RESEARCH HORIZONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS OFFICE

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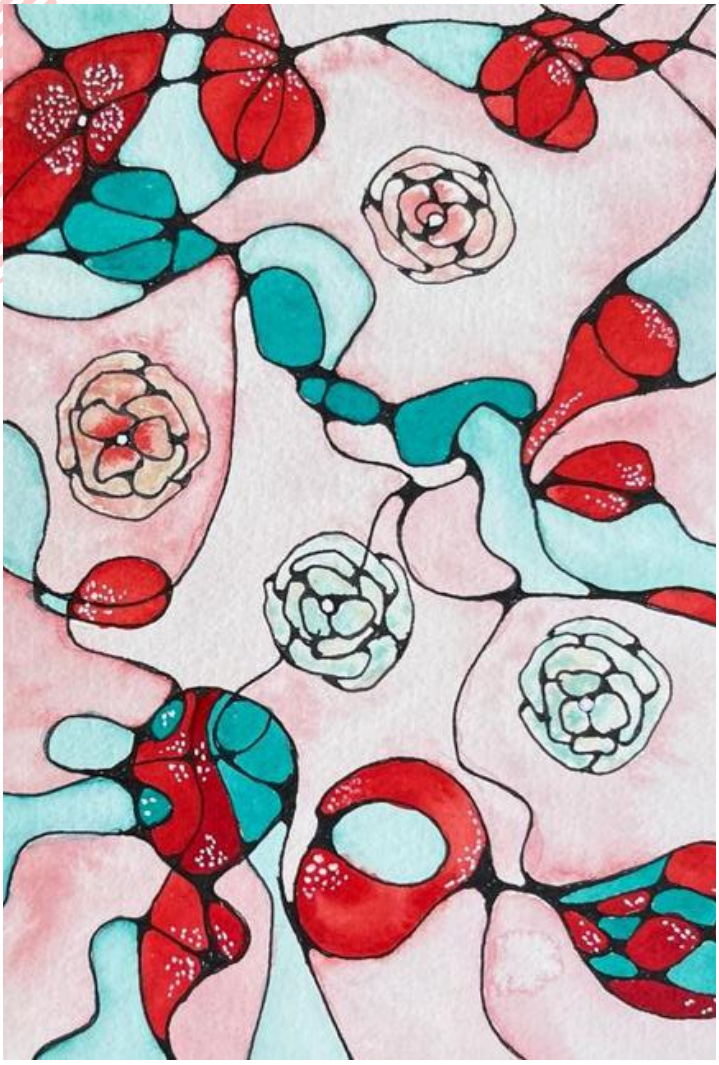
Volume 33



CONTENT

Ahmedabad University

In conversation with Pankaj Joshi

Professor Pankaj Joshi is an eminent physicist and cosmologist, whose key research interests are gravitational collapse, and black holes and naked singularities. He is also the Director of the newly launched International Centre for Space and Cosmology at Ahmedabad University. Prior to joining Ahmedabad University, he was a Senior Professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai and subsequently Provost and Founding Director for the International Centre for Cosmology at CHARUSAT. He also has a keen interest in scientific outreach. We spoke to him about his research and plans for the Centre. Excerpts from the conversation.

Please could you tell us about your research interests?

My main research interests are in the fields of gravitational collapse, black holes and naked singularities.

The sun as we know it is crucial for life on planet earth. Viewed in context of space, our sun is a star, filled with gases that are burning through nuclear fusion reactions, combining and forming new elements. Hydrogen in the sun is consumed and converted to helium, giving out enormous heat and energy. Scientists expect that there would come a time, when all the hydrogen in the sun would get depleted, higher elements formed, and eventually there would no longer be any fuel for the sun to create heat and energy. The contents of the sun would be predicted to then "collapse" under the force of its own gravity. Fortunately for us, this event is still more than 500 crore years away in time for our sun!

Similarly, there are a very large number of other stars in space, which would eventually deplete their nuclear fuels and reach a point of rapid collapse. A simple view is that a collapsing star, particularly giant stars several times the size of the sun, would turn nto a black hole, where even light cannot escape.

The larger the star, the faster and more catastrophic the process of collapse is likely to be. This is referred to as "gravitational collapse". A simple analogy is that of a balloon. In a balloon filled with air, there is a balance between the pressures exerted on the balloon from air inside and within. However, when the air from a balloon is released, the balloon shrinks rapidly. Similarly, stars that might once have been gigantic objects spewing out light and heat, would be expected to collapse rapidly under their own gravity when without their nuclear fuels, into a small dot, which is referred to as "space-time singularity" by cosmologists.

Such singularities are incredibly interesting phenomena, where densities, temperatures and all physical quantities are in their extreme. While their presence was first predicted in the 1930s, evidence for such singularities started gathering momentum by the 1960s. Nobel laureate Roger Penrose predicted singularities based on the Einstein theory of relativity. In parallel, he also proposed that it would be impossible to detect these singularities, as they would be hidden in black holes, tucked away from our observations and analyses. He termed this conjecture as "cosmic censorship hypothesis". The field of black hole physics is based on some of these observations and conclusions.

I got interested in the question of space-time singularities and gravitational collapse early on in my career. I was invited by Prof Jayant Narlikar to join the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai and chose to work on this problem. Our work has demonstrated that it is in fact possible to detect some singularities, particularly as a collapse occurs. Our work has been very well received and I have published over 200 research papers and authored monographs for Oxford Univerity Press and Cambridge University Press. In 2009, I was invited to write an article for a special edition of the Scientific American magazine, focused on black holes. This article was very well received. In 2016, I also wrote a book titled "The story of collapsing stars", published by Oxford University Press, UK.

I continue to remain fascinated by space, the cosmos and singularities. I also enjoy talking about cosmology and our research to lay audiences.

The recent developments in the field have been satisfying and very encouraging in that the just announced Event Horizon Telescope results announced by NASA and NSF in USA, and their series of papers refer to our research on collapse and naked singularities in some detail. They have suggested that our models would be best possible black hole mimickers.

Please could you tell us about the genesis of the International Centre for Space and Cosmology at Ahmedabad University?

My 2009 article in the Scientific American generated a lot of interest from across the world. However, the response from India and Indian students was very limited. This was most disappointing and made me realise the challenges in the Indian educational systems. In particular, I felt very strongly that our University system was in need of a rethink.

In 2018, I was invited to create a cosmology centre at CHARUSAT. I was the Founding Director of the Centre and was additionally asked to accept the position of the Provost. This was a great opportunity for me to start working with the Indian University system. We eventually built a good program there, had several hardworking students and a large dataset of research results. Our centre also had several eminent national and international visitors. We additionally won the opportunity to put together a conference on cosmology for the BRICS countries. Within a period of over 3 years, we published close to 40 research papers in high quality journals of international repute.

More recently, I entered into discussions with Ahmedabad University and felt that the vision of the University and the Ahmedabad Education Society was very inspiring. Hence, I chose to move from CHARUSAT to Ahmedabad University to create a similar but more ambitious International Centre for Space and Cosmology research. We have eminent colleagues here, including Gourav Goswami and Raghu Rangarajan. We have now been granted a block for housing the centre and look forward to creating a thriving research and visitors program.

