**PRESS RELEASE**

Science and Research Opportunities in India (Sci-ROI; <http://sciroi.net/>) a volunteer not-for-profit organization composed of research scientists, postdoctoral scholars, students, engineers and entrepreneurs, successfully held their second Young Investigators Meeting in Chicago (YIM-C 2017). Sci-ROI encapsulates the notion of Science-Return on Investment, and YIM-C 2017 brought together nearly 300 young Indian scientists and engineers as well as 30 leading academicians and policymakers to discuss exciting new research opportunities in India. The three day event was held at the University of Chicago, who was a co-sponsor of the event, and was followed by two one-day satellite events at University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign.

Sci-ROI aims to avail US-trained scientists, engineers and aspiring entrepreneurs to professional opportunities and collaborations across academic and private sectors in India. The overarching goal, to foster mutually beneficial U.S.- India partnerships, will fuel the growing knowledge economy of both countries. Sci-ROI is an initiative of Winstep Forward - a U.S. non-profit organization that administers the prestigious Khorana and Bose programs in partnership with the Government of India and the bilateral Indo-US S&T Forum ([www.winstepforward.org](http://www.winstepforward.org/)).

Below is a brief outline of the events.

***Opening Remarks***

Delivered by **Dr. Aseem Ansari1`** and **Dr. L.S. Shashidhara**2, both are mentors for the Sci-ROI YIMC organizing committee. **Mr. D.B.Bhati3** delivered the inaugural remarks, followed by **Dr. Bala Srinivasan4** welcomed the audience to YIMC 2017 and The University of Chicago.

***Session 1: “Research and Funding Opportunities in India”***

The first session featured **Dr. Vijay Raghavan**5, **Dr. Rajiv Sharma**6, **Dr. Shahid Jameel**7, and **Dr. L.S. Shashidhara**8. The speakers described the numerous fellowships and funding resources available to individuals seeking professional opportunities in India.

***Session 2: “Institutional Perspectives for Becoming a Faculty; Public Universities”***

The second session featured panelists **Dr. Somak Raychaudhuri9**, **Dr. Tushar Kanti Chakraborty**10, **Dr. L. S. Shashidhara11**, **Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath12,** and **Dr. Murali Bashyam13**. The guest speakers talked funding opportunities, application processes and overall roadmaps towards taking up an academic/ research positions in India.

***Session 3: “Institutional Perspectives of Being a Faculty; Private Universities”***

**Dr. L.S. Shahsidhara,** **Dr. Pragna Rao**, **Dr. Raghu Radhakrishnan**14, **Dr. S. Ramaswamy15** , and **Dr. L.S. Shahsidhara16** provided valuable insights on the academic and research environment at their respective universities and the increasing importance of private Universities in India from the funding and research perspective.

***Session 4: “New Models of Indo-US Research Partnerships”***

**Dr. Suresh Subramani**17, **Dr. Rajiv Sharma**, **Heidi Arola**18 , **Dr. Kavi Bhalla19**, **Dr. Shekar Mishra**, **Dr. Sanjeeb Mishra**20, and **Dr. Mishra** presented their scientific work, outlined details of fellowship opportunities and scientific partnerships currently existing between US and India. The session concluded with **Dr. Ansari** presenting information on Bose and Khorana scholar programs as well as engagement of WINStep forward and SCI-ROI.

***Session 5: “Traditional and non-traditional research opportunities in India”***

The session consisted of **Dr. L.S. Shashidhara**, **Dr. Sharmila Mande**21 **Dr. Sudhanshu Vrati**22 **Dr. Tushar Chakraborty**, and **Dr. S. Ramaswamy** summarizing various employment opportunities in areas such as IPR, industry, leadership, etc.

***Closing Remarks***

The event’s concluding remarks were delivered by **Dr. Aseem Ansari**. He encouraged the YIMC participants to use Sci-ROI as a forum to interact with senior representatives from science organizations to explore career options and research environment in the US and India.

