This year the theme of the two days training workshop is Biopharmaceutical Product Development: INDULGE, INNOVATE & INSPIRE.

The goal of this workshop is to give attendees the knowledge, skills, and mentorship; they need to succeed in this domain. The participants will have the opportunity to hear from leaders of the Indian and global biopharma industry, pertaining to biopharmaceutical product development.

Biosimilar Workshop is aiming towards transforming fundamental thought process; wherein industry and academia should become complementary pillars to bring afford-

able Biopharmaceutical products for patients worldwide.

The workshop is supported by industry giants like Biocon, Thermofisher, Cytiva, Merck, Agilent Technologies, Pall Corporation, Sartorius, OmniBRx, Ajinomoto, Premas Lifesciences and many others.

The workshop is exclusively curated with events-

Leadership Conclave, where you get the rare opportunity to listen and meet leaders of the Biopharma industry

12 Parallel Scientific Workshops on Biopharmaceutical Product Development, where experts from industry and academia will deliver talks on biopharma product development and more.

Research Poster Presentation, gives a platform for young re-

searchers to present their research and invite a quality of opportunities

Biopharma Exhibition aims to introduce the new technologies and methods developed by the industries in recent time

Biopharma Start-up and Innovation, serves as a steppingstone for the newcomers and mid-start-ups of the industry.

Through this one-of-a-kind venture, the organizers hope to bring about fruitful interactions between academia and the biopharma industry.

India will make significant investment in vaccine R&D, assures govt



December 9, 2022

India will make significant investment in R&D to develop a roadmap for design and delivery of vaccine development for future pandemic, said the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh.

In his message to the two-day international meet on “Preparedness for Future Epidemics: Is India ready to meet the CEPI 100 days vaccine challenge?”, Dr Jitendra Singh said, while efforts are still on to uncover findings about the COVID-19 and the epidemiolog-

ical models, India is ready to invest in future challenges.

The Conference on December 5-6, 2022 was organized by Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Faridabad in its campus at NCR Biotech Science Cluster.

Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, DBT, reiterated DBT’s commitment to foster enterprise and innovation with new and special emphasis of enhancing manufacturing and bio-manufac-

turing. He added that the process for vaccine preparedness was complex and DBT would facilitate with putting into place easier scientific policy on place. The need for synchronized system such that India can combat disease dengue, Chikungunya, TB and other viral/bacterial infection, bringing more proactive solution in means of vaccine, diagnostics, curative therapeutics quickly.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. He spoke about the challenges posed by the CEPI’s 100 Day challenge and the role of public health information and data flow systems, vaccine platforms, preclinical facilities, animal experiments, regulatory system, implementation system and funds in pointing out the processes for meeting these challenges that are critical. He cautioned that while we were lucky to have a strong immunogenic spike protein antigen for the corona virus, this may not be the case with other infections. Therefore, developing a sustainable and economically viable system flow for achieving 100 day challenge was critical.



India's bioeconomy has grown 8 times in the last 8 years: Dr Jitendra Singh

December 5, 2022

“India's bioeconomy has grown 8 times in the last 8 years under Prime Minister Modi from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$80 billion in 2022,” said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology.

Addressing an “International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology-2022” in Jammu, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Biotech Startups have grown 100 times in the last 8 years from 52 odd startups in 2014 to 5300 plus in 2022. He said, 3 Biotech Startups were incorporated every day in 2021 and a total of 1,128 biotech startups were set up in 2021 alone, signaling the rapid growth of the sector in India.

The conference is being organized by

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, School of Biotechnology, Jammu in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM Jammu and The Biotech Research Society of India, from 3rd – 5th December 2022. There are 14 international participants like USA, Greece, South Korea, Scotland, Singapore, Thailand, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia and Vietnam and 24 National keynote and invited speakers and around 300 participants from almost every state of India who are presenting their work in the form of Oral and Poster Presentations.

Scientific sessions of the conference have been divided under different themes on Health Sciences, Enzymology and Molecular biology, Synthetic Biology, Material Science and Nanomaterial, Natural Products and Green Chemistry,

Environmental Sustainability and Development and Plant & Animal Science.

Noted participants from organizing bodies include Prof. R K Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Prof. Ashok Pandey, Distinguished Scientist Centre for Innovation & Translational Research, CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research Lucknow, Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS, Registrar SMVDU, Dr. Indu Bhushan, Asst. Prof., School of Biotechnology, SMVDU and Convener of the Conference, Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head, School of Biotechnology, SMVDU and Organizing secretary of the Conference.

New digital platform to enhance national disease surveillance initiative



November 26, 2022

Titled Social Analytics for Rapid Transformation in Health for India (SARTHI), the project will use available data in public domain to create a model for preventing disease outbreaks

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), in partnership with Siemens Healthineers India, the Centre for Health Research and Innovation (CHRI) and Capgemini, has developed a digital platform to enhance the national disease surveillance initiative.

The platform is called Social Analytics for Rapid Transformation in Health for India (SARTHI), which leverages publicly available digital data to track mentions of three disease conditions – Dengue, Malaria and Chikungunya.

The global engineering body will be presenting the platform and its potential use cases for the healthcare sector on the second day of the IET Future Tech Congress, a 2-day national technology conference to be held from the 22nd to the 23rd of November, at Lalit Ashok, Bangalore.

SARTHI assimilates data available in the public domain across digital channels like online news broadcasts, forums, blogs, twitter, facebook, instagram and reviews to track mentions of the three disease conditions. The platform looks at granular data and can trace the origin of the information down to district and street locations.

SARTHI has huge implications for the real time tracking of disease conditions in India and will lay the foundation of creating a model for predicting

disease outbreaks, thereby helping to improve the preparedness of public health infrastructure.

Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine Linked to Blood Clotting: FDA

December 17 2022

FDA researchers, crunching data from a database of elderly persons in the United States, found that pulmonary embolism—blood clotting that forms in the body and winds up blocking blood flow in the lungs—met the initial threshold for a statistical signal and continued meeting the criteria after a more in-depth evaluation.

Three other outcomes of interest—a lack of oxygen to the heart, a blood platelet disorder called immune thrombocytopenia, and another type of clotting called intravascular coagulation—initially raised red flags, researchers said. More in-depth evaluations, such as comparisons with populations who received influenza vaccines, showed those three as no longer meeting the statistical threshold for a signal.

Researchers looked at data covering 17.4 million elderly Americans who received a total of 34.6 million vaccine doses between Dec. 10, 2020, and Jan. 16, 2022.

The study was published by the journal *Vaccine* on Dec. 1.

Dr. Peter McCullough, chief medical adviser for the Truth for Health Foundation, told *The Epoch Times* via email that the new paper “corroborates the concerns of doctors that the large uptick in blood clots, progression of atherosclerotic heart disease, and blood disorders is independently associated with