The vision is starting to take shape. We would like develop research in Space and cosmology, and to be welcoming to faculty from across the world to spend time at the Centre, enriching the thinking of our students. Several students have expressed their interest in working at this Centre totake on projects for their PhD studies. We expect to work with students right through from undergraduate to PhD levels. I anticipate that our Centre will provide them the facilities and resources and create a framework for their creativity to prosper.

Please could you share your views on the pulls and pushes of working on fundamental research versus applied research?

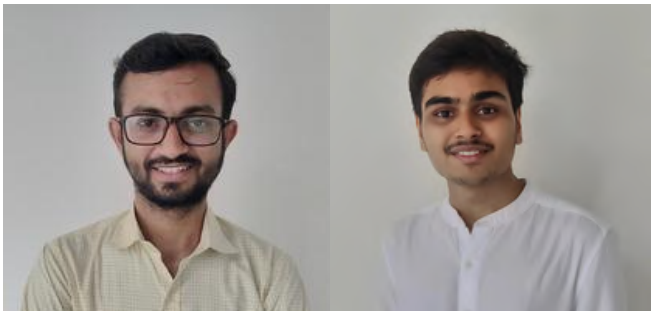
Our University systems will have to gear up to the task of undertaking fundamental research to complement applied work ongoing at organizations such as ISRO. Fundamental research is extremely important, as is the pipeline of basic to applied research. There needs to be sufficient funding for and momentum in fundamental research as well. This is essential before we turn to applied research. What we need is a balance between basic and applied research, for society to reap the benefits of modern science.

More details about the International Centre for Space and Cosmology at *https://ahduni.edu.in/academics/schools-centres/international-centre-for-space-and-cosmology/about-us/*

Young achievers

BTech CSE students from Semester VI, UGRP Scholars **Shivam Thakker and Kathan Joshi** successfully presented a full research paper at the IEEE NCC 2022, held from May 23-27, 2022. The 28th edition of the National Conference on Communication was jointly organised by IIT Bombay, IIT Indore, IIT Dharwad, IIT Gandhinagar and IIT Goa.

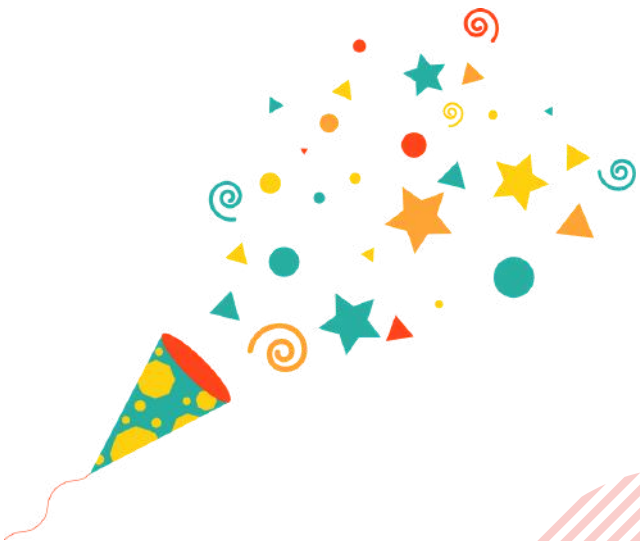
Publication details:
Thakker S. Patel D., Joshi K.S. and Lopez-Benitez M (2022). Modelling the Impact of Multiple Pro-inflammatory Cytokines Using Molecular Communication. 022 National Conference on Communications (NCC), 291-296, doi: 10.1109/NCC55593.2022.9806804.

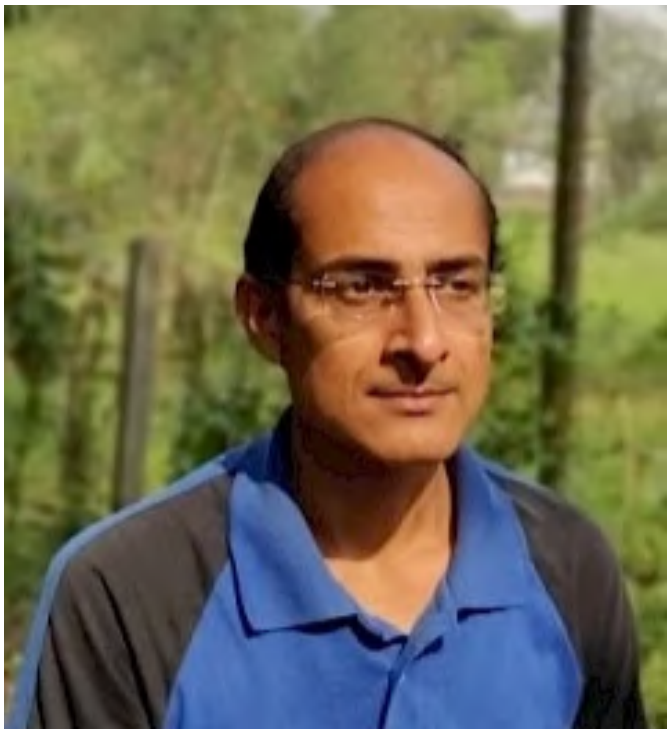


Shivam Thakker Kathan Joshi

Maitrik Shah was awarded a travel grant of 1220 USD for attending the International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS 2022) held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in July 2022.

Publication details: Shah M., Raval M. & Divakaran S. (2022). A Deep Learning Perspective to Atmospheric Correction of Satellite Images.IEEEiGARSS 2022, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,May 17-22.





In conversation with Neel Kamal Chapagain

Professor Neel Kamal Chapagain is an Associate Professor at Ahmedabad University and additionally the Director of the Centre for Heritage Management at the University. We spoke to him about his research and ongoing programs at the Centre. Excerpts from the conversation.

Please could you tell us about your research interests?

I am currently working at the intersections of the broader ideas of heritage and interpretation/education. These two areas then have a few threads that I am interested in, for example – the heritage thread leads me to examine the historic evolution of heritage discourses as a way to understand and argue what heritage would or could mean in today's contexts. In this exploration, one needs to consider not only the plurality of heritage discourses but specific underlined complexities both in terms of concepts and practices, for example – the notions of authenticity or conservation/preservation on the one hand, and the non-conforming perceptions and practices on heritage, particularly in South Asian contexts. The interpretation and education thread leads me to connect to what I have been working on at Ahmedabad University for the past almost ten years now, that is to work on pedagogy and educational frameworks for professional education for diverse aspects within the heritage sector, but also to think ways of connecting to general public by way of interpretation or educational programmes. Both of these threads have recently led me to look into the broader educational practices – both at childhood as well as higher education.

