

**The Department of Biological Sciences**  
**Awards and Achievements for the year 2018-19**  
**(Dtd.: 09.04.2019)**

**A) Faculty Members:**

- **Dr. Sanjeev Shukla:** The research work on the root cause of head and neck cancer from Dr. Shukla's lab was recognized by The Hindu newspaper. (Edition Dtd. 5<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2018)
  
- **Dr. Vineet Kumar Sharma:**
  - a) The research work done by Dr. Sharma's group on 'dandruff among the Indians' was highlighted in the 'Times of India' newspaper. (Edition Dtd. 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2018) and on Nature Asia website on 20<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2018.
  
  - b) Dr. Sharma's group research work on Indian Gut Microbiome published in GigaScience journal has been widely highlighted by the media.
  
- **Dr. Himanshu Kumar**
  - a) Dr. Kumar has been awarded with Visiting Scientist fellowship for generation of transgenic and knockout rodent model at the Transgenic and Genetically Engineered Model Facility at the University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB- TGEMS), USA (January 2019 to July 2019).
  
  - b) Dr. Kumar has been appointed as a DBT representative in IBSC (Institutional Biosafety Committee) of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal.
  
  - c) From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, Dr. Kumar is appointed as Editor-in-Chief of International Reviews of Immunology, a Taylor & Francis (USA) Journal.
  
- **Dr. R. Mahalakshmi**
  - a) Dr. R. Mahalakshmi's work has been featured in the Nature Special Issue titled "Decade of Discovery: Connecting science, innovation and society in India" commissioned by the Wellcome Trust DBT India Alliance in collaboration with Nature, as part of the 10<sup>th</sup>-anniversary celebrations of the India Alliance. She is one among the ~25 nation-wide Wellcome Trust DBT India Alliance fellows to receive this recognition.
  
  - b) She has been awarded with the Exceptional Fellows Fund from the Wellcome Trust - DBT India Alliance for the year 2019-2020.
  
  - c) She has received the Young Scientist Award-2019 from the Indian Peptide Society for the year 2019.

**d)** Dr. R. Mahalakshmi's work on the thermodynamic contribution of interface residues has been featured by the Wellcome Trust - DBT India Alliance for the month. (Edition Dtd. 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2018)

**e)** Dr. R. Mahalakshmi's work on the structural annotation of membrane protein aggregation loci using peptide-based reverse mapping has been featured by the Wellcome Trust - DBT India Alliance. (Edition Dtd. 1<sup>st</sup> August., 2018)

**f)** Dr. R. Mahalakshmi is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Peptide Science (Wiley, USA) from January, 2018.

➤ **Dr. Sourav Datta:** Dr. Datta's research work on plant protection against UV-B rays was featured in Hindustan Times.

➤ **Dr. Ajit Chande:** Dr. Chande has been awarded with the Wellcome DBT India Alliance fellowship for the year 2019-2023.

➤ **Dr. Nagarjun Vijay**

a) Nagarjun Vijay has been awarded the "Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award for the year 2018".

b) Dr. Nagarjun Vijay has been awarded with the ECRA (Early Career Research Award)-2018.

## **B) PDF:**

➤ **Dr. Radhika Padma (PI: Dr. Nagarjun Vijay):** She has been awarded by DST under the Women Scientists Scheme (WOS-A)-2019.

## **C) Students:**

### **PhD:**

➤ **Mr. Ajith Ashokan (Supervisor: Dr. Vinita Gowda):** Received the Tan Jiew Hoe Fellowship from Singapore Botanic Gardens to attend the Ginger Symposium-2018 (held in July' 2018).

➤ **Ms. Preeti (Supervisor: Dr. Vinita Gowda):** Received the Tan Jiew Hoe Fellowship from Singapore Botanic Gardens to attend the Ginger Symposium-2018 (held in July' 2018).

- **Ms. Usha Singh (Supervisor: Dr. Ram Kumar Mishra)**: Received a travel grant by “M.P. Council of Science and Technology” for attending the conference- “Mechanisms and Models of Cancer” held during 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 at New York, USA.
- **Mr. Prasanna N. S. (Supervisor: Dr. Vinita Gowda)**: Mr. Prasanna had been designated a Nellie D. Sleeth Scholar for 2018 by the Gesneriad Society and he received an award of US\$4500 towards fieldwork and visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh (RBGE).
- **Mr. Akhilesh Kumar (Supervisor: Dr. Himanshu Kumar)**: Awarded with the “International Collaborative Research Program, Graduate School of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Hokkaido University, Japan” under research theme entitled “Generation of Rnd1-knock out cell line using CRISPR-Cas9 system”. This was a collaborative research project between Dr. Himanshu Kumar, IISER Bhopal, India and Prof. Akinori Takaoka, Institute for Genetic Medicine, Hokkaido University, Japan. The project carried out from 31<sup>st</sup> August - 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018.
- **Mr. Prasanna N. S. (Supervisor: Dr. Vinita Gowda)**: Awarded with the Sibbald trust grant to visit and work at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh for the year 2018. He visited in October-December, 2018.
- **Ms. Mansi Gujrati (Supervisor: Dr. Ram Kumar Mishra)**: Received a travel award from American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB). She was awarded the grant up to US \$975 to attend the ASCB|EMBO 2018 Meeting in San Diego, CA held during 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Ms. Arpita Yadav (Supervisor: Dr. Sourav Datta)**: Received the Best Paper Award the 34<sup>th</sup> M.P. Young Scientist Congress (held between 28<sup>th</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019).
- **Ms. Richa Mishra (Supervisor: Dr. Himanshu Kumar)**: Received the Young Scientist Award for best poster award in the National Conference on ‘Prowess Womankind: Recent Advances in Management of Health, Environment, Science and Technology’ held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019, jointly organized by NGOs NIDAN Sarvjan Welfare Society), SHEFWEL (Society for Health, Education & Family Welfare) and MPCST (M.P. Council of Science & Technology), Bhopal.
- **Mr. Gokul Nair (Supervisor: Dr. Vikas Jain)**: Received the best poster award in the 11<sup>th</sup> National Symposium cum Workshop on "Recent Trends in Structural Bioinformatics and Computer Aided Drug Design [SBCADD' 2019]" organized by the Bioinformatics and Drug Discovery Society at the Department of Bioinformatics, Alagappa University, Karaikudi between 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.
- **Mr. Ajinkya Patil (Supervisor: Dr. Nagarjun Vijay)**: He had been selected for attending the prestigious national level workshop the ‘SERB School in Evolutionary Biology’ held between 12<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