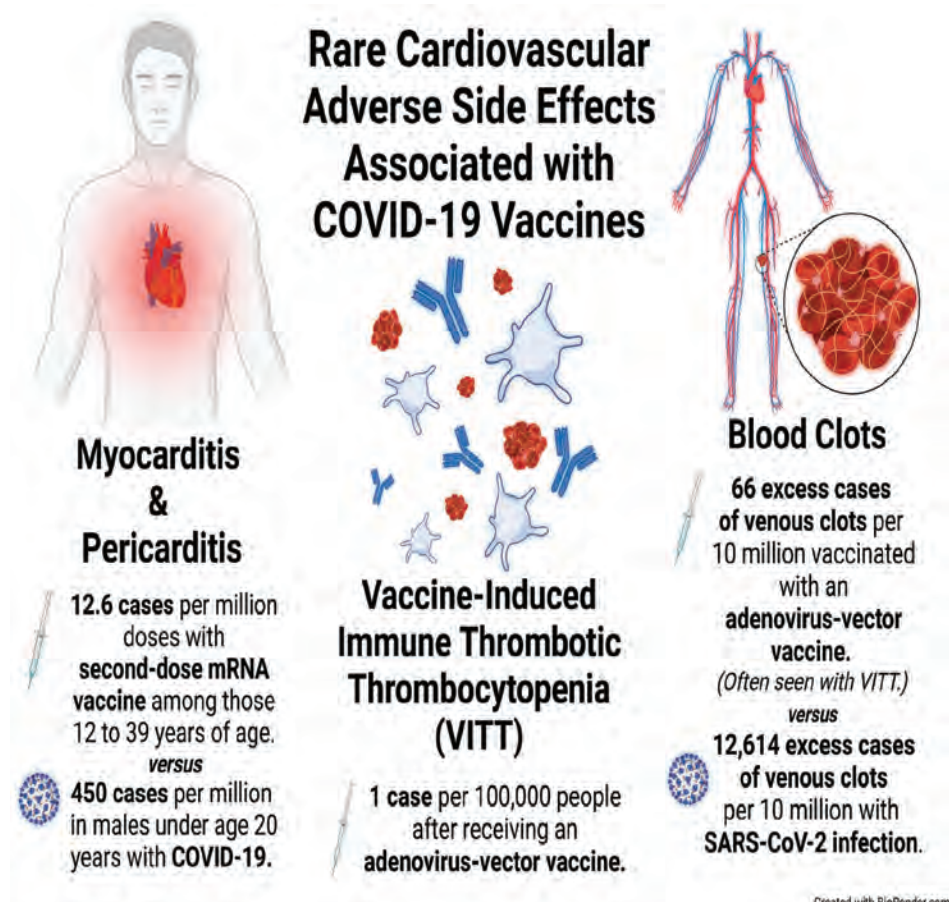
COVID-19 vaccination.”

The initial results of the safety monitoring detected an increased risk of four events, the FDA announced on July 12, 2021—months after first detecting the possible issues. They were the same four outlined in the new paper, which is the first update the agency has given on the matter since its announcement.

The primary analysis showed a safety signal for all four outcomes. Researchers tried adjusting the numbers by using different vari-

ables. For instance, at one point they adjusted for the variation of background rates, or the rates of each outcome in the general population prior to the pandemic. After certain adjustments—not all—the myocardial infarction, immune thrombocytopenia, and intravascular coagulation ceased being statistically significant.

Pulmonary embolism, though, continued to be statistically significant, the researchers said. Pulmonary embolism is a serious condition that can lead to death.



Notifications



Entrepreneurship Skill Development on Enzyme Bioprocessing

[Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programmes (ESDP) Scheme]

Funded by

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India

Venue: CSIR–Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur (HP)

Dates: 13-03-2023 to 17-03-2023 (05 days)

About CSIR-IHBT (<https://www.ihbt.res.in/en/>)

CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) is situated at Palampur (HP) in the lap of western Himalayas with a vision “to be a global leader on technologies for boosting bioeconomy through sustainable utilization of Himalayan bioresources”. The institute has a mission “to discover, innovate, develop and disseminate the processes, products and technologies from Himalayan bioresources for society, industry, environment, and academia”. CSIR-IHBT has Enzyme bioprocessing facility for industrially feasible up-scale production and purification of proteins/enzymes. The facility would also facilitate developing partnerships and networking with entrepreneurs, industry, and investors, besides opening the scope for training and outreach programme to the younger generation for skill development.

About the programme

The programme is designed to train the participants in the area of Enzyme Bioprocessing using the microbial system:

- Fermentation for up-scale production of enzymes
- Down-stream process for enzyme purification
- Handling of purified enzymes

Who can attend?

Training Programme is open for Graduate/Masters/PhD students/ Industrial personnel/Entrepreneurs. Preference will be given to participants having an evident interest in enzymatic processes.

- There is no registration fee.
- Total number of participants is limited to 20 numbers.
- Food and accommodation will be born by the organizer.
- A statement of purpose will also be considered for shortlisting of candidates.