Please could you share with us some highlights of initiatives via the Centre for Heritage Management, at Ahmedabad University

Centre for Heritage Management fits well into the higher education question that I mention earlier. As I have been involved at the Centre from the very beginning, the work here – particularly the Masters degree programme in Heritage Management, has been directly related to my interests as I just explained. The Masters programme is now recognised as a feasible model of professional or higher education on heritage management both in India as well as broadly in the Asia Pacific region. The Centre has been actively involved in two major networks of higher education institutions on heritage education in the Asia Pacific region, both supported by UNESCO. I have had the opportunity to share my own research around heritage education in multiple occasions among colleagues from the Asia Pacific region. This has been directly related to the drafting of a Competency Framework for Cultural Heritage Management as well as relating the competency framework to academic programmes. On our own, the Centre has been hosting a Journal of Heritage Management and an annual international conference series on Heritage Management Education and Practice.

In recent years, we have also taken interest in exploring explicit relations to the business management strategies, and my colleague Ioannis Poulios has been instrumental in that. We are also looking into technical conservation issues, and my colleague Aditya Prakash Kanth has been setting up a small laboratory and some research and training initiatives on that front. Another initiative at the Centre is called Heritage Learning Lab through which some of our graduates have been trying to help some villages in Kutch – as a pilot, to connect the heritage idea at the ground level to support local development planning processes. So, we are growing and exploring many ways in which heritage research and practice can make tangible impacts on society.

Please could you tell us about capacity building efforts via the Centre? Why is this important for India and the world?

The Centre looks for projects where there is learning and research opportunity. Hence, several of our projects have had a capacity building component in it. As we grow in numbers of our graduates, we hope to increase our impact and reach to demonstrate a holistic heritage management approach. Countries like India have so much heritage contexts that could be tapped into achieving sustainable development in different ways, hence capacity building of a range of stakeholders is very important. The United Nations has also recognised that heritage plays an important role in realising the Sustainable Development Goals.

In conversation with Madhavan Chalat

Madhavan Chalat is the newly appointed Grant Manager at the University Grants Office, Ahmedabad University. Prior to joining Ahmedabad University, he was a Senior Grants Adviser at the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, a major funder of Biomedical research in India. We spoke to him about his career path and administration of research funding. Excerpts from the conversation.

Please could you share your professional journey prior to joining Ahmedabad University?

I was born in Kerala and grew up in the coastal city of Vishakhapatnam. I moved to Chennai to pursue my doctoral research in Biotechnology at Anna University, where I worked on characterizing the transport of molecules across Connexin channels in the plasma membrane of cells. During my graduate studies, I used several biophysical techniques to understand these processes, including electrophysiology and Raman spectroscopy. Following my PhD, I worked for a while at a Physics laboratory in IIT Madras, trying to set up a giant unilamellar vesicles system for studying the properties of biological membranes. I then moved from there to start my postdoctoral research at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, where I studied membrane proteins called Flippases. From New York, I went to Vancouver at the University of British Columbia, for a second post doctoral stint. I then returned to India in 2016 and joined the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance in Hyderabad, to develop my career as a grant administrator.

Please could you tell us what led you to a career at the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance?

A PhD is an opportunity to study a subject at depth and also a journey to understand oneself. Through the process of working at different institutions in India and abroad, I had the opportunity to observe how science is done in different settings.

This made me reflect on what could be done to truly realize the talent and potential that exists in India. At some point, I also felt that my true calling was in using my skills and knowledge built over all these years, to helping other achieve their true potential in research. Hence I started searching for opportunities in administration and the role at the India Alliance came my way.

Please could you share what a typical day in the life of a Grants administrator at the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance is like?

Working at the India Alliance was an amazing opportunity to interact with very bright researchers and to look at diverse and very interesting research across the spectrum of biomedical research. A large part of our work was devoted to addressing the needs of researchers and grantees and aiding them in finding solutions to specific problems relating to their grants. It was also wonderful to interact with members of the selection committees, who were often from different countries and areas of research. Their commitment to ensuring that the right kind of researchers were identified and mentored, was remarkable.

As in any office, a typical day would start with checking emails to see if there were any emails with queries from current awardees or potential applicants. With incoming applications, we would review the applications, make notes, arrange international peer-review for the proposals and undertake meetings with internal and external stakeholders. After 5-plus years of having been at the organization, as a senior member of the staff, a very big part of my day additionally included mentoring junior colleagues.

A funded project is a partnership between the PI, the institution and the Funding Agency. At the post-award stages, we were involved in the administration of the award, ensuring that all information was in place for our finance team, reporting was on track and the awardees were able to navigate the complexity of their projects. We would receive requests for supplementary funding, grant transfers, maternity leave and extension requests and others. We helped the awardees to get their research on the ground running as smoothly as possible, within the framework of the India Alliance policies and procedures.

As staff, we would also travel across the country to conduct outreach sessions, which of course were replaced by virtual webinars during the pandemic. We would conduct training workshops and also specific outreach sessions relating to ongoing India Alliance funding competitions. The India Alliance mission is both to identify good researchers and research programs and to mentor researchers in putting together grant applications that meet high international standards. To this end, we conducted grant-writing workshops for researchers to learn to construct the different parts of a grant application, including the budget. It was very fulfilling to see applicants respond positively to our help and prepare good proposals.

What do you look forward to at Ahmedabad University?

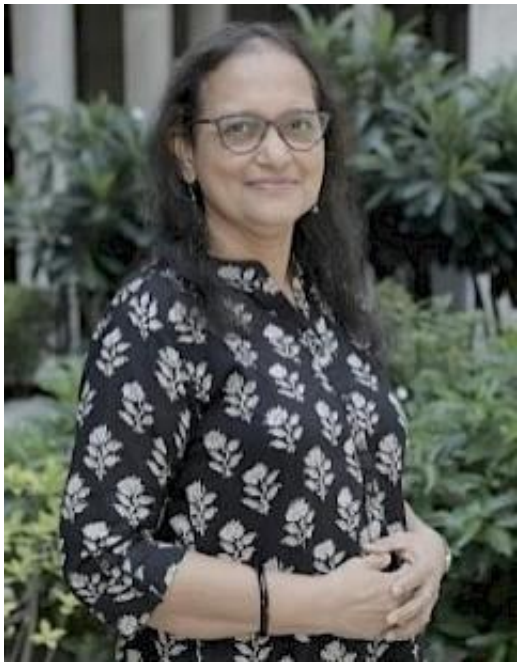
I very much look forward to getting to know the researchers at Ahmedabad University and being involved in helping them with their grant funding at a closer level.Throughout my academic life and until now while working as a grants administrator at the India Alliance, I have mostly interacted with biologists, physicists working on biology, mathematicians and engineers. The scope of research at Ahmedabad University is broader and I look forward to working closely with the researchers.

Dr Chalat at a Grant Writing Workshop.

