



# IISc Alumni

Newsletter of IISc Alumni Association

Volume 3 | Issue 1 | March 2010

## IIScAA Knowledge Exchange Programme



Prof. P. Balaram, Director, launching the Knowledge Exchange Programme

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the successful launch of our Knowledge Exchange Programme (KEP), on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2010 by our Director, Prof. P. Balaram, in the presence of distinguished guests of honour; Sri M.D. Mallya, CMD, Bank of Baroda and Sri Ashwani Kumar Datt, CMD, Bharat Electronics Ltd., and several other dignitaries from IISc, ISRO, DRDO, CPRI, Canara Bank and so on. The launching function was held in the Faculty Hall.

This is an innovative initiative to make knowledge and expertise of eminent IISc alumni occupying high positions around the world, available to youngsters, academicians, scientists and entrepreneurs to pursue their career goals. The response to this programme from our global alumni, faculty, alumni cell and students has been outstanding, and it is our goal to expand this programme first to all students, alumni, faculty of IISc, and then to select non-IISc community as well, thus creating a global knowledge exchange platform to benefit the nation.

IISc Alumni Association is creating a web-based platform to facilitate the knowledge and expertise available to all. This initiative has three major features; K-Exchange for knowledge exchange and mentoring, K-Café for virtual discussions by experts on special technical topics, and Ping an IISc-ian for the community to keep in touch with each other. The Programme was well received with a packed Faculty Hall. It is nice to see the enthusiastic participation of the student community. Already the platform has started functioning with more than 800 registrants.

You can participate in the Knowledge Exchange Programme if you are an alumnus or current student of IISc. Please note the following.

- IIScAA office will send an email notification before 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 to all the alumni members in its database, as well as current students asking for your interest to be included in the Knowledge Exchange Programme. Respond to that email as instructed and you will then receive a welcome email with LoginID and Password to access the Knowledge Exchange Programme.
- If you do not receive an email by 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 then it is likely that IIScAA office doesn't have your latest contact information. In that case, please send an email to alumni@admin.iisc.ernet.in with the Subject Line: Please add me to IIScAA Knowledge Exchange Programme, and indicate your relationship to IISc. Once your IISc credentials are validated, you will automatically receive a welcome email with LoginID and Password to access the Knowledge Exchange Programme.



Dr. K.R. Srinivasan, President, IISc Alumni Association; Prof. P. Balaram, Director; Sri M.D. Mallya, CMD, Bank of Baroda and Sri Ashwani Kumar Datt, CMD, Bharat Electronics, Bangalore during the inauguration of KEP.

V. Babu Sathian

Convener, Knowledge Exchange Programme

### Padmashri Awardees of our Alumni (Republic Day Honours)

1. Prof. Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath, Chairperson, Centre for Neurosciences (A brief Biographical sketch given on pp. 2 & 3)
2. Prof. M.R.S. Rao, Department of Biochemistry, IISc, President, JNCASR; 3. Prof. P. Somasundaran, Columbia University, USA

### Upcoming Events

- Department of Microbiology & Cell Biology: Eleventh Sir Dorabji Tata Symposium on "Diagnostics in Infections" on March 10 & 11, 2010.
- Department of Materials Engineering – UGC Networking Resource Centre: Workshop on Mechanical Properties, June 14 – July 2, 2010.

## President's Message

Dear Colleagues

As you know the Launching of the Knowledge Exchange Programme by Prof. P. Balaram went on very well and was attended by a large number of Alumni and other dignitaries. Now we have to see the success of this programme and we need to get feedback from all of you. We also had the opportunity to present the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2009, to Mr. Mallya, CMD, Bank of Baroda during this event. The notification for the selection of Distinguished Alumni Award for the year 2010 has also been issued. This year we have streamlined the process of Distinguished Alumni award. The Annual Alumni Day will be celebrated on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 and we have lined up some cultural programmes and Dinner meet for the Day, apart from honouring our IISc Gurus. We will also be starting Science Forum Series lectures from the month of March, 2010.