After the conclusion of the main event at Chicago, the delegates attended the satellite events in UW-Madison on Sept. 11th and UI-UC on Sept. 12th.

**Speaker Titles**

1. **Dr. Aseem Ansari**, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Professor Biochemistry and Genomics, Co-founder of WINStep Forward
2. **Dr. L.S. Shashidhara**, Vice President, Indian National Science Academy
3. **Mr. D.B.Bhati,** Senior Consul, Consulate General of India in Chicago
4. **Dr. Bala Srinivasan**, Vice President at University of Chicago, Global Initiatives & Strategy, and Senior Associate Provost of The University of Chicago
5. **Dr. Vijay Raghavan**, Secretary, Dept. of Biotechnology -DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India
6. **Dr. Rajiv Sharma**, Secretary, Science & Engineering Research Board –SERB
7. **Dr. Shahid Jameel**, CEO, Wellcome-DBT Alliance
8. **Dr. L.S. Shashidhara**, VP, Indian National Science Academy
9. **Dr. Somak Raychaudhuri**, Director, Inter-University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAC), Pune
10. **Dr. Tushar Kanti Chakraborty**, Professor of Chemistry at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
11. **Dr. L. S. Shashidhara**, Chair of Biology, IISER Pune
12. **Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath,** Professor at Center for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
13. **Dr. Murali Bashyam,** Head of Molecular Oncology lab, Center for DNA fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad
14. **Dr. Pragna Rao** and **Dr. Raghu Radhakrishnan** Dean and Deputy directors respectively, of Kasturba Medical college, Manipal University.
15. **Dr. S. Ramaswamy,** Ahmedabad University
16. **Dr. L.S. Shahsidhara,** Ashoka University.
17. **Dr. Suresh Subramani**, Professor and Executive Vice Chancellor, University of California San Diego & Tata Institute of Genomic Sciences (TIGS)
18. **Heidi Arola**, Managing Director, Global Partnerships, Purdue University, Indiana
19. **Dr. Kavi Bhalla**, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences of the Biological Sciences Division at the University of Chicago
20. **Dr. Shekar Mishra** and **Dr. Sanjeeb Mishra**, Senior Scientists at the world-renowned Fermi Labs
21. **Dr. Sharmila Mande**, Principal Scientist and Head Bioscience R&D, Tata Consultancy Services TCS innovation lab
22. **Dr. Sudhanshu Vrati**, Executive Director, Regional Centre for biotechnology- Faridabad/Delhi -NCR,

**SCI-ROI YIMC-2017 organizing committee:**

**Sumitha Nallu, PhD,**

Research Associate, The University of Chicago

**Piyush Behari Lal, PhD,**

Research Associate, GLBRC, UW-Madison

**Shachi Mittal,** Graduate Student,

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Krishna Anapindi**, Graduate Student,

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Ratika Kunder, PhD,**

Postdoc, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University

**Kiran Kumar Kovi,** PhD,

Research Scientist, Euclid TechLabs

**Somasish Dastidar, PhD,**

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, San Diego

**Gouri Kulkarni,**

Technical Associate, Sci-ROI

**Jaspal Singh, PhD,**

Research Scientist, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

**Mayur Kumar Kajla, PhD,**

Assistant Scientist, Dept. of Entomology, UW-Madison

**Ashish Ranjan, PhD,**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept. of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**SCI-ROI, Madison Satellite Event Organizing Committee:**

**Dr. Mayur Kumar Kajla, PhD,**

Assistant Scientist, Dept. of Entomology, UW-Madison

**Dr. Ashish Ranjan, PhD,**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept. of Plant Pathology, UW-Madison

**Sonisilpa Mohapatra,**

Graduate Student, College of Letters & Science, UW-Madison

**Dr. Piyush Behari Lal, PhD,**

Research Associate, GLBRC, UW-Madison

**SCI-ROI, UIUC Satellite Event Organizing Committee:**

**Shachi Mittal,** Graduate Student,

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Krishna Anapindi**, Graduate Student,

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign