

**The Department of Biological Sciences**  
**Announcements for 26<sup>th</sup> January-Republic Day**  
**(Dtd.: 20.01.2020)**

**A) Faculty Members:**

- **Dr. Atul Kumar:** Dr Atul Kumar has been conferred with the **Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award-2019 (IYBA)** by DBT.
- **Dr. Vineet Sharma:** Dr. Sharma's study on colorectal cancer gut microbiome was widely highlighted in the Times of India and Dainik Bhaskar newspaper; and also in the Nutraingredients-asia newsletter.
- **Dr. Sourav Datta:** Dr. Datta has received the 'Springer-PHSS Foundation Young Scientist Medal-2019' for the Best Oral Presentation in the international conference on **Advances in Sustainable Agriculture: Bioresources, Biotechnology and Bioeconomy** held at Mansarovar Global University, Bhopal in collaboration with the PHSS Foundation from 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- **Dr. Jeet Kalia:** Dr. Kalia has secured a collaborative grant-MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives or **MISTI Global Seed Funds** with Prof. Matthew Shoulders (MIT, Chemistry). Their proposal is based on the study of cellular lipidomic remodelling orchestrated by the unfolded protein response by employing chemical biology tools for studying lipids developed by his lab in concert with those for regulating UPR developed by the Shoulders lab. The received grant shall provide funds for his students to travel to MIT and work there in the Prof. Shoulders' lab and to him to visit MIT and present a talk there/organize a workshop. This grant also provides funds to Prof. Shoulders and his students at MIT to travel to IISER Bhopal to work in Dr. Kalia's lab and conduct workshops/present talks.
- **Dr. Vinita Gowda:** Dr. Gowda's Video on 'Speciation via Competition (<https://vimeo.com/339687419>) has been shortlisted for screening at evolution meeting as a part of the 8<sup>th</sup> annual evolutionary film festival, held in Providence, Rhode Island between 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. Her team consisted of Ms. Preei and Mr. Saket Shrotri, students from her research lab.
- **Dr. R. Mahalakshmi:**
  - a)** Dr. R. Mahalakshmi has been awarded with the Exceptional Fellows Fund from the Wellcome Trust - DBT India Alliance for the year 2019-2020.
  - b)** She has received the Young Scientist Award-2019 from the Indian Peptide Society for the year 2019.

- c) Dr. R. Mahalakshmi was selected as session chair at Gordon Research Conference on Membrane Protein Folding, Boston (USA), 2019.
- d) Dr. R. Mahalakshmi was selected as session chair at 2019 American Peptide Symposium (APS), Monterey, CA (USA), 2019.
  
- e) Dr. R. Mahalakshmi's research has been highlighted in the Annual Report of Wellcome Trust – DBT India Alliance titled "Embracing the Future".
  
- f) Dr. R. Mahalakshmi has received International Travel Support from the Science and Engineering Research Board of the Department of Science and Technology.
  
- g) Dr. R. Mahalakshmi has received Travel Grant from the Department of Biotechnology CTEP (Conference, Travel, Exhibition and Popular Lectures).
  
- **Dr. Sourav Datta:** Dr. Datta's research work on plant protection against UV-B rays was featured in Hindustan Times and Dainik Bhaskar Newspapers.
  
- **Dr. Ajit Chande:**
  - a) Dr. Ajit Chande has been awarded with the Wellcome DBT India Alliance fellowship for the year 2019-2023.
  
  - b) Dr. Chande has been invited to give a lecture on his current research activities at IISER Bhopal during 31<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on *Retroviral Pathogenesis - Retropath 2019*, University of Padova, Italy. Retropath provides a platform through this prestigious workshop organized in different places across the world to discuss emerging areas in basic and clinical aspects of the disease caused by retroviruses.

## **B) Students:**

### **PhD:**

1. **Mr. Pranab Kumar Paul (Supervisor: Dr. Varun Chaudhary):** Mr. Paul had received the 'Best poster award' in the session of "Pattern formation" for the poster entitled as "Rer1-mediated maintenance of ER function is required for proper epithelial development in *Drosophila*" in the recently conducted **5th Asia Pacific *Drosophila* Research Conference and 4th Indian *Drosophila* Research Conference, 2020** organized by the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISERP) at Pune in during January 6-10th, 2020.

2. **Mr. Shashank Ranjan Srivastava (Supervisor: Dr. R. Mahalakshmi)**
  - a) Mr. Srivastava has been awarded USD 800 travel support from the Gordon Research Conference on Membrane Protein Folding, Boston (USA), 2019.
  - b) Mr. Srivastava's work titled "Mapping the folding landscape of human mitochondrial porin in bilayer membranes." was selected for oral presentation at the Gordon Research Conference on Membrane Protein Folding, Boston (USA), 2019.
  - c) He has been awarded a Travel Grant from the Department of Biotechnology CTEP (Conference, Travel, Exhibition and Popular Lectures).
3. **Mr. Anil Raj Narooka (Supervisor: Dr. Sunando Datta)**: Mr. Narooka had been awarded for the 'Best Poster Award' in the conference on '**EhRho6 mediated actin degradation in Entamoeba histolytica**' at Pasteur Institute, Paris, France held between 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October 2019.
4. **Santhosh Kumar Sariki (Supervisor: Prof. Raghuvir Singh Tomar)**: Mr. Sariki has been awarded with 'Best Poster Award' in '**11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Biology of Yeast and Filamentous Fungi**' conducted at School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad held from 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
5. **Mr. Gokul Nair (Supervisor: Dr. Vikas Jain)**: Mr. Nair has received first prize for his poster entitled "Designing novel TB diagnostics using the structural and functional plasticity of D29 mycobacteriophage endolysin" in the recently concluded **International conference on Bacteriophage Research and Antimicrobial Resistance - ICBRAMR '19**, organized by the School of Bio Sciences and Technology (SBST), VIT, Vellore in association with the Society for Bacteriophage Research and Therapy (SBRT) held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

**BSMS:**

1. **Ms. Fathima Afsal (Supervisor: Dr. Chandan Sahi)**: She had been awarded with MITACS Globalink summer research fellowship-2019, University of Manitoba-Winnipeg.
2. **Ms. Gayathri Pillai (Supervisor: Dr. Ram Kumar Mishra)**: She has cleared the CSIR JRF with All India Rank-19.
6. **Mr. Vishnu Narayanan S S (Supervisor: Dr. Sanjeev Shukla)**: He had been selected for the Shyama Prasad Mukharjee (SPM) Fellowship in Life Sciences for the CSIR JRF-NET exam conducted in December 2018.