

INSTITUTE OF LIFE SCIENCES

Bhubaneswar



30TH GOVERNING BODY MEETING



Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology

released the ILS
Newsletter (Jan-May
2018), with other
members of the
Governing Body , at ILS,
Bhubaneswar.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Foundation Stone Laying of the ILS-IBSD Partnership Centre
- Inauguration of Hostel at campus 2.
- Open Day Science Exposition jointly organised by ILS and RMRC.
- ILS Flagship Programme.

- 70th Republic Day Celebration at ILS.
- SAC, 2018.
- ILS in IISF, Lucknow.
- Swacch Bharat.

Dr. Amaresh C Panda's Group



Traditionally, RNA molecules are believed to convey genetic information encoded in the DNA into the synthesis of specific In the 1950s, the biological proteins. function of noncoding (nc)RNAs started with the discovery of transfer RNA and ribosomal RNA. Since then, the number and types of functional ncRNAs in the cells are rising with the discovery of small nuclear (sn)RNAs, piwi-interacting (pi)RNA, long (l)ncRNAs, miRNAs, and poorly explored circular (circ)RNAs. CircRNAs are a large class of ubiquitously expressed novel ncRNAs reported to

regulate gene expression by modulating the function of miRNAs and RBPs. Although thousands of circRNAs have been identified, only a handful of them is functionally characterized to have biological significance. The circRNA field is still in an immature stage. Our group is interested in exploring the role of poorly characterized circRNAs in the post-transcriptional gene regulatory mechanisms. Currently, we are developing new technologies to isolate, identify and understand the function of circRNAs in physiological processes including insulin biosynthesis and muscle regeneration.

Dr. Rupesh Dash's Group



Oral Squamous Cell Carcinomas (OSCC), an aggressive form of HNSCC, contributes to the highest number of cancer related death in India. Majority of the OSCC patients are commonly diagnosed with locally advanced stage of cancer. As per standard guidelines, the treatment modalities for advanced OSCC involve surgical removal of primary tumors followed by concomitant chemo radiotherapy. In spite of having a lot of advances in treatment modalities, the overall 5-year survival rate for advanced OSCC is ~50%. Chemo resistance is one of the important factors for treatment failure in OSCC, which can culminate in continued tumor growth and metastatic spread.

The major research focus in the lab are-

- To understand the molecular mechanism of tumor chemo resistance.
- To identify the causative factors those responsible for acquired chemo resistance.
- To identify agents that can restore cell death in drug resistant OSCC.

Conference & Workshops

Scientific Advisory Committee June 25-26, 2018



The Scientific Advisory Committee meeting was organised at the ILS, Bhubaneswar during 25th-26th June, 2018. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Satyajit Rath, Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune. Scientists of four disciplines viz. Cancer biology, Genetic and autoimmune diseases, Plant and microbial biotechnology, Infectious diseases presented their ongoing research projects and the SAC jury discussed and evaluated the progress of the same. Poster sessions were held for students which were reviewed by the SAC jury members. The suggestions of the SAC members were taken well.

Aspirational District Programme

With support from DBT, ILS is undertaking a project on "Technology Interventions for ensuring Food and Nutrition Security of Rural Communities" with an overall objective of contributing to enhancing farmer's capacity and farmer led initiatives for enhanced production, income of small and marginal farming communities for improving their health and nutrition status, in Nabarangapur, Odisha. This program is being implemented in partnership with Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar and KISS University, Bhubaneswar.

Open Day Science Exposition jointly organised by ILS and RMRC.

September 27-28, 2018

Opening its doors to spread scientific awareness amongst the greater mass and school students, ILS and RMRC jointly Science organised 2-day Open Exposition on 27th and 28th September, 2018. The exposition was a great success with participation of around 1000 students from over 40 schools, several research institutes and inquisitive public. The demonstration session which consisted of display of various facets of research tools and technologies was received enthusiastically by curious young minds. Interesting was the question-and-answer session, where scientists were flanked with multitudes of questions related to all the spheres of science.



ILS Flagship Programame

January 5th 2019







ILS is undertaking an ambitious research initiative for addressing health, nutrition and well-being of tribal communities of Odisha, which accounts for about 22.1% of the tribal population of India. A flagship project, to comprehensively link genomic diversity, immune metabolic profile, nutrition status and microbiome diversity of the tribals of Sundergarh, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj. A district level stakeholder meeting was organized under the Chairmanship of Shri S. K. Meena, District Collector, Sundergarh on January 4, 2019. The scientists of ILS visited the tribal dominated Tiljora panchayat of Subdega block and based on the extensive discussions with the communities on various issues and challenges in food, nutrition and health security, ILS has initiated a pilot study in this location for making a significant scientific contribution to it.