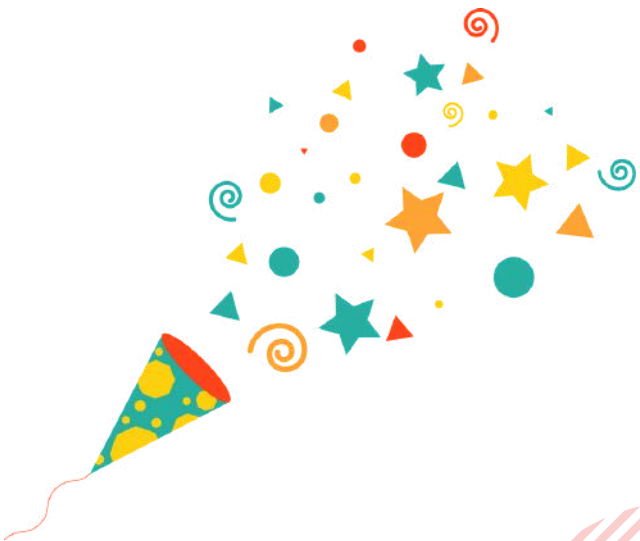
Honours

The General Body of the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) has invited Professor Jeemol Unni, Ahmedabad University to be the Conference President of the 63rd Labour Economics Conference of the ISLE.

The Indian Society of Labour Economics, founded in 1957 by the late Mr. V.V. Giri, veteran trade unionist and former President of India, is a leading professional body of economists, other social scientists and practitioners with interests in labour, development, employment, industrial relations, human resource development and related issues. The Annual Conference of the Society is an important forum in the country for deliberations on labour and employment issues.



Professor Jeemol Unni



Awarded grants

(For the period April- June 2022

External grants:

Dharamashi Rabari
"Self-aggregation Behavior of Surfactants in Novel Synthesized Deep Eutectic Solvents."
UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research
0.45 lakh INR, 1 year

Dhaval Patel, Ahmedabad University; Mehul S Raval, Ahmedabad University and Mukesh Zaveri, NIT- Surat
"**Design and Development of 5G Enabled Intelligent Transportation System in Gujarat."**
Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST)
22.1 lakh INR, 3 years

Mehul Raval, Ahmedabad University and Paawan Sharma, School of Technology, PDPU
"Semantic Person Retrieval in Surveillance"
Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST)
33.18 lakh INR, 3 years

Ahmedabad University Seed grants:
Moumita Roy
The Effects of Financial Aid on Educational Choices of Students - An experimental analysis
2.0 lakh INR, 1 year

Neekamal Chapagain
Heritage Dilemma at the 15th c Walled Town of Lomanthang, Nepal: Implications of Changes in Policy and Governance Systems in Nepal in the past three decades (1992 - 2022)
1.6 lakh INR, 1 year

Sridhar Dalai
Influence of Mg/SiO2 molar ratio and annealing temperature on the structure and morphology of waste glass derived silicon nanomaterial
1.75 lakh INR, 1.5 year

Vivek Tanavde
Development of an assay for enumerating extracellular vesicles by flow cytometry.
2 lakh INR, 2 years

Jayendra Bhalodiya
Cardiomyopathy TeleConsultation App
2 lakh INR, 1 year

Atul Kumar
The effect of attachment security on consumers' price sensitivity
2 lakh INR, 1.5 years

Dhaval Patel
Development of Cohda Wireless 5G Testbed for Intelligent Transportation
2 lakh INR, 1 year

Awarded grants

(For the period April- June 2022

Ahmedabad University Startup grants:

Suchismita Das
Cultural Analysis Of Environmental Precarity And Adaptation In The Eastern Himalayas
7.4 lakh INR, 3 years

Raghwinder Singh
Detection of electromagnetically induced transparency of perfect cylindrical vector vortex beam in warm rubidium vapor
25 lakh INR, 3 years

Research seminars

(For the period April- May 2022)

Amrut Mody School of Management

Amrita Bihani, Assistant Professor, Management and Organizations area, Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University, *The role of Perception of Talent Management impacting Employee Outcomes Case: Conflictorium – A Museum of Conflict* , May 30, 2022.

Poonam Dugar, Assistant Professor, Finance Accounting and Control area, Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University, *Antecedents of Stage Wise Investment Preferences of Venture Capital and Private Equity Firms in India – An Empirical Exploration*, May 31, 2022.

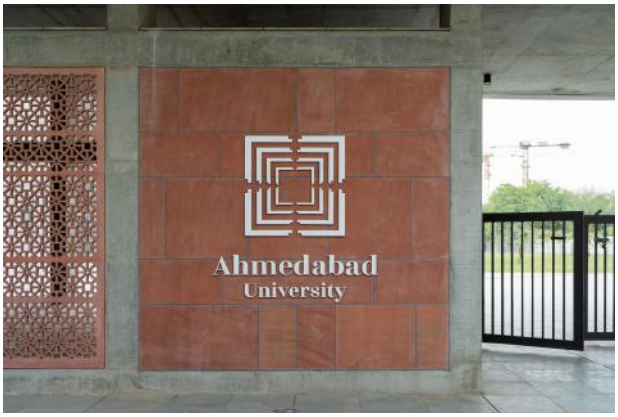
School of Arts and Sciences

Arul Laxminarayan, IIT Madras. *36 Entangled Officers of Euler: A Quantum Solution to a Classically Impossible Problem*. April 6, 2022 David Enoch, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Politics and Suffering, April 8, 2022

Sugandha Nagpal, O P Jindal Global University. *Education, Mobility and Self-Making of Middle Class Dalit Women*. April 20, 2022

Shruti Kapila, University of Cambridge. *Indian political thought in the global age*. April 20, 2022

Sudipta Sarkar, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar. *Towards Relativity :Einstein and his compass*. April 25, 2022



Research publications

(For the period April-May 2022)

Articles in Refereed Journals

Patel R. & Thomas S. (2022). Testing the Influence of Donation Message-framing, Donation Size, and Product Type (Androgynous Luxury: Hedonic Vs. Eco-friendly: Utilitarian) on CRM Participation Intention. Journal of Nonprofit & Public Sector Marketing (ABDC B), 1-23. doi.org/10.1080/10495142.2022.2066600.

Pandit S. (2022). Coping Resources of Young People Experiencing COVID-19 Second Wave, in India: A Preliminary Study . Journal of Psychosocial Research , Vol. 17, No. 1, 2022, 189-199 (1), 189-199. DOI No. : https://doi.org/10.32381/JPR.2022.17.01.16.

Kushwaha N., Nagina C. & Adhvaryu B. (2022). Ineffectual transference of SDGs as local level indicators: Tracing India's path to Agenda 2030. ECS Transactions, 107(1), 59-68. https://doi.org/10.1149/10701.0059ecst.

Mathew L. (2022). Festivalization of rigor: Productivity of masti [playfulness] at a pharmacy college in India. Anthropology and Education Quarterly, 53(2), 167-186.

Shukla A. (2022). Pullback of Klingen Eisenstein series and certain critical L-values identities. Ramanujan Journal, 55(2), 471-495.

Dixit A. (2022). Effectiveness of carbon tax and congestion cost in improving the airline industry greening level and welfare: A case of two competing airlines. Journal of air transport management, 100(102182), 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jairtraman.2022.102182 .

Mehta M. (06-2022). Pandemic: A moment of reckoning for the Indian middle class. Economic and Political Weekly, Online section of Engage.

Mallick S., Raval H. & Ghosal R. (2022). Larger versus smaller heterospecifics: shoaling behavior in orange chromides, an endemic cichlid of the Indian subcontinent. Marine and Freshwater Behaviour and Physiology.