Apply here

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfk-pD6PEARkOr6fOdrulAGIJ8xtp_NG-3XDe5xQ90W_nKBw/viewform

Last date of registration: Feb 23 (Thursday), 2023

Speakers: The course content and hands-on training will be delivered by experts.

Venue: CSIR –Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur (H.P) –176 061

Contact:

Email: dharamsingh@ihbt.res.in

Phone: +91-1894-233339 ext. 422



Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of Science and Technology
Government of India



INVITES PROPOSALS
ON
'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) APPLICATIONS IN AGRICULTURE & PLANT
SCIENCE'

Last Date for Proposal Submission: 21st January, 2023

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) announces this call under the new initiative in "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications in Agriculture & Plant Science".

THRUST AREAS:

Crop yield enhancement via Big data analytics and AI/ML

AI assisted irrigation, pesticide treatment, sowing, soil quality improvement and other practices

AI tools for disease diagnosis in crops/ plants/ disease prediction using image datasets

AI based robots in farm harvesting/ Drones in agriculture

Machine learning applications in Plant & Agricultural genomics

AI powered Ecology & plant biotechnology for weed/stress resistance & management

Blockchains and Data science in Agri-genomics

AI assisted farming practices; irrigation, pesticide treatment, sowing, soil treatment etc

AI/ML for Soil/ crop/ livestock health monitoring

Optimization of irrigation and application of pesticides and harvecides

AI powered system to detect pest, automatic weeding, ariel survey and imaging

Prediction of right crop varieties using images of seeds and plants

Location and weather based prediction for yields

Pest identification and timely predictions of invasions

Early disease prediction and prevention in plants, poultry, fisheries and animals

Prediction of crop losses due to biotic and abiotic stress

Precision farming and predictive analytics

For any queries related to this call, please contact:

Dr. Shahaj Uddin Ahmed

Scientist-F,

Department of Biotechnology

Artificial Intelligence Programme

Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India

Block - 2, CGO Complex, New Delhi- 110003

E-mail: shahaj.ahmed@nic.in

The deadline for proposal submission is 21st January, 2023.



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

CEPI's Open Calls for Proposals

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is a global alliance between public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organizations to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable equitable access to these vaccines for affected populations during outbreaks.

In partnership with CEPI, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), initiated the implementation of the Ind-CEPI Mission entitled “Epidemic preparedness through rapid vaccine development: Support of Indian vaccine development aligned with the global initiative of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)”.

From time to time, CEPI issues calls for proposals inviting applicants to submit funding proposals for projects to develop specific vaccine candidates or research that can directly support vaccine development.

CEPI has recently issued the following Calls for Proposals:

RNA vaccine platform technologies and vaccine library development against emerging and select endemic infectious diseases, Focus Area-2 (open until December 31, 2022)

Innovative technologies to improve vaccine thermostability (open until December 31, 2022)
State-of-the-Art Immunogen Design using Computational Antigen Simulation Technologies for Vaccine Development Against Emerging Infectious Diseases (open until July 31, 2022).

The Department of Biotechnology solicits participation of Indian scientists/vaccine developers, for submission of applications to CEPI under the call. Kindly visit the CEPI website for more information related to these calls and guidelines: https://cepi.net/get_involved/cfps/



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**ANNOUNCES THE CALL FOR LETTER OF INTENT UNDER
"BIOTECHNOLOGY CAREER ADVANCEMENT AND RE-ORIENTATION
PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN SCIENTISTS"**

BioCARE

To enhance the participation of Women Scientists in Biotechnology Research, the Department of Biotechnology invites the **Letter of Intent (LOIs) under the BioCARE scheme for Women Scientists upto age of 55 years**. The programme is targeted towards Career Development of unemployed/not in regular position women scientists. The scheme is open for following areas of Biotechnology- Animal and Marine Biotechnology; Bioengineering and Biomaterials; Medical Biotechnology; Environmental Biotechnology and Bioenergy & Plant and Agriculture Biotechnology and allied areas. The duration of the project will be maximum 3 years.