**K.R. Srinivasan**

## Editorial

It gives me great pleasure to report that the newsletter is entering into its third year of existence. In spite of their regular work, the editorial board members are finding time to collect and collate the information required to release this quarterly issue. This is the ninth issue in the series. The idea of reviving the newsletter after a long gap is laudable. This is due to the initiative of our EC in general and our honorable advisors, Dr. V.K. Aatre and Dr. S. Ranganathan, in particular. The editorial board is making best efforts in collecting as much information as possible from the departments, faculty, students, and alumni. You find some important information in this issue. The board requires the help of all the stakeholders for sustaining this effort. Regular issues not only disseminate the information but also serve as a record of events. On behalf of the editorial board I sincerely thank all those who are directly and indirectly helping and encouraging us to serve the Institute and the Association.

**K.S. Rajanandam**

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### Faculty members

**Prof. K. N. Balaji**, Department of Microbiology & Cell Biology – National Bioscience Award of Department of Biotechnology

**Prof. R. Gadakgar**, Centre for Ecological sciences – INSA SN Bose Research Professorship, 2010-2015; Millennium Plaques of Honour, 2010, Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata

**Prof. Ashok M. Raichur**, Department of Materials Engineering – National Bioscience Award for Career Development for 2009

**Prof. U. Ramamurty**, Department of Materials Engineering – has been elected to the Fellowship of the Indian National Academy of Engineering and Indian Academy of Sciences

**Prof. H.S. Savithri**, Department of Biochemistry – Department Alumni Award for Excellence in Research for Science for the year 2010

**Prof. K.L. Sebastian**, Department of Inorganic & Physical Chemistry – Silver Medal by the Chemical Research Society of India for 2010; Dr. M.V. Pylee Prize by Cochin University

### Alumni

**Dr. L.N. Satapathy** - Elected "Fellow" of Indian Institute of Ceramics

### Students

**Dr. Ananda Kumar Gosh**, Department of Biochemistry – K.V. Giri Medal for best Ph.D. Thesis among the members of Biochemistry Society

**Ms. Sheetal Sharma, and Nallani Vijay Kumar (jointly awarded)** – Perumal Award 2009

### Research & Development Activities

iQ5 Five Colour Real Time PCR System installed and being used in the Department of Biochemistry

### New Appointments

**Dr. Chandan Srivastava** has been appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Materials Engineering w.e.f. 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2010

## Biographical sketch of Padmashri Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath

Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath obtained her Ph.D from the Central Food Technology Research Institute (University of Mysore) in 1981. After completing her Post-Doctoral training at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, USA, she joined the Department of Neurochemistry at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore in 1986 as Associate Professor, and subsequently held the post of Professor of Neurochemistry. IN 1999, She was asked by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, to help establish the National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), an autonomous institution of DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, as a centre of excellence to co-ordinate and network neuroscience research groups in the country. She served as its Director till May 2009, when she returned to Bangalore now to the Indian Institute of Science as Professor and Chairperson of the newly created Centre for Neuroscience.



During her tenure as Director she provided visionary leadership to NBRC, attained a position of being a centre of excellence of national importance which in a very short period. In a short span of five years she established a state-of-art institute in a rather remote location and created a new paradigm

## Barren Land near Chitradurga will convert to a Knowledge City



The Alumni team who visited the proposed new campus land

IISc Alumni Association Bangalore Chapter organised visit to the New IISc Campus at Chitradurga on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. Twenty one members attended this visit. The new campus site is located in Khudapura Village, Challakere Taluk in Chitradurga District. It is approximately 200 kilometers from Bangalore (NH4 towards Chitradurga, and then about 40 km on State Highway 19 near Hiriyur going towards Bellary and then about 10-12 km off Highway 19). The site is about 110 km from Bellary. The area around the proposed campus is quite flat and dry.