Panchal N., Desai C. & Ghosal R. (2022). Effects of enrichment and ambient temperature on stress physiology of leopards under captive conditions.

Hussan A., Sundaray J., Ghosal R., Hoque F. & Mallick S. (2022). Skeletal Deformities in Invaded Population of Amazon Sailfin Catfish Pterygoplichthys pardalis (Castelnau, 1855) in the East Kolkata Wetland, India. International Journal of Bio-resource and Stress Management, 13(4), 326-331.

Ghosal R., Coulter A. & Sorensen P. (2022). Proof-of-concept studies demonstrate that food and pheromonal stimuli can be used to induce invasive carp to aggregate so they can more easily and accurately measured using environmental DNA. Fishes.

Niranjana T. (2022). With Eunsoo Lee, "Digital intimacies: friends, lovers and families in contemporary Asia" . Inter-Asia Cultural Studies (a refereed cultural studies and new social movements journal), 23(2).

Gandhi C., Kumar A., Vashist G., Tang H., Rai A. & Xiang . (2022). Maximal overlap discrete wavelet packet transforms and variants of neutrosophic cubic cross-entropy-based identification of rotor defects. Measurement Science and Technology, 33(8), 085107. ttps://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6501/ac6001.

Pathak B., Maurya C., Faria M., Alizada Z., Nandy S., Jamsheer M. & Srivastava V. (2022). Targeting TOR and SnRK1 Genes in Rice with CRISPR/Cas9. Plants, 11(11), 1453. https://doi.org/10.3390/plants11111453.

Chaudhary S. (2022). Smart offload chain: a proposed architecture for blockchain assisted fog offloading in smart city. International Journal of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 12(4), 4137-4145. http://doi.org/10.11591/ijece.v12i4,4137-4145.

Soni B., Patel D., Ding Z., Guan Y. & Sun S. (2022). On Sensing Performance of Multi-Antenna Mobile Cognitive Radio Conditioned on Primary User Activity Statistics. IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications, 21(5), 3381-3394. https://doi.org/10.1109/TWC.2021.3121130.

James R., Jesus C. & Saxena S. (2022). Developing the concept of leaveism: From presenteeism/absence to an emergent and expanding domain of employment. Human Resource Management Journal, https://doi.org/10.1111/1748-8583.12452(https://doi.org/10.1111/1748-8583.12452), https://doi.org/10.1111/1748-8583.12452.

Research publications

(For the period April-May 2022)

Articles in Refereed Journals

George N. & Egner T. (2022). Stimulus variability and task relevance modulate binding-learning. Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics, 84(4), 1151-1166. 10.3758/s13414-021-02338-6.

Kuril S. (2022). The influence of remote work communication satisfaction and CSR association on employee alienation and job satisfaction: a moderated-mediation study. Information Technology & People, 10.1108/ITP-01-2021-0030.

Mukherji S. 2022). Totally asymmetric simple exclusion process with particle annihilation. Journal of Statistical Mechanics: Theory and Experiment, 2022(053207) . https://doi.org/10.1088/1742-5468/ac68ec.

Published books

Pandit S. (2022). Decolonising Consciousness: Philosophy, Indian Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience.New Delhi : Shilpa Ashok Pandit.

Shukla R., Kapoor N. & Badiye A. (2022). FORENSIC MICROSCOPY- Truth under the Lenses.Boca Raton, Florida, United States:CRC Press.

Mathew L. (2022). English Linguistic Imperialism from Below: Moral Aspiration and Social Mobility.Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters.

Chand V., Kuril S. & Deshmukh K. (2022). Teacher Development in India – Building on Grassroots Innovations and Technology. London, New Delhi: Routledge.

Articles published in Conference proceedings

Unni J. (2022). Private Investment in Education and Linkages to Future Employment in India: Will th epandemic take its toll?. 62nd Labour Economics Conference, Indian Society of Labour Economics, April 11-13, 2022, IIT Roorkee, Uttarakand, April 11-13. Book of Abstracts pp. 10-10.

Lad A. & S Raval M. (2022). Improving wheat head detection: a data-centric approach by domain variance reduction. SAC '22: Proceedings of the 37th ACM/SIGAPP Symposium on Applied Computing, April 25-29. 1140-1143.

Ghosh M., Khuntia S. & Dalai S. (2022). Effect of Molar Ratio of Feed on the Facile Synthesis of Silicon Nano-Sheets from Laboratory Waste Glass. Springer Proceedings in Materials, November 19-21.

Rathod P. & Naik S. (2022).Review on Epilepsy Detection with Explainable Artificial Intelligence. 10th IEEE International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering & Technology-Signal and Information Processing (ICETET-SIP-22),April 29-30.

Sharma S., Divakaran S., Tolga K. & Raval M. (2022). A Hybrid Approach for Interpretable Game Performance Prediction in Basketball. International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2022), Padua, Italy, July 18-23, 2022., May 18-23.

Shah M., Raval M. & Divakaran S. (2022). A Deep Learning Perspective to Atmospheric Correction of Satellite Images. IEEEiGARSS 2022, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 17-22.

Thakker S. Patel D., Joshi K.S. and Lopez-Benitez M (2022). Modelling the Impact of Multiple Pro-inflammatory Cytokines Using Molecular Communication. 022 National Conference on Communications (NCC), 291-296, doi: 10.1109/NCC55593.2022.9806804. 23-27 May 2022.

Funding compendium

RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES

Funder: DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance
Scheme: Early Career Fellowship (basic biomedical research)
Remit: Full spectrum of basic biomedical science from fundamental molecular and cellular biology to ecology and evolution. Interdisciplinary projects are welcome
Eligibility: Applicant must be in the final year of PhD or have no more than four years of post-PhD research experience from the date of PhD viva to the invited full application submission deadline (tentatively in December 2022 for the current round of competition); due consideration will be given to justified non-research career breaks. Applicant may either have completed or be pursuing PhD in any discipline of science; however, the proposed research work must be within the funding remit of India Alliance. There are no restrictions based on age or nationality Applicant need not be resident in India while applying, but should be aspiring to launch an independent research career in India. Applicant must choose a not-for-profit host institution in India that will administer the Fellowship for the full duration (5 years) of the award in line with India Alliance award conditions and policies. Applicant may or may not have a faculty position
Deadline: September 16, 2022 (02.00pm)
Weblink: https://indiaalliance.org/news/ecf-basicbiomed-publicity
Application process: Preliminary application forms will be available from 9 AM on 19 August 2022 on the India Alliance online application System (IASys) at https://grants.indiaalliance.org/Login.aspx

Funder: Mathematics and Physical Sciences Division, The Simon's Foundation
Scheme: Targeted Grants to Institutes program (institutional grant)
Remit:
·Intended to support established institutes or centers in mathematics, theoretical physics and theoretical computer science through funding to help strengthen contacts within the international scientific community.
·To enable institutes to extend and enhance their missions; this program will not provide primary support for operating or establishing an institute.
Eligibility: Established public and private educational and nonprofit institutes and research centers applying via single applicants
Deadline: 21 September 2022
Weblink: https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/targeted-grants-to-institutes/
Application process: online, through proposalCENTRAL (https://proposalcentral.com/)

Funder: Department of Biotechnology (Government of India) with Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
Scheme: Ind-CEPI Mission - Epidemic preparedness through rapid vaccine development
Deadline: 31 December 2022
Remit: Support of Indian vaccine development aligned with the global initiative of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) under the following focus areas:
·RNA vaccine platform technologies and vaccine library development against emerging and select endemic infectious diseases, Focus Area-2 (open until December 31, 2022)
·Innovative technologies to improve vaccine thermostability (open until December 31, 2022)
Weblink: https://cepi.net/get_involved/cfps/
Application process: EoI (templates are accessible via https://cepi.net/get_involved/cfps/) to be submitted through a secured portal access to which can be obtained by writing to rna.cfp@cepi.net.