The research support will be provided only to women scientists (unemployed/not in regular position) for **whom this is the first extramural research grant (Women Scientists who have received any earlier grant from any Government Funding Agency as Principal Investigator are not eligible)**.

Interested women candidates may submit a Letter of Intent through e-PROMIS portal of the Department (<https://dbtepromis.nic.in>). For further assistance contact the Processing and Management Unit (PMU) established at International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi managing the programme on the behalf of Department of Biotechnology. The 5 hard copies of the LoI may also be submitted to the PMU.

Contact Details:

DBT-BioCARE ICGEB PMU

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110 067
Email: biocarepmu@icgeb.res.in
Tel: +91-11-26741358/1007 (Extension: 470)

Details of the scheme -guidelines are at DBT website <https://dbtindia.gov.in> and LoI is at <https://dbtepromis.nic.in>.

Last Date for Submission of LOI – 24th December, 2022



राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान National Institute of Animal Biotechnology

(An Autonomous Institute of Dept. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
Sy.No. 37, Opp. Journalist Colony, Extended Q City Road, Gowlidoddi, Gachibowli, Hyderabad, Telangana, India -
500 032 Tel: +91 40 2312 0103, 115; Fax: +91 40 2312 0130;
Email: admin@niab.org.in; Web: www.niab.res.in



Advertisement No. 43/2022



NIAB, an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity. The Institute's research focus is on animal health and production with an special emphasis on Reproductive Biotechnology, infectious biology, Genomics, transgenesis, stem cell biology, nutrition, nanobiology and bioinformatics. The Institute aims at translational research leading to genetic enhancement of Indian Livestock species and basic research towards development of novel vaccines, diagnostics various organoids and improved therapeutic molecules for farm animals.

NIAB invites applications from suitably qualified, dynamic, result oriented and dedicated Indian citizens for filling up the following positions:

Scientist-G – Two posts (1-UR, 1-OBC)	
Pay Level	14 as per 7 th CPC
Method of Recruitment	Direct Recruitment / Deputation (ISTC) / Absorption
Age limit	50 Years for Direct Recruitment 58 Years for Deputation (ISTC) / Absorption
Recruitment on Deputation	Scientists or Technologists working in the Central or State Governments / Universities / recognized Research Institutions / Semi Government, Statutory or Autonomous Organizations in India or abroad (i) holding analogous posts on regular basis in the parent cadre or Department; or (ii) with two year's of service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on regular basis in Level 13A or equivalent / with three year's experience in Level 13 or equivalent; and (b) Possessing the qualifications prescribed for direct recruits, as given below. The Deputation period will be as per rules of Govt of India.
Essential Qualification	Ph.D in Veterinary / Animal Sciences/Modern Biology/Life Sciences equivalent from a recognised university with a strong track record of research and academic accomplishment in terms of publications and patents and attracting generous research funding. (ii) Evidence of leadership with 10 years of R&D experience in any one of the NIAB Thrust areas.

Last date for submitting online applications: 23-1-2023 (5 PM)



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Call for R&D project proposals on 'Human Genetic Diseases'

Considering the health burden of the Human Genetic Diseases, the Department is desirous of supporting cutting-edge Research and Development (R&D) project proposals on Human Genetic Diseases focusing on the following thrust areas:

Rare Genetic Disorders: To study disease associated genetic variation and development of new diagnostic tests, and targeted treatments for rare genetic disorders.

Discovery of causative genes for various Mendelian disorders such as cerebral ataxias, cortical malformations, intellectual disability, dystonia, etc.

Genetics of multi-factorial disorders with monogenic component such as Anencephaly, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Cardiovascular disorders, Diabetes etc.

Program on diagnostics development of human genetic diseases using genetic model organisms.

Creation, Integration, and development of capacity & resources for functional interpretation & validation of disease-associated genetic variations of Indian Genetic Diseases Database for genetic diseases relevant to India

Transdisciplinary collaborative research exploring the potential of precision medicine with focus on development of new tools and analytic methods for integrating patient data with information about contextual factors acting at the community or population level to influence health outcomes.