Research Network on Genetic Enhancement of Minor Pulses

ILS has been designated as Program Management Unit of a major multiinstitutional network project on "Characterization, Evaluation, Genetic Enhancement and Generation of Genomic Resources for Accelerated Utilization and Improvement of Minor Pulses". This project was launched by DBT in October 2018. It has partnerships with 14 national institutions and agriculture universities. This network program is designed to carry out extensive investigations on underutilized legumes with a broad aim of enhancing farmers' income in rain-fed areas. The first network meeting was organised at NBPGR, New Delhi on January 15, 2019.



Conferences & Workshops

International Conference on Vectors and Vector Borne Diseases

January 9-11, 2019.

ILS joined hands with RMRC, Bhubaneswar for organizing a thematic symposium on New Biology Approaches for vector borne disease management.



The conference discussed the basic application and operational aspects of vector borne diseases. It provided a platform to students, academicians, scientists, professionals from pharmaceuticals & industry to find ways and means for fighting against the scourge of vector borne diseases.

International Plant Physiology Congress (IPPC-2018), Lucknow

December 2nd – 5th, 2018

Indian Society of Plant Physiology and National Botanical research Institute, organized conference bringing together leading scientists and young investigators from across the world to discuss their exciting research outcomes. The conference covered major areas of plant biology research including Biotic and Abiotic Stress Physiology; Genomics-assisted Breeding; Plant Productivity and Modelling: Epigenomics; Genomics. Regulation; Computational and Systems Biology; Pathway Engineering; Reproductive Biology and Post-Harvest Biology. ILS was associated organization of the event.

Workshop on Microtomy/Ultra-microtomy

July 16-17, 2018

The Workshop on Microtomy/ Ultra-microtomy, staining and imaging techniques, was held at ILS, Bhubaneswar. The workshop was intended to refine the skills of the research scholars. The day came to an end with a group photo session.





Swacch Bharat

October 2nd, 2018

Gandhi Jayamti was celebrated with the theme of 'Swacchta' (Cleanliness), Scientists and scholars participated in cleaning the streets in and around ILS, followed by planting tress.



The scholars of ILS kept everyone hooked up when they displayed their talents through Dance, singing, poetry and skit.



ILS in IISF, Lucknow

October 5th-8th, 2018

ILS participated with its team comprising of 7 research scholars, 1 research associate along with scientist Dr. D V Singh and Dr. Ajay Parida, Director, ILS. The team enthusiastically engaged people from all walks of life in research activities of ILS through poster presentation, quiz and various intellectual games.

Signing of MOU with DBT

July 3, 2018

Memorandum understanding was signed by Dr. Ajay Parida, Director, ILS and Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary DBT on July 3, 2018 for the Financial Year 2018-19 on 28th June 2018 in presence of. Shri B. Anand, IAS, AS&FA, DBT; Shri C. P. Goel, IFS, JS, DBT and Dr, Meenakshi Munshi, Advisor, DBT, and other DBT institute Directors.

Foundation Stone Laying of the ILS-IBSD Partnership Centre

May 18, 2018



Foundation Stone of the ILS-IBSD partnership Centre was laid by Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnolgy, GOI in the presence of Shri. B. Anand, AS & FA, DBT, Dr. Dinabandhu Sahoo, Director, IBSD, Dr. Meenakshi Munshi, Advisor, DBT, Dr. Sudhir Sopory, Dr. A. P. Das, VC, Central Univ. Tamil Nadu; Dr. SM Patnaik, VC, Utkal University, Sanghamitra Pati, Director, RMRC, Shri Nikuja Dhal, Principal Secretary, Science and Technology, Govt. of Odisha

National consultation on Infectious Disease May 9-10, 2018

ILS organized a consultation on infectious disease biology for focusing on disease surveillance, diagnostics and advanced biotechnological approaches for developing effective therapy and cure. The participants called for focused research for understanding role of microbiota, pathogenesis, innate immune system and biology of vector borne pathogens, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) & anti-viral drug development.



Summer Science School

May 22-29th, 2018

The students from schools of Odisha, visited ILS and explored the labs to get an overall idea of our research work.

Visit of Students from Cotton University, Guwahati.

November 5th, 2018





Inauguration of Guest house

May 18, 2018

Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, inaugurated the Guest House and Hostel Complex of IL S at Campus –II.

Activities



Republic day

The 70th republic day was celebrated in ILS with great zest. Director Dr. Parida, gave a motivational speech on a Padmashri awardee Shrimati Kamala Pujari, who is a native of tribal-nominated Koraput for her exceptional inputs on paddy cultivation and preservation.



Independence day

August 15, 2018

Celebration of 72nd Independence Day took place at ILS campus I. The entire ILS family participated with a feeling of patriotism. Director, Dr. Ajay Parida hoisted

the National Flag and addressed the staff and students commemorating the sacrifices of national patriots.