Funder: Department of Science and Technology
Scheme: Advanced Materials and Energy Storage Technology (AMEST) Programme
Remit: The outcome of the call of this theme will lead to energy storage technologies ready for commercialization, with the perspective to capture specific systems integration opportunities. Projects leading to develop a device/prototype with Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 5 & above and having potential for commercialization will be preferred for financial support. More details of the recommended themes and expectations available at the weblink given below.
Eligibility: Scientists/ Engineers/ Technologists working in universities and other Academic institutions; R&D institutions/ laboratories having adequate infrastructure and facilities to carry out R&D work. The PI(s) should have relevant experience as evident from previous prototype commercialization or development or practical experience in the chosen area/topic with field knowledge.
The PI or groups already having ongoing projects under Technology Mission Division Programme of DST may apply after successfully completing the same only.
Deadline: September 30, 2022 (05:30pm)
Weblink: https://dst.gov.in/callforproposals/call-proposals-advanced-materials-and-energy-storage-technology-amest-2022
Application process: through ONLINE MODE ONLY (www.onlinedst.gov.in)

Funding compendium

RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES

Funder: Department of Biotechnology
Scheme: Host directed therapies against TB
Remit: To support research proposals for lead optimization, preclinical studies, development of clinical trial protocols and conduct of proof-of-concept clinical trials for TB treatment using host- directed agents. Of particular interest will be proposals aimed at shortening of TB therapy using adjunct host-directed therapies.
Eligibility:
i. Eligible Organizations
a. Central/State Govt. Institutions of higher education and research.
b. Private Institutions of higher education and research.
ii. Required Registrations
a. The institution must be recognized by DSIR as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO).
b. Private institutions/ NGOs should also be registered with Darpan Portal, Niti Aayog
Deadline: September 15, 2022
Weblink: https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/RFA-%20Host%20directed%20therapies%20against%20TB_0.pdf
Application process: Proposals should be submitted online only in the DBT R&D format through DBT eProMIS (http://dbtepromis.nic.in/Login.aspx) under Area-'Infectious Disease Biology-1: Bacterial & Fungal' clearly stating 'Against Call for Proposals'.

Funder: Sree Padmavathi Venkateswara Foundation (SreePVF)
About the Foundation: The SreePVF Foundation has a vision for betterment of humanity and recognizing that in addition to the government, Private Foundations and Trusts should also support research and technology through grants, SreePVF has constituted Sree Ramakrishna Paramahamsa Research Grants.
Scheme: Sree Ramakrishna Paramahamsa Research Grant 2022 For Biomedical Research
Remit: To support cutting-edge "Bench to Bedside" translational projects with value to humans. Any project designed to address a focused disease related topic with cutting-edge techniques and analysis will be eligible to apply.
Team Structure:Interested individuals and teams from universities, R&D institutions, medical centers and recognized non-profit research organizations in India are eligible to apply. The proposals can be from a single institution or multi-institutional. International collaborations are also eligible, however the lead organization must be based in India.
Budget provisions: Up to Rs 3 crores over project period
Duration: 3 years
Deadline: 18th August 2022
Weblink: http://sreepadmavathivenkateswarafoundation.org/
2021 round awardee team details: https://www.sreepadmavathivenkateswarafoundation.org/research-grant-2021-award-announced/

Funder: Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative
Scheme: Genomics of ASD: Pathways to Biological Convergence and Genetic Therapies
Remit: To improve our understanding of the molecular and cellular consequences of genetic risk for ASD, and to provide a foundation for the development of new therapies. Special emphasis is placed on the use of scalable methods, especially as applied to genes that are suitable targets for genetic therapies.
Eligibility: All applicants and key collaborators must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or the equivalent at a college, university, medical school or other research facility. There are no citizenship or country requirements.
Deadline: 18 August 2022
Weblink:https://www.sfari.org/grant/genomics-of-asd-pathways-to-genetic-therapies-request-for-applications/
Application process: online, through proposalCENTRAL (https://proposalcentral.com/)

Funding compendium

RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES

Agency: Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Scheme: King Climate Action Initiative (K-CAI)
Remit: rigorous randomized evaluations and scale-ups of effective programs and policies to tackle the four greatest climate-related challenges facing our world: climate change mitigation, pollution reduction, climate change adaptation, and energy access.
Eligibility: Open to all J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL postdocs, K-CAI invited researchers, and PhD students who have a J-PAL affiliate or K-CAI invited researcher on their thesis committee
Deadline: 08 September 2022 (EoI); 13 October 2022 (full proposal)
Weblink: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/king-climate-action-initiative
Application process: online, through J-PAL portal

Scheme: Governance Initiatives
Remit: Funds randomized evaluations of strategies to improve governance in low- and middle-income countries
Eligibility: J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL post-docs, and invited researchers are eligible to apply for funding for full-scale evaluations, pilot studies, travel/proposal development grants, and policy outreach grants. PhD students, with support from an adviser who is a J-PAL affiliate or GI-invited researcher, are also eligible to apply for travel/proposal development grants and up to $50,000 for a pilot or full-scale study.
Deadline: 23 September 2022
Weblink: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/governance-initiative
Application process: Application format available on the funder website

Scheme: Gender and Economic Agency Initiative
Remit: Funds randomized evaluations of strategies to enhance women's economic agency
Eligibility: Open to J-PAL affiliated professors and GEA invited researchers
Deadline: 01 September 2022 (LoI)
Weblink: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/gender-and-economic-agency-initiative
Application process: online, through J-PAL portal

Scheme: Digital Agricultural Innovations and Services Initiative
Remit: Funds research to rigorously evaluate programs that increase the availability, quality, and reach of bundled digital agricultural solutions and services for small-scale agricultural producers.
Eligibility: Open to J-PAL and CEGA affiliated professors and all active invited researchers to any J-PAL initiative or J-PAL regional office
Deadline: 18 August 2022 (LoI); 29 September 2022 (full proposal)
Weblink: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/digital-agricultural-innovations-and-services-initiative-daisi
Application process: online, through J-PAL portal

Scheme: Crime and Violence Initiative
Remit: Fosters experimental research on crime and social and political violence. The initiative funds evaluations that focus on preventing, mitigating, and responding to the effects of crime and violence.
Eligibility: Open to J-PAL affiliates, J-PAL postdocs, invited researchers, and PhD students who have a J-PAL affiliate or invited researcher on their thesis committee.
Deadline: 23 September 2022
Weblink: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/crime-and-violence-initiative
Application process: Completed applications should be submitted via email to cvi@povertyactionlab.org; application material available on the website.