Development of pharmacogenomic and other precision medicine tools to identify critical biomarkers for disease progression and drug responses in diverse populations.

Translation of pharmacogenomic discoveries into clinical practice including effective treatments.

Eligibility:

Scientists / Clinicians / Researchers working in a regular capacity in Government R&D Institutions / Medical Colleges / Academic Institutions / National Laboratories or SIRO recognized Non-Profit R&D Organizations, with sound relevant scientific & technical backgrounds and relevant publications in the proposed research area in the proposal can submit project proposals.

Contact for further information:

Dr. Onkar N. Tiwari, Scientist 'F', DBT, New Delhi (Email ID: onkar.dbt@nic.in) Tel.: +91-11-24361290

Last Date for Project Submission: 31st January, 2023.



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

Call for Proposals on ‘Development of Candidate Vaccines and Allied Research Resources for Diseases of National Priority’

Scope of the Call

Time-bound, outcome-oriented proposals, with respect to viral pathogens (Eg: Zika virus, Kyasanur Forest Disease virus, Nipah virus, PAN-Henipaviridae, Coronavirus, PAN-Coronavirus, Pox virus), are invited in the following areas:

Development of new and improved vaccine candidates based on emerging platforms;

Development of research resources: high quality well characterized pre-clinical animal models for diseases; development of assay systems for assessment of vaccine induced immune responses; identification of markers for quantification of antibody responses; establishment of reverse genetics systems and strategies for future vaccine development;

Rational approaches to antigen selection and multi-epitope vaccine design;

Eligibility Criteria

Any Indian National holding a regular position in a Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) recognized Indian academic and/or scientific institution may apply.

Eligible Organizations: Central Govt. Institutions/State Govt. Institutions/Private Institutions of higher education and research; recognized by DSIR. Private institutions/NGOs should also be registered with DARPAN Portal of NITI Aayog.

Process optimization

How to Apply: Interested investigators should submit project proposals online only through DBT electronic project management system ‘eProMIS’ (<http://dbtepromis.nic.in/Login.aspx>) under the Programme “Vaccine Research & Development” per DBT e-ProMIS format, clearly stating “Against Call for Proposals”. No hard copy would be entertained. The proposals submitted through DBT eProMIS portal under “Vaccine Research & Development” programme within the due date will only be considered by the Department.

Any queries may be addressed to:

Dr. Kamakshi Chaithri, Scientist -‘C’, DBT; kamakshi.c@dbt.nic.in

Call for Proposal closes: 20.01.2023



International Seminar and Workshop
On

CRISPR/Cas-based Plant Functional Genomics & Computational Modeling

(ISWCPC-2023)

18-21 January 2023



CCCGCTGCCAGTGACACATGTT/
CACAGGTCCTAAACTACCAAACCTGC
CCCGCTGCCAGTGACACATGTTAA/
CACAGGTCCTAAACTACCAAACCTGC/
CCCGCTGCCAGTGACACATGTTAA
CACAGGTCCTAAACTACCAAACCTGCA



Organized by

**CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology
Jorhat-785006, Assam, India**



DBT-Skill Vigyan-Faculty Training Programme

Skill Development Program , CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology invites application for Faculty Development Programme

Basic Techniques in Genetics and Molecular Biology



iHub, CCMB
Annexe 1,
Hyderabad

For more details
and registration:

30 Jan 2023 - 11 Feb 2023



CONTACT

Dr. Archana Bharadwaj Siva
Senior Principal Scientist
Nodal Scientist SDP, CSIR-CCMB
ab@ccmb.res.in
sdp@ccmb.res.in

Biotech Industry News

Takeda's dengue vaccine candidate granted priority review by US-FDA



November 26, 2022

Takeda has announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has accepted and granted priority review of the Biologics License Application (BLA) for TAK-003, the company's investigational dengue vaccine candidate.

