

### Brainstorming on Bioinformatics, Computational and Systems Biology

A brainstorming meeting on Bioinformatics, Computational and Systems Biology was organized on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 at National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi. The theme of this meeting was to consider new programs, priorities and policy initiatives for the 12th Plan. More than 30 Scientists from various disciplines including experimental biology, computation, statistics, mathematics, and bioinformatics were participated in the meeting. Discussions were held on the following topics:

1. Bioinformatics research resources and facilities for services to academia and Industries;
2. Human Resource Development and Bioinformatics, Computational and Systems Biology – gaps and emerging needs
3. R&D and mission mode projects
4. Bioinformatics Industry development and future trends; and
5. Innovation strategies, models, mechanisms and alliances etc.

Several important areas have been identified which will be taken up in the 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan. ■

**T Madhan Mohan**

### Interaction with Vice Chancellors of North East Universities and Institution leaders

A team of Scientists led by Secretary, DBT visited Dibrugarh, Assam on 11th -13th July, 2011 and held an interaction with Vice Chancellors, Directors and the Principals of the North Eastern Region and identified several new schemes for Biotechnology Capacity Building, Centralized Research Resource Creation, Human Resource Development, Biotechnology applications in Health Care and Agriculture on 12th July. On 13th July, the team also visited Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh and reviewed the Laboratories and Animal house facilities and identified measures for their upgradation. The design of a biotechnology cluster at University of Dibrugarh was also finalized. ■

**T Madhan Mohan**

### Scientific Workshop on International Cancer Genome Consortium

India is a part of Human Cancer Genome Project, a major International Collaborative Initiative. Under the International Cancer Genome Consortium

(ICGC), DBT implemented a major programme on Oral Cancer, the most prevalent form of cancer in India, at the National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani, in collaboration with the Advanced Centre