Scheme: Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative
Remit: To rigorously test programs that increase farmer welfare through the broader use of productive technologies in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
Eligibility: Open to J-PAL and CEGA affiliated professors and all active invited researchers to any J-PAL initiative or J-PAL regional office.
Deadline: 01 September 2022 (LoI); 13 October 2022 (full proposal)
Weblink: https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative/atai-request-proposals
Application process: online, through J-PAL portal.

Funding compendium

RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES

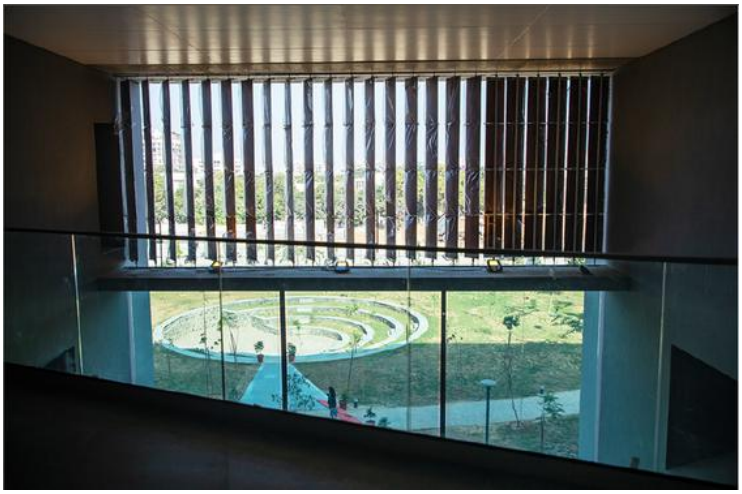
Funder: Science and Engineering Research Board
Scheme: SERB-POWER Research Grants Level II
Remit: To encourage emerging and eminent women researchers for individual-centric and competitive mode of research funding to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering.
Duration: 3 years
Eligibility: Open to women researchers who are citizens of India and hold a regular academic/research position in a recognized academic institution or national laboratory or in any other recognized R&D institution in India.
Deadline: 30 September 2022 (applications open: 01 September 2022)
Weblink: https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/serbPowerInstructions?HomePage=New
Application process: online, through SERB website

Funder: Science and Engineering Research Board
Scheme: SERB International Research Experience (SIRE)
Remit: To impart high-end research training in frontier areas of Science and Technology, which are of interest to India by providing opportunity to visit leading institutions/universities across the globe.
Duration: 02-06 months
Eligibility: Open to Indian nationals who have Ph.D. degree in the area of Science and Engineering from recognized institutions in India and hold a permanent position in any Indian research and academic institution. Applicants having MBBS / MD degree and Veterinary doctors are also eligible to apply.
Deadline: 30 August 2022 (applications open: 01 August 2022)
Weblink: https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/Sire
Application process: online, through SERB website

Funder: International Growth Centre
Scheme: Full research grants and small research grants
Scheme remit: research projects relevant to promoting sustainable growth in developing countries that address key growth challenges connected to one of the following four themes, with a particular interest in those related to building resilience and promoting sustainable growth.

- Firms, trade and productivity
- State effectiveness
- Cities
- Energy and environment

Eligibility: Any researcher, including PhD students and researchers based in developing countries. Strong emphasis on research in IGC resident countries.
Deadline: 30 September 2022
Weblink: https://www.theigc.org/funding/call-for-proposals/
Submission process: Online, through IGC website (https://www.theigc.org/funding/call-for-proposals/how-to-apply/)



Funding compendium

FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATIONS

Funder: Department of Biotechnology and Department of Bioethics, National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Scheme: Indo-US Clinical Research Ethics Fellowship
Scheme remit: To create leaders in the field of bioethics with the aim to create capacity in the area of clinical research ethics. After completion of the project, the fellows are expected to work towards capacity building in the area of clinical research ethics in India and establishment of centres of excellence.
Duration: 3 years
Deadline: 29 September 2022
Weblink: https://birac.nic.in/cfp_view.php?id=74&scheme_type=8
Submission process: Online through BIRAC website (www.birac.nic.in)

Funder: Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and IC-IMPACTS Centres of Excellence, Canada
Scheme: Building Resilient And Carbon-Neutral Communities Post COVID
Scheme remit: Addressing the issues faced by remote and rural communities in the post COVID world. The following 4 areas are proposed under this Joint Call:

- Agritech and Food Security (DBT and IC-IMPACTS)
- Carbon Reduction in Our Built Environment (DST and IC-IMPACTS)
- Water (DST and IC-IMPACTS)
- Health, Post COVID Health Issues and Long COVID(DBT and IC-IMPACTS)

Duration: 24 months
Deadline: 31 August 2022
Weblink: https://dbtindia.gov.in/https%3A//dbtindia.gov.in/whats-new/call-for-proposals
Submission process: Each application to be submitted to both the relevant Indian agency and IC-IMPACTS. Applications to DBT/DST through online portals (e-PMS or eProMIS). Additionally, a hard copy of the application to be sent to DST through the proper channel.

Funders: Department of Biotechnology & NEI-NIH
Scheme: India-U.S. Collaborative Vision Research Program (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
Scheme remit: Multiple Principal Investigator (Multi-PD/PI) applications from United States (U.S.) and Indian institution as bilateral collaborations that will advance science and technology important to understanding, preventing, and treating blinding eye diseases, visual disorders, and their complications. Applications are encouraged from organization/institutions that propose to conduct research on the basic biology and/or genetics of ophthalmic diseases through collaborations with Indian investigators on the following: diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, including rare and genetic diseases such as congenital cataracts, as well as other eye conditions such as ocular inflammation/uveitis, refractive error, low vision, and corneal injury. Basic, translational, or epidemiological research maybe proposed.
Duration: up to 2 years
Deadline: November 01, 2022 (online);
Weblink: https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/FOA%20Indo-US%20Vision%20Research%202022%20with%20Annexure%20I.pdf
Submission process:
Each application needs to be submitted to both DBT & NIH otherwise will be disqualified.
For the submission to DBT:
Please apply through this link; https://dbtepromis.nic.in/Login.aspx
Steps for submission:
a. Please login to eProMIS account (https://dbtepromis.nic.in/Login.aspx)
b. Go to International Cooperation-Bilateral Programs area
c. Open Call link for Indo-US Joint Call on Vision Research
d. Submit proposal