In the U.S., TAK-003 is being evalu-

ated for the prevention of dengue disease caused by any dengue virus serotype in individuals 4 years through 60 years of age.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne virus endemic in more than 125 countries, including the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa. Incidence of

dengue has increased globally over the past two decades and is a leading cause of fever among travelers returning from Latin America, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia.

"If approved, we believe TAK-003 has the potential to become an important dengue prevention option for health-care providers, and we continue to be

encouraged by our discussions with the FDA,” said Gary Dubin, M.D., president of the Global Vaccine Business Unit at Takeda. “This year, of the 888 dengue infections in the U.S., 96% were a result of travel to dengue endemic areas.

Of the 316 dengue infections in U.S. endemic territories, 97% were locally transmitted. At Takeda, we are guided by our commitment to serving these affected populations and are fully committed to working with the FDA to advance this filing.”

The TAK-003 BLA is supported by safety and efficacy data from the pivotal Phase 3 Tetravalent Immunization against Dengue Efficacy Study (TIDES) trial, where the dengue vaccine candidate met its primary endpoint by preventing 80.2% of symptomatic dengue cases at 12 months. In addition, TAK-003 met its secondary endpoint by preventing 90.4% of hospitalizations at 18 months, and in an exploratory analysis, it demonstrated protection against dengue fever through 4.5 years (54 months) after vaccination.

The TIDES exploratory analyses showed that throughout the 4.5-year study follow-up, TAK-003 prevented 84% of hospitalized dengue cases and 61% of symptomatic dengue cases in the overall population, including both seropositive and seronegative individuals.

Currently, TAK-003 has not been approved by the FDA or any other health authority outside of Indonesia. Following the approval of TAK-003 in Indonesia, Takeda will continue to progress regulatory filings in other dengue-endemic and non-endemic countries. In October 2022, the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) of the Euro-

pean Medicines Agency (EMA) recommended the approval of Takeda’s dengue vaccine candidate, TAK-003, for the prevention of dengue disease caused by any serotype in individuals four years of age and older in Europe and in dengue-endemic countries participating in the parallel EU-M4all procedure.

The final step in the path to approval in Europe is a Marketing Authorization decision from the EMA, which is expected in the coming months. Regulatory reviews will also progress in dengue-endemic countries in Latin America and Asia.

Takeda has announced that the European Commission (EC) granted marketing authorization for the company’s dengue vaccine QDENGAR[®] (Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine [Live, Attenuated]) (TAK-003) for the prevention of dengue disease in individuals from four years of age in the European Union (EU).

The Vegan Leather Made from India’s Waste Flowers

December 15, 2022

An Indian start-up has found an unusual use for the tons of flowers leftover from worship: turning them into vegan leather. It’s called Fleather, and it’s a new material being developed as a sustainable alternative to animal leather. It is delicate and smooth to touch, like soft lambskin leather, and its jour-



ney begins in an unexpected place – flowers. Fleather, made by a Kanpur-based startup called Phool, is part of an emerging trend of companies producing plant- and fungi-based leather alternatives which aim to disrupt the traditional leather industry and capitalize on growing interest in vegan fashion.

Producing leather from animals poses several environmental hazards. It is energy- and water-intensive and the process of tanning and treating animal skin with chemicals to make leather releases toxic heavy metals that can poison water bodies. Cattle rearing to source animal skin, meanwhile, produces greenhouse gasses and contributes to deforestation. Animal rights activists also condemn leather, citing inhumane conditions in slaughterhouses. Fleather, on the other hand, is made by repurposing floral waste generated in temples across India, and it is Phool’s moonshot. Fleather is already creating buzz. It was recently a finalist in the 2022 Earthshot Prize, which honors groundbreaking environmental solutions.

Bad Science



Lancet long COVID paper under investigation for ‘data errors’

December 1, 2022

An early and influential paper on long COVID that appeared in *The Lancet* has been flagged with an expression of concern while the journal investigates “data errors” brought to light by a reader.

An editorial that accompanied the paper when it was published in January of last year described it as “the first large cohort study with 6-months’

follow-up” of people hospitalized with COVID-19. The article has received plenty of attention since then.

