

## **Activity Report on the 'International Workshop on Cell Biology' Conducted at the Institute of Bioinformatics Applied Biology, Bangalore.**

An overview of the workshop

An International Workshop on Cell Biology was conducted at IBAB, Bangalore from Jan 29-Feb 05, 2004. The workshop intended to update researchers and students on the latest developments and advances in cell biology and to give them the most exciting and current research. The aim of the workshop was also to review the basics of the complex mechanisms that make up our cells-the functional unit of all living systems .

About the speakers

Prof. Suresh Subramani

Prof. Suresh Subramani received his PhD in Biochemistry from UC Berkeley, working with Dr. Howard Scher. He was a Searle Scholar, a Searle Childs Fellow with Dr. Paul Berg at Stanford University, he was the recipient of a Searle Scholar Award, a Career Development Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He served as the last Chair of the Department of

Biology (2000) prior to its reorganization as a Division, and was the Interim Associate Dean for the Division of Biology (2000-2001) at UCSD. Prof. Subramani's research interests include Protein Import into Peroxisomes' and DNA Repair and Recombination'.

Prof. Vivek Malhotra

Prof. Vivek Malhotra received his PhD from Oxford University and was a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. He was a recipient of a Pirie-Reid scholarship, a Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Fellowship, an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship and a Basil O'Connor award from the March of Dimes Foundation. Prof. Malhotra is an investigator of the American Heart Association and is on the editorial board of Cell. His research interests focus

on Golgi architecture and transport carrier formation'.

Prof. Satyajit Mayor

Prof. Satyajit Mayor's pre-doctoral studies were at Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. He received his Rockefeller University, U.S.A. and subsequently did his post-doctoral work at Columbia University. Currently Professor at The National Centre of Biological Sciences, (TIFR), Bangalore. His research interests include Endocytosis in Metazoan cells'.

Prof. Utpal Tatu

Prof. Utpal Tatu obtained his PhD from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He did his post-doctoral research at Rockefeller University. He is currently Associate Professor at the Dept. of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He focuses on understanding the process of biogenesis and mechanisms of stability of secretory and membrane proteins in cells. His study emphasizes the role of chaperones and stress proteins.

Besides the key speakers, Dr. Shireen Vali of IBAB, Bangalore spoke on cell signalling and Dr. K. Subramani

spoke on Germ cells: A fate determined in the absence of tra

The workshop in detail

40 participants were registered for the workshop ranging from senior lecturers, post-doc researchers and graduates from various research institutes, corporate houses and colleges all over India. The workshop was cosponsored by

Astra Zeneca Research Foundation, Bangalore

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore

National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bangalore

Asia Pacific Biotech

IISc, Bangalore

CSIR

Perkin Elmer Life & Analytical Sciences

Most of the lectures were conducted at IBAB. A day of lectures was conducted at an off-site location at the Gol situated in the outskirts of Bangalore, where later the participants also had the opportunity to avail of the available. Laboratory demonstrations were held on 30 Jan and 03 Feb 2004, both at the Indian Institute of Science National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR). Demonstrations on live cell imaging with fluorescent tagged confocal microscopy was shown to the participants at NCBS, and the demonstration at IISc involved tech proteomics, specifically 2D-PAGE, mass spectroscopy and MALDI experiments. The open lectures by Prof. Vivek Prof. Suresh Subramani were also held at NCBS and IISc on Jan 30 and Feb 3 respectively. There was also a presentation by Perkin Elmer Analytical & Lifesciences company representative Mr. Alberto Zorloni on Ultra VIEW Life Cell Imaging on Jan 30 at NCBS, after the second open lecture.

The series of lectures at the workshop highlighted the principles of protein sorting and function, organelle molecular chaperones, endocytotic process and their role in development, cell compartmentalization, protein transport control process in the ER and biogenesis of organelles during cell division.

Feedback from participants

From the feedback received from the participants it was evident that all of them found the lectures and inter speakers very beneficial. However, most of them expressed that the laboratory component should be more than longer duration. All expressed satisfaction with the other arrangements.

Some of their opinions are expressed here-

It was a nice experience to attend the Cell biology conference at IBAB. It was really a great pleasure for interacting with Vivek, Suresh, Utpal, Jeetu, and of course the student community. Myself as well as my team HLRC would like to attend similar courses in future. -Gautam Banerjee, Senior Research Scientist, Hindustan L Centre

The lectures were extremely enlightening, more so because it was a subject which we thought we knew a lot more than simply a monologue where the speaker alone talks and the level of interaction and participant interchange of a lot of ideas and clearing up of a lot of questions. The lectures and group discussions were definite of the meet. - Gayatri. V, NCBS

## **Local Organising Committee**

### **Chairperson**

Prof. Manju Bansal PhD (Director, IBAB and Prof. MBU, IISc)

### **Secretary**

Dr. Shireen Vali, PhD (Faculty, IBAB)

Ms. Sangeeta Venkatesh, MSc (IBAB)

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Dr. Gayatri Saberwal, PhD (Faculty, IBAB)

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Prof. Satyajit Mayor, PhD (Associate Prof. NCBS)

Prof. Utpal Tatu, PhD (Associate Prof. IISc)