



2018 Khorana Bose Scholars Ready for Research

Peter Littlewood, Professor of Physics, James Franck Institute at University of Chicago and Former Director of Argonne National Laboratory.

The 2018 Khorana Bose Scholar Orientation was held on May 19, 2018 at the University of Chicago. From a total of 97 Khorana and SN Bose Scholars, 65 were able to attend the Orientation which was hosted by WINStep Forward, the non-profit that manages the Khorana and S.N. Bose Programs, and University of Chicago Vice Provost, Dr. Bala Srinivasan.

The Khorana and Bose programs were developed in a three-way partnership between WINstep Forward (WSF), the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of the Government of India, and the Indo-U.S. Science Technology Forum (IUSSTF). The aim of these programs is to foster dynamic and transformative student exchange between premier institutions in India and the United States. The Khorana program is named in honor of Professor Har Gobind Khorana, a pioneer chemical biologist, who shared the 1968 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine at University of Wisconsin-Madison for helping decipher the genetic code and for developing methods for nucleic acid synthesis. The S.N. Bose Program is named in honor of Satyendra Nath Bose (1894 - 1974), a visionary Indian physicist best known for his work on quantum mechanics and postulation of the Boson in the early 1920s. While the Khorana Program focuses on Biology and Biology related fields, the S.N. Bose program emphasizes all the physical sciences such as Chemistry, Physics, Geology, as well as Engineering, Math, and Computer Sciences related fields.

This year's Khorana Bose Orientation focused on establishing connections among Scholars, program administrators, and introducing Scholars to programs that synergize with the Khorana and Bose Programs. Representatives from multiple groups and departments on and off campus were keen to share the role their organizations could play in future Scholarly pursuits



Scholars listening to Orientation Speakers at the University of Chicago. Left to right: Gayathri Venu, Adarsh Dp, and Swapnil Shankar.



Scholars discussing during Orientation Lunch at the University of Chicago. Left to Right: Aimen Akbar, Siddharth Uppal and Sai Kumar Ganta.

The program opened with the Vice Provost of Chicago, Dr. Bala Srinivasan, congratulating the Scholars on their achievement, welcoming them to the University of Chicago and the United States and giving an introduction to the University.

Dr. Aseem Ansari, the Director of the Khorana and S.N. Bose Programs and a Professor of Biochemistry/Genomics at UW Madison, was the next to speak and he encouraged the Scholars to connect with one another. He emphasized that these relationships made now would not only be ones that could continue for the rest of their lives but give them the

opportunity to grow in their professional lives as well.

The current Consul General of India, Ms. Neeta Bhushan, made a gracious appearance, welcoming and congratulating the Scholars on their achievement thus far.

University of Chicago professors from all STEM fields shared their work with the Scholars.

University of Chicago professors Bobby Kasthuri (Department of Neurobiology), Ian Foster (Department of Computer Science), and Supratik Guha (Department of Molecular Engineering) engaged the Scholars, relating the type of work being done in their departments and their labs in particular. The professors also took the time to share advice on career and other life paths.

Dr. Marsha Rosner, a cancer researcher at the University of Chicago who did her graduate studies in Gobind Khorana's lab, shared her memories of Khorana and her experiences working in his lab with the Scholars, then briefly described her lab's role in a collaborative effort to tackle breast cancer in India.

Representing the WINStep Forward management was Naveeda Qadir, Executive Director of WINStep Forward, who shared some of the program's history with the Scholars and administrators present.



Dr. Marsha Rosner from Ben May Department for Cancer Research, Department of Neurobiology - Pharmacology and Physiology, UCCCC, Committee on Cancer Biology, Committee on Developmental Biology.

Many Khorana Bose Scholars who perform their summer internships in the United States return to the U.S. to pursue their PhDs., so continuing the program was an U of Chicago Indian graduate student panel led by a vibrant Emily Easton, Associate of Dean of Graduate Studies at Chicago. The panel-style interaction allowed the Scholars to hear first-hand experiences and advice from those peers currently in the U.S. graduate school system.

The afternoon ended with talks from other major participating institutions of the SN Bose and Khorana Programs. Representing Purdue was Ms. Heidi Arola, Managing Director for Global Partnerships and India Engagement Coordinator at Purdue University; Dr. Himadri Pakrasi, spoke on behalf of Washington University and Dr. Hank Seifert, Dean for Student Affairs represented Northwestern University. The experiences of former Khorana Bose Scholars, Shachi Mittal and Krishna D. B. Anapindi, who are now current graduate students at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, resonated with the new Scholars, and they listened attentively as Ms. Mittal and Mr. Anapindi shared the most relevant lessons they have learned so far in their academic and personal pursuits.

After being engaged from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with talks, presentations, and group building exercises, the tired yet expectant Scholars hopped on a bus tour of Lakeshore and downtown Chicago. The Scholars left for their respective Universities Sunday May 20, and currently seem to be enjoying their research studies and cultural immersion in the United States!

To read more about the 2018 speakers and the 2018 Orientation, please see <https://www.winstepforward.org/2018-khorana-bose-orientation/>.



Left to right: Anupriya Satheeshan, Jalaja Madusuadhanan, Shriya Gehlot, Siddarth Uppal, Heena Puri, Shravya Srivastava, Abhishek Menon, Sai Kumar Ganta, Parul Chugh, Srijoni Majhi, Swati Mohapatra, Mitali Padhi, Ritesh Panda, Ganesh Parida, Dibin Varkey and Gurudatt Patra.