Navratri

Navratri was celebrated with great enthusiasm from 10th October to 18th October, 2018. Each day was marked by a different colour code, and ILS family was happily twinning around. The last day's exuberance liberated through people having a gala time dancing and singing to classic garba tunes.







Diwali

The festival of Lights was celebrated at ILS campus 2, where the scholars had all the supplies to colour the sky.







Enjoying the pleasant winter breeze, the students, faculties and staff with their families went on an excursion and scientific tour to visit Barkul, Chilika. The central attraction of the tour was boating to the island of Kalijai temple, where migratory birds and dolphins were sighted. With food and interactive sessions, the day came to an end.





Iftar Party



When ILS came together to celebrate Ramadhan, together. With Roohafzah's, colorful platter, and everybody opening the fast at the same time, the day caame to an end with huge smiles on everybody's face.





ILS organized a symposium on "Recent Advances in Biotechnology for Food, Nutrition & Health Security" for science teachers from schools and colleges and research scholars as well as MSc. students from Universities.





The start of the year, 2019 was celebrated with an inspirational talk by **Swami Sadananda Saraswati** which awakened new perspectives and hope in the minds of young researchers

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Mr. Kirtal Hansdah, Ph.D. student, received Best Poster Award for Genomics of Complex Disease, in 44th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Human Genetics. Jan 30-1st Feb 2019. Title: Association of COLIA1, BMP2 and BMP4 gene polymorphisms with susceptibility to Otosclerosis.

Mr. Sugandh Kumar, Ph.D. student, received Best Poster Award in Genome India Conference. January 24, 2019. Title: Identification of stage wise miRNA signature as potential biomarker in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma



Mr. Abdul Ahad, Ph.D. student, received Best Poster Award in Genome India Conference. January 24, 2019. Title: NCoR1: controlling the fate of immunogenic response in dendritic cells.

Mr. Kautilya Jena, Ph.D. student received The Inspiring Science Award for the best published scientific paper in the Life Sciences from India organized by Cell Press and TNQ Network

Viplov Kumar Biswas, Ph.D. student, received **Best Poster Award** in IMMUNOCON 2018. 3 Nov 2018. Title: NCoR1 regulates the molecular axis for Mycobacterium infection in myeloid cells through autophagic flux.



ILS Scientist **Dr. Sanjeeb Sahoo** figured in the list of 'influential' researchers of the world. Only 10 scientists including Sahoo from India got entry into the list of 4000 researchers of the world.

Ph.D Awarded

- **Dr. Sabindra Kumar Samal**. A novel ddx3 inhibitor to treat oral squamous cell carcinoma (Superviser Dr. R. Dash).
- **Dr. K. Manohar**. Characterization of DNA Polymerase Eta from pathogenic Yeast *Candida albicans* for its role in genomic instability morphogenesis and drug resistance. (Superviser Dr. N. Acharya).
- Dr. **Ravi Chandra Tagirasa**. T Cell immune response and Chronic Inflammatory diseases. (Superviser Dr. S. Devadas).
- **Dr. Shaifaly Parmar**. Identification and characterization of salt responsive miRNAs in rice cultivars. (Superviser Dr. B.P.Shaw).
- **Dr. Paromita Kundu**. Nanotechnology based drug delivery system for neurodegenerative disorders. (Superviser Dr. S.K.Sahoo).
- **Dr. Moonmon Das**. Genetic analysis of CTX-Positive and CTX-Negative *Vibrio Cholerae* strains. (Superviser Dr. D.V.Singh).
- **Dr. Ravindra Kumar**. Bioinformatics analysis of Cancer genes and identification of Novel drug targets. (Superviser Dr. A. Dixit).
- **Dr. Praveen Barrodia**. Function of Hypothetical proteins in Zebrafish organogenesis. (Superviser Dr. R. Swain).
- **Dr. Madhu Krishna**. Post Translational modification of orphan estrogen receptor and its influence on its target genes in breast cancer cell lines. (Superviser Dr. S.K.Mishra).

ILS in News



Upcoming Events

- Meeting of the **Finance Committee** of ILS, 25 February 2019, New Delhi.
- Science Outreach Program for School and College students in commemoration of National Science Day, February 28, 2019, Bhubaneswar and Seven District (Cuttack, Rayagarha, Sambalpur, Mayurbhaj, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Baragarh) of Odisha.
- State Level Convention of Women Scientists and Technologists in commemoration with the International Women Day, March 8, 2019, Bhubaneswar.
- Symposium on Science and Technology for Human Well-being, March 18-19, 2019, Bhubaneshwar

Editors







Shaheerah Khan



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