- **Mr. Lokdeep Teekas (Supervisor: Dr. Nagarjun Vijay):** He had been selected to attend the ICTS preparatory school on Population genetics and Evolution. This assures him of a position in the international ICTS Population genetics and Evolution workshop later in this year.
- **Mr. Ashutosh Sharma (Supervisor: Dr. Nagarjun Vijay):** He had been selected to attend the week-long NGS course organized by IISER Tirupathi held in March, 2019.
- **Mr. Ajinkya Patil (Supervisor: Dr. Nagarjun Vijay):** He had been selected attend the week-long NGS course organized by IISER Tirupathi held in March, 2019.
- **Mr. Debayan Sarkar (Supervisor: Dr. Jeet Kalia):** Attended the Biophysical Society Meeting held at Baltimore, USA and presented a poster on our work on the mechanism of activation of TRPV1 ion channels by the double-knot spider toxin. He secured two travel awards-the Infosys Foundation Travel Award and DBT-CTEP to sponsor his visit during 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.
- **Ms. Chetana Tamadaddi (Supervisor: Dr. Chandan Sahi):** She had been selected for attending ‘The Plant Ecology and Ecophysiology Workshop’, a part of an India-UK consortium led by The University of Leeds, UK and IISc Bengaluru, held between 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2018.
- **Mr. Yogesh Tak (Supervisor: Dr. Chandan Sahi):** Received a travel grant by “DBT-CTEP (Conference, Travel, Exhibition, and Popular Lectures); for attending the EMBO Workshop "Protein quality control: From mechanisms to disease" to be held between 28th April – 03rd May 2019 | Costa de la Calma (Mallorca), Spain
- **Mr. Nikhil Job (Supervisor: Dr. Sourav Datta):** He had been nominated by Department of Science and Technology (DST) India and selected by JSPS (Japan Society for the promotion of Science) Japan to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> HOPE meeting with Nobel Laureates held at Okinawa, Japan between 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.
- **Ms. Neha Upadhyay (Supervisor: Dr. Sourav Datta):** She had been selected for poster presentation in the prestigious INDIA EMBO Symposia “Sensing and Signaling in Plant Stress Responses, to be held at New Delhi, India from April 15-17 2019.
- **Ms. Arpita Yadav (Supervisor: Dr. Sourav Datta):** Recipient of Keystone Symposia Future of Science Fund Scholarship. She is awarded the grant up to US \$1200 to attend the meeting on “Climate Change-Linked Stress Tolerance in Plants” in Hannover, Germany from May 13-17, 2019.\

## **BSMS:**

- **Mr. Saket Shrotri (Supervisor: Dr. Vinita Gowda):** Received the Tan Jiew Hoe Fellowship from Singapore Botanic Gardens to attend the Ginger Symposium-2018 (held in July' 2018).
  
- **Ms. Asawari Albal (Supervisor: Dr. Vinita Gowda):** She had been awarded with the “Best Poster” award in the UG-PG category for presenting a poster on “When does a flower become male? Exploring role of ecological factors and energy resources in driving gender expression in sympatric plants” at the Understanding Behavior Conference 2019 from 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at IISER Kolkata.
  
- **Mr. Vishnu Narayanan S S (Supervisor: Dr. Sanjeev Shukla):** He obtained 4<sup>th</sup> Rank in CSIR JRF (NET) exam conducted in December 2018.
  
- A team from IISER Bhopal, under the supervision of **Dr. Vineet K. Sharma** and co-supervision of **Dr. Chandan Sahi and Dr. Lavanya Bhagavatula**, secured a BRONZE medal in their debut participation in iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machine) competition held at Hynes Convention Centre, Boston, USA, 24<sup>th</sup> October- 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2018. The names of the team members are as follows:
  1. Jatin Khaimani (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)
  2. Arundhati Khenwar (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)
  3. Shrestha Rath (BSMS-3<sup>rd</sup> year)
  4. Fathima Afsal (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)
  5. Harshal Wasnik (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)
  6. Tejas Somvanshi (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)
  7. Aditi Maheshwari (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)
  8. Anand Golait (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)
  9. Anubhav Basu (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)
  10. Rishi Gandhi (BSMS-4<sup>th</sup> year)