Funding compendium

FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATIONS

Funders: Department of Science and Technology and the State Committee of Scientific Research of Belarus
Scheme: India-Belarus Joint Research Programme
Scheme remit: Joint Research Projects in following areas:
(1) Information and Communication Technologies with focus on Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Machine Learning, Cloud Services
(2) Biotechnology including Medicine and Pharmacy
(3) New Materials with particular focus on
(i) Additive Manufacturing (AM)
(ii) Powder production for AM and Powder Metallurgy Components
(iii) Nanostructured Materials
(iv) Ceramic Materials
(v) Functional coatings and thin films for various applications
Duration: 2 years
Deadline: September 15, 2022 (online); September 20, 2022 (by post).
Weblink: https://dst.gov.in/callforproposals/india-belarus-joint-call-proposals-0
Submission process:
1. Each application to be submitted simultaneously by a counterpart team in each country by the Leader of a team of scientists in each country (Team Leader), to the respective Implementing Agency of his/her country, simultaneously. Both Applications shall be identical. Since all projects are joint projects, it is expected that consultations would have been held between relevant counterpart Institutions in the other country prior to the submission of an Application. Application should be in English and shall be in the form prescribed by the relevant Implementing Agency.
2. Applications are required to be submitted as follows -
The Indian researchers can download the proposal formats from websites (www.dst.gov.in / www.onlinedst.gov.in) and should submit completed application form and all relevant information by 15th September 2022. Proposals must be submitted to DST through the e-application system provided at www.onlinedst.gov.in. Indian Applicants also requested to send two hard copies (1 original + 2 copies) to DST by 20th September 2022 through proper channel. It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his / her Belarusian counterpart by the due date.
In **the case of Belarusian Applications - for online submission may please see : Russian version - http://www.gknt.gov.by/deyatelnost/konkurs-belorusskoindijskikh-nauchno-tekhnicheskikh-proektov-na-2022-2023-gody.php**

FUNDING FOR ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Funder: Department of Science and Technology
Scheme: Accelerating CCUS Technologies
Scheme remit: an initiative to facilitate the emergence of CO2 Capture,
Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) via transnational funding of projects aimed at accelerating and maturing CCUS technology through targeted innovation and research activities.
Thematic focus: Carbon capture and transportation networks, Point-to-point transportation, Direct carbon conversion, Permanent Storage, Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Enhanced Gas Recovery (EGR), Offshore CO2 storage, Clean Hydrogen Production, Carbon dioxide removal, In-situ carbon mineralization
Team structure: The Indian Project Lead (IPL) (i.e. lead company) must be a commercial (for profit) company under the Indian Companies Act 1956/2013, which operates in and is headquartered in India.

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Each project proposal must be submitted by a project consortium comprised of at least two eligible applicants seeking funding from at least two participating countries / regions
Duration: 3 years
Deadline: 12th September 2022
Weblink: https://dst.gov.in/callforproposals/dst-accelerating-ccus-technologies-act4-call-and-indian-funding-guidelines
ACT Matchmaking: List of interested stakeholders at http://www.act-ccs.eu/matchmaking
Submission process: Proposals shall be submitted to the ACT Secretariat via email at act-ccs@rcn.no as a single PDF file. In addition, submission at national level is required to all funding agencies where funding is requested by the applicants. Details at website.

Funding compendium

FUNDING FOR ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Funder: Department of Science and Technology
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Scheme remit: an initiative to facilitate the emergence of CO2 Capture,
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Duration: 3 years
Deadline: 12th September 2022
Weblink: https://dst.gov.in/callforproposals/dst-accelerating-ccus-technologies-act4-call-and-indian-funding-guidelines
ACT Matchmaking: List of interested stakeholders at http://www.act-ccs.eu/matchmaking
Submission process: Proposals shall be submitted to the ACT Secretariat via email at act-ccs@rcn.no as a single PDF file. In addition, submission at national level is required to all funding agencies where funding is requested by the applicants. Details at website.

Funder: Merck
Scheme: 2022 Research Grants
Thematic focus:

- Drug discovery - 3 grants comprising up to 500,000 euros/year for 3 years with the option of extension.
- AI for predictive diagnostics & therapeutic target discovery - grant comprising between 100,000 - 300,000 $/year for 2 years with the option of extension
- Chemistry in the cloud - Rapid synthesis through automation - 1 grant comprising 100,000 euros / year for 3 years
- Innovation within green chemistry - 1 grant comprising 100,000 euros for 1 year with potential further collaboration
- Sustainability in healthcare R&D - 1 grant comprising 100,000 euros for 1 year

Team structure: The Indian Project Lead (IPL) (i.e. lead company) must be a commercial (for profit) company under the Indian Companies Act 1956/2013, which operates in and is headquartered in India.

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Successful proposals will require collaborative teams including Merck researchers.
Deadline: 31st August 2022 for first stage applications
Weblink: https://www.merckgroup.com/en/research/open-innovation/research-grants.html

Funding compendium

FUNDING FOR ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Funder: Indo-Swedish consortium, including DBT, DST, BIRAC, MoES, FORMAS, VINNOVA, Forte, Swedish Research Council and Swedish Energy Agency
Scheme: Indo-Swedish Joint Call for Proposals within Circular Economy
Research areas supported::
1. Challenges related to value chains, for example material flows such as electronic, textile, energy, recycling processes as well as mining wastes (DST)
2. Comparative studies and projects analysing the short- and long-term effects of circular Initiatives (DST)
3. Life sciences and health (DBT, BIRAC supporting industry components)
4. Marine litter (MoES)
5. Societal challenges for transition to a circular economy, for example policies, government, etcetera, as well as aspects relevant for the citizens (DST)
6. Business models for a circular economy (DST)
7. Welfare, including work-life (DST)
8. Circular economy and the citizens, for example behaviour, nudging, cultural and social values. (DST)

Team structure: Participation from different types of actors is encouraged, such as registered companies (including LLP), universities, university hospitals, research institutes or other relevant actors.
Budget provisions: On Indian side, as per funding agency norms, as detailed on website
Duration: 3 years
Deadline: 17 August 2022
Weblink: https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/Call%20text%20CE%20Sweden%20India.pdf
Application process: On the Indian side, via the submission process for DST, DBT, BIIRAC and MoES as applicable. On Swedish side, via FORMAS portal

FUNDING FOR CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Funder: Indian Council of Social Sciences Research
Scheme: Organizing Seminars/Workshops to Celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'
Scheme remit: To document our unsung heroes, lesser known personalities and places that have made invaluable contributions in the freedom struggle of India. Additional information related to the themes and sub-themes under focus is available on the weblink given below.
Weblink: https://icssr.org/seminarsconferencesworkshops-azadi-ka-amrit-mahotsav
Submission process: online and through post; details available here: https://icssr.org/seminarsconferencesworkshops-india.

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All requests for research funding from internal and external sources should be sent to the University Research Board for approval, via the Grants Portal.

Details of intramural funding available via Ahmedabad University are available in the University Research Board Policy Document. This includes Start-up grants, Seed grants, University Challenge grants, Teaching Material Development/Innovation grants and Conference Travel support. Previous editions of the Research Horizons Newsletter can be accessed at *https://ahduni.edu.in/academics/schools-centres/graduate-school/research/university-grants-office/*. For suggestions on the Funding compendium, please contact the Dean of Graduate School and Research at urb@ahduni.edu.in.

Ahmedabad University