Historically speaking, it was a large tract of land which was earmarked for conservation of certain types of cattle by the erstwhile Mysore Maharaja. Later, the land was used to breed certain types of sheep with the help of an Australian agency. One can find large number of sheep on these sites even now. Now, the state government has decided to make this a knowledge city to develop higher education/research centres in this area.

Geographically IISc has procured about 1500 acres of land. Surrounding this area, other organisations such as DRDO, BARC and NAL have shared the place. In addition, about 10 acres will be used for common facilities such as Banks, shopping areas etc.

Considering the fact that IISc will have high-end research and development, it also gives a great opportunity to engage in various collaborative research & development with neighboring organisations such as DRDO, BARC, NAL, etc.

Prof. P. Balaram, Director of IISc, who recently inspected the site, said the Institute was eager to start the project as early as possible,

since allocation of land is already over. The institute would need 100 - 150 scientists and around 1,000 research faculty. Based on the requirements, the staff strength would be enhanced and more scientists would be appointed. With regard to the work schedule, he said that multiple projects in various sectors would be undertaken. The Institute would carry on research work in renewable energy, space science, aerospace, water resource technology, ecology and environment, etc. The branch would open up job opportunities for research students of various departments.

Sri B. Sridhar, IISc Horticulturist and a member who is involved in the current planning at the site accompanied the team. He served as our guide. We spent close to two hours walking through the site.

During this visit, we met the local MP Sri Janardhana Swamy, who is an IISc alumnus. He represents the Chitradurga constituency. He graced the occasion and gave us a overall plan of the site. He expressed his willingness to help in whatever capacity possible.



Sri Janardana Swamy, IISc Alumni & Member of Parliament from Chitradurga

It was a memorable visit, and we felt great to walk through the land that will soon be home to some great research and innovation. To record our visit, we have uploaded pictures to Picasa site and you can view them at

[picasaweb.google.com/iiscaaphotos](http://picasaweb.google.com/iiscaaphotos) <[http://picasaweb.google.com/iiscaaphotos?feat=content\\_notification](http://picasaweb.google.com/iiscaaphotos?feat=content_notification)

**V.R. Govindarajan and H.K. Anasuya Devi**

for research by integrating mathematical and computational science into the understanding of complex biological systems. NBRC was granted deemed university status in May 2002 to help promote human resource development in an inter-disciplinary manner. She networked 45 institutions around the country with NBRC with the objective to share resources and promote neuroscience. It is now recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence.

The unifying goal of her laboratory is to understand pathogenic mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative disorders that would potentially lead to identification of drug targets that can be used to develop rational disease modifying therapies. To this effect, she adopts a combinatorial approach involving biochemical and histochemical techniques to elucidate pathogenically important cellular pathways in animal models of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. From the therapeutic angle, she is involved in defining and identifying the active entities and the mode of action of traditional medicinal preparations used in the treatment of neurodegenerative disorders, particularly senile dementia. This is done with a focus to identify natural products that can be developed as potential drugs for neurodegenerative disorders. Drug targets alone do not ensure successful therapeutic strategies, as in situ drug metabolism in the brain is critical for drug action. In this regard, she is identifying and characterizing brain CYP450 enzymes with particular emphasis on brain-specific biotransformation pathways of both drugs and endogenous compounds that play a role in pathogenic phenomena, such as inflammation in the brain.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath is elected Fellow of all three science academies in the country as well as a Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, India, Indian Academy of Neurosciences and Third World Academy of Sciences. She is a recipient of the prestigious S.S. Bhatnagar award (1996), Omprakash Bhasin Award (2001) and the J.C. Bose Fellowship (2006) and Padmahsri this year.