Titled “6-month consequences of COVID-19 in patients discharged from hospital: a cohort study,” the paper has been cited nearly 1,600 times, according to Clarivate’s Web of Science. Altmetric finds references to it in multiple documents from the World Health Organization.

According to the expression of concern, dated November 24, a reader found inconsistencies between the data in the article and a later paper describing the same cohort of patients after a year of follow-up.

That discovery sparked an investigation that is still ongoing: On Jan 8, 2021, *The Lancet* published an Article, 6-month consequences of COVID-19 in patients dis-

charged from hospital: a cohort study, by Chaolin Huang and colleagues.¹ On Aug 28, 2021, The Lancet published an Article, 1-year outcomes in hospital survivors with COVID-19: a longitudinal cohort study, by Lixue Huang and colleagues.² We received an inquiry from a researcher on data inconsistencies between these two Articles, and we sought an explanation from the corresponding author of the two papers. On Nov 7, 2022, Lancet editors were informed that inconsistencies between the 6-month and the 1-year data were due to “some variables in the dataset used for the 6-month paper were mistakenly disrupted in order”. In view of the extent of these data errors, we now issue an Expression of Concern about the 6-month paper¹ while we investigate further, including further statistical and clinical review of the corrected data. We will update this notice as soon as we have further information.

Cancer researcher banned from federal funding for faking data in nearly 400 images in 16 grant applications

December 13, 2022 Author



A former associate professor at Purdue University faked data in two published papers and hundreds of images in 16 grant applications, according to a U.S. government research watchdog.

Alice C. Chang, whose publications and grants listed her name as Chun-Ju Chang, received nearly \$700,000 in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through grant applications that the U.S. Office of Research Integrity (ORI) said contained fake data. She will be banned from receiving federal grants for a decade – a more severe sanction than ORI has typically imposed in recent years.

In its findings, ORI said Chang, who was an associate professor of basic medical sciences at Purdue’s College of Veterinary Medicine:

knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly falsified and/or fabricated data from the same mouse models

or cell lines by reusing the data, with or without manipulation, to represent unrelated experiments from different mouse models or cell lines with different treatments in three hundred eighty-four (384) figure panels in sixteen (16) grant applications.

PLOS flags nearly 50 papers by controversial French COVID researcher

The publisher PLOS is marking nearly 50 articles by Didier Raoult, the French scientist who became controversial for promoting hydroxychloroquine for treating COVID-19, with expressions of concern while it investigates potential research ethics violations in the work.

Bad Research

PLOS has been looking into more than 100 articles by Raoult, but determined that the issues in 49 of the papers, including reuse of ethics approval reference numbers, warrant expressions of concern while the publisher continues its inquiry.

In August of 2021, scientific sleuth Elisabeth Bik wrote on her blog about a series of 17 articles from IHU-Méditerranée Infection that described different studies involving homeless people in Marseille over a decade, but all listed the same institutional ethics approval number. One of those papers, “Distinguishing Body Lice from Head Lice by Multiplex Real-Time PCR Analysis of the Phum_{PHUM540560} Gene,” about which



Bik also posted on PubPeer, was published in PLOS ONE in 2013, and is receiving an expression of concern today.

Bik and other commenters on PubPeer have identified ethical concerns in many of the other papers PLOS is flagging, including others in large groups of papers with the same ethical approval numbers. Bik has received harassment and legal threats from Raoult.

A group of people in business attire sitting around a round table, working on laptops and documents. The image is used as a background for a recruitment banner.

Write for us |
**Submit A
Guest Post**

<http://www.biotechexpressmag.com/biotech-express-submission-policies/>

**ADVERTISE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE**

Targeting Your Targets ?

GET IN TOUCH

E-mail: biotechexpressindia@gmail.com

Phone: +91-9311986177

Choose only

**Top
Biotech News**

**BIOTECH
EXPRESS**

Postal Registration No. - UP/GBD-196/2014-16

RNI No. - UPENG/2013/54102