

PRESS RELEASE

CSIR IGIB and IIT Alumni Council announce MoU for joint research to tackle COVID 19:

- To work towards accelerating the development and commercialization of indigenous technologies in testing and treatment of infectious diseases including COVID-19.
- To open-source one of the world's largest longitudinal COVID-19 Patient Data Sets for authorized researchers anywhere. First set of 8500 patient imaging data from NSCI Dome initiative of IIT Alumni Council has been handed over to CSIR IGIB.

New Delhi, Jul 8, 2020: CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) and IIT Alumni Council announce a MoU for COVID-19 disease research and patient data analysis. On this occasion, IIT Alumni Council also handed over the first set of 8500 patient imaging data from Mumbai to IGIB, which will soon be made available in deidentified form, through a public open data platform co-hosted by IGIB and ICMR to enable research. The joint research by CSIR-IGIB & IIT Alumni Council will focus on catalysing the creation of an ecosystem for diagnostics and therapeutics for COVID19 as well as flexible platforms for pandemic preparedness. The ecosystem will enable an indigenous value chain with multi-domain expertise spanning digital health, artificial intelligence, molecular diagnostics, next generation sequencing, antibody harvesting, and production of monoclonal antibodies.

“ IIT Alumni Council is extremely pleased with the research partnership with IGIB . Both parties are viewing this partnership as an opportunity not only to create a world leading testing and treatment ecosystem in the country but also to establish global data leadership. This would enable open data access to every scientist & innovator in the world for development of bleeding edge testing and treatment solutions. IIT Alumni Council believes that together with IGIB, we shall be able to create a robust high security Data Architecture for health Data. This partnership will immensely help our two path breaking initiatives - World's largest MegaLab in Mumbai for testing and India's largest MegaTx antibody facility for treatment based on biologics. Overall this partnership will open the doors for newer forms and formats of collaboration between the Govt and domestic non-profits like IIT Alumni Council.” said Ravi Sharma, President and Chief Volunteer of the IIT Alumni Council.

“The energy and crowd sourced wisdom of the IIT Alumni Council has been inspiring. Their global networks contain highly motivated volunteers with capacity of thinking and acting locally, bringing together a much needed set of skills in difficult times. NSCI Dome has served as a model for scalable community treatment of COVID-19, and is a rich source of learning through its practices and data. One can see it as a data and engineering social initiative driven by volunteers, which would be of much use to the biomedical community . As part of the jury for the MegaLab competition, I look forward to seeing the world's largest and fastest molecular diagnostic line getting built in India with 100% indigenous technology. Similar thinking would be needed to accelerate population scale testing in rare genetic disorders, a problem that IGIB has been addressing for over a decade ” added Dr Anurag Agrawal, Director of CSIR-IGIB.

Members of CSIR-IGIB and IIT Alumni Council have been brainstorming regarding areas of testing and treatment for COVID-19 since April 2020. Several new concepts with transformative potential have emerged from these interactions.

About IIT Alumni Council

IIT Alumni Council is an autonomous and independent global body of alumni of all the twenty-three IITs and partnering Technical Institutes of Excellence Network (TieNet). The IIT Alumni Council aspires to catalyse India's technological renaissance. Through its initiatives , IIT Alumni Council intends to act as a network and as a bridge between various providers of knowledge, wealth, information, wisdom, ideas, expertise and entrepreneurship to promote technological solutions to problems facing India

under its 100 global city initiative. The Council has rallied the considerable resources of the global IIT alumni ecosystem to catalyse technological and financial interventions for the C19 battle. For more information on IIT Alumni Council, please visit: www.iitalumni council.org

About CSIR-IGIB

CSIR-IGIB is one of the premier research laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, carrying out advanced research in biochemical technology and genomics including various aspects of molecular medicine. It is an ICMR recognized institution for conducting COVID19 testing and validation of new tools and tests. It is also an authorized repository of data and biological samples.





Signing of MoU between Dr Anurag Agarwal (on the right), a MBBS from AIIMS and Director of CSIR – IGIB and Ravi Sharma, President IIT Alumni Council



Handing over of Mumbai Covid Data to Dr Anurag Agarwal (on the right), a MBBS from AIIMS and Director of CSIR – IGIB by Ravi Sharma, President IIT Alumni Council in New Delhi at the CSIR IGIB Headquarters on July 7th, 2020



A distinguished Alumnus of IIT Roorkee, former Corporate leader and now full time Philanthropist - Ravi Sharma plays an active role in global revitalisation and unification of IIT alumni across countries, across IITs and across age groups. He is the President and Chief Volunteer of the IIT Alumni Council and also leads the Institute Outreach & Branding initiatives. The main deliverables of the Council are facilitating alumni networking, fortifying Brand IIT and Brand India, catalysing alumni participation in nation building and accelerating technological developments in key areas of our economy including start-ups, manufacturing and digital transformation. The Council has six operating missions - Alumni Networking (PanIIT Alumni) , Mentorship (PanIIT Institute), Social Venture funding (PanIIT Fund), CSR Platform (PanIIT Foundation), a Thinktank (PanIIT Forum) a Biomolecule Mega Incubator (PanIIT Incubator). The IIT Alumni Council is now actively engaged in solving the corona crisis and has formed the C19 Task Force which has the participation of over 20,000 alumni and includes Mumbai University and ICT Mumbai as institutional partners. C19 Task Force initiatives include MegaLab Mumbai, MegaTx NCR and the MegaFund.