## IIScAA Activities

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 the following programmes were organized at Choksi Hall:

- \* Breakfast & Networking
- \* Extra-ordinary General Body Meeting
- \* Presentation on 'Alumni Centre'
- \* Presentation by Students' Council on 'Miditha 2010'

IIScAA has sponsored Rs. 50,000/- towards 'Miditha 2010'

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2010 the following programmes were organized at Faculty Hall:

- \* Prof. P. Balaram, Director, Launched 'Knowledge Exchange Programme'.
- \* Prof. P. Balaram, Director, presented the 'Distinguished Alumni Award - 2009' to Sri M.D. Mallya, CMD, Bank of Baroda.



Prof. P. Balaram, Director, presenting the Distinguished Alumni Award - 2009 to Sri M.D. Mallya, CMD, Bank of Baroda

### New Executive Committee of Chennai Chapter, IIScAA

Sri S. Chandrasekhar, Chairman  
 Prof. V. Raghuprakash, Vice Chairman  
 Dr. B. Rajakumar, Secretary  
 Sri P. Ravindranath, Treasurer

#### Members

Prof. B.S. Murty	Prof. T.S. Sampath Kumar
Dr. R. Sarathi	Dr. T.V.L.N. Rao
Dr. K. Ravi Sankar	Dr. R. Balakrishnan

### New Executive Committee of Bangalore Chapter, IIScAA

Sri Anand Talwai, Chairman  
 Sri Giri Krishna, Vice Chairman  
 Dr. Sanjay Chitnis, Secretary  
 Sri Vishnu V. Makkapati, Treasurer

#### Members

Dr. Yamuna Krishnan	Sri Raghunath Are
Sri Deepak Malani	Sri Arun Sarda
Sri Pranjal Pandey	Sri Sohan Ranjan



The MP with visiting Alumni at the Chellakere Inspection Bungalow

Nominations are invited for 'Distinguished Alumni Award – 2010'. For more details regarding Nomination Form & Distinguished Alumni Award Process Overview, please visit the following link :

<http://www.iiscalumni.com/news-events/awards-achievements.htm>

Kindly send your nominations on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March , 2010 by e-mail to: [alumni@admin.iisc.ernet.in](mailto:alumni@admin.iisc.ernet.in) with a copy to : [nominations2010@iiscbaa.org](mailto:nominations2010@iiscbaa.org)

**We welcome the following twenty one new Members enrolled from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 till 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010.**

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dr. Aditi Halder            | Dr. B. Viswanath             |
| Dr. Jayanta Parui           | Dr. Neelam Kumari            |
| Sri Gopinath Rajagopal      | Dr. Nasir Baig Rashid Baig   |
| Dr. R. K. Amit              | Sri Gururaj Muddebihal       |
| Dr. M. Ramesh               | Dr. S. C. Vanitha Kumari     |
| Dr. S. Devaraj              | Sri Aditya Thakur            |
| Sri Patel Vishal Nandkishor | Sri K. V. S. Subhash         |
| Dr. Rohini Mani             | Dr. Malempati Srimannarayana |
| Sri R. Arun                 | Sri P. G. Kharche            |
| Ms. Mala Shivaprasad        | Sri R. Subramanian           |
| Sri M. Ravindran            |                              |

**N.C. Shivaprakash**

IISc Alumni Association  
 Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore - 560 012  
 Telephone: +91 80 23600180/22932597  
 E-mail: [alumni@admin.iisc.ernet.in](mailto:alumni@admin.iisc.ernet.in)  
[ksrajanandam@gmail.com](mailto:ksrajanandam@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.iiscalumni.com](http://www.iiscalumni.com)



**IISc Alumni**

**Editor : Dr. K.S. Rajanandam**

**Associate Editor : Prof. H.K. Anasuya Devi**

**Other Members of the Editorial Board : Dr. N.C. Shivaprakash, Dr. L.N. Satapathy, Sri K.V. Sriram and Sri K. Sreenivasa Rao**

Published by the Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association (IIScAA).

Printed at : Navbharath Press, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020, Ph: 2356 1142, 2346 4682, E-mail : [navbarat@gmail.com](mailto:navbarat@gmail.com)