

## Scientific Report

The Biophysical Society thematic meeting titled "*Lipid-Protein Interactions in Membranes: Implications for Health and Disease*" held at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, India, (1-5 November), turned out to be a huge success. This meeting's aim was to bring leading researchers across various areas of contemporary membrane research so that the novel information and insight gathered in the meeting would help develop robust models for function and interaction of membrane proteins. This will enhance our ability to design better therapeutic strategies to combat diseases related to malfunctioning of membrane proteins and receptors.

The meeting consisted of 27 invited lectures, 7 short lectures chosen from abstracts and 60 posters. The meeting had a global and diverse character with participants from 14 countries. The conference had 6 female invited speakers and a large number of female participants who presented posters.

The sessions were organized in such a way that mornings and evenings were devoted to lectures, while posters were presented in the afternoon. This arrangement ensured that there was enough time for poster presentation and discussion. The poster presentation area also had supplies of coffee, tea and snacks. Six posters were chosen for poster awards by a panel of judges.

The lectures covered a broad range of area which include computational, membrane biophysics, model membrane studies of lipid-protein interactions and cellular biophysics. Each lecture was followed by a number of questions and this helped to generate a good discussion during the lecture and in the coffee breaks following the lecture. Since the meeting was organized in a research institution (CCMB), the style of the meeting was informal and was conducive for ample interaction. Some participants also interacted with other faculty members of the institution who have overlap with their area of research with that of the meeting. Faculty members from the institute were invited to some of the dinners to facilitate such interaction.

The evolving consensus from the meeting appears to be that in spite of tremendous recent success on crystallography of membrane proteins, understanding the functional relevance of lipid-protein interactions still poses considerable challenge. The message that emerged from many of the talks is that a judicious combination of computational, biophysical, biochemical and cell biological approaches toward this goal would be most efficient in deciphering this important contemporary biological problem. This would also help in understanding the molecular basis of some neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease.

Some photos taken during the meeting are attached.

**Recipients of ISN Fellowship (in US\$)**  
(Young scientists)

1. Lipi Thukral (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, India)	150.00
2. Jérôme Hénin (Centre national de la recherche scientifique, France)	375.00
3. Neelanjana Sengupta (National Chemical Laboratory, India)	150.00
4. Sandro Keller (University of Kaiserslautern, Germany)	375.00
5. Tsjerk Wassenaar (University of Groningen, Netherlands)	375.00
6. Axel Hollmann (Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Portugal)	375.00
7. Padmini Rangamani (University of California Berkeley, United States)	375.00
8. Hirak Chakraborty (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, India)	150.00
9. Himanshu Khandelia (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark)	475.00
10. Arunima Chaudhuri (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, India)	75.00
11. Sourav Haldar (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, India)	75.00
12. Bidyut Sarkar (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India)	75.00
13. Nabanita Das (The Florida State University, United States)	200.00
14. Siddarth Chandrasekaran (Cornell University, United States)	200.00
15. Ian Rowe (University of Maryland, United States)	275.00
16. Caroline Koshy (Max Planck Institute of Biophysics, Germany)	275.00
17. Elena Heikkila (Tampere University of Technology, Finland)	200.00
18. Siladitya Padhi (International Institute of Information Technology, India)	75.00
19. Ipsita Basu (University of Calcutta, India)	75.00
20. Daisuke Takahashi (Iwate University, Japan)	200.00
21. Ashish Shelar (Indian Institute of Science, India)	75.00
22. Priyanka Agiru (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, India)	75.00
23. Ambadi Thody Sabareesan (National Centre for Biological Sciences, India)	75.00
24. Saurabh Srivastava (CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, India)	75.00
25. Lyrri Salvemini (University of New England, Australia)	200.00
26. Srishti Dar (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune, India)	75.00
27. Pratyusha Vavilala (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)	75.00
28. Laxminarsimharao V (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, United States)	75.00
29. Ramon Guixa-Gonzalez (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain)	200.00
30. Nazia Nasir (National Institute of Immunology, India)	75.00
31. Avishek Anant (National Institute of Immunology, India)	75.00
32. Mohd Ahangar (National Institute of Immunology, India)	75.00
33. Anupama Anilkumar (National Centre for Biological Sciences, India)	75.00
34. Bhagyashree Rao (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, India)	75.00
35. Rumamol C (National Centre for Biological Sciences, India)	75.00
36. Aditya Kumar G (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, India)	100.00

## Financial Report

Besides ISN, this meeting obtained financial support from the Biophysical Society, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Leica, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc., Department of Science & Technology (DST), Carl Zeiss, DSS Image Tech Pvt. Ltd., Laser-Spectra Services India Pvt. Ltd., and Edinburgh Instruments, UK. Close to 60% of money of ISN has been used to reimburse registration costs of young participants (students and postdocs). Unfortunately, due to hurricane Sandy that devastated the eastern coast of USA a couple of days prior to the meeting, some of the young participants who were awarded the fellowship could not attend the meeting and their fellowship could not be provided. The funds generated were used to provide (i) transportation to participants from the airport and to the hotels, transportation within the city during the meeting, transportation from the hotel to the venue of the meeting and back, (ii) meals/refreshments/coffee/tea (each participant was provided **complimentary** lunch and dinners on every day of the meeting), (iii) a banquet dinner (**complimentary**) to all participants on 3<sup>rd</sup> November organized at a reputed hotel, (iv) registration materials which included a printed 4 colour abstract book, a conference coffee mug and a backpack made of jute (a biodegradable material of Indian origin). A detailed report of accounts is being prepared which will be audited by a qualified chartered accountant and will be provided to Government agencies that require it.

The list of recipients of the ISN fellowship is provided above. This list is also available at the back of the abstract book. I would be happy to mail the abstract book. For this, please provide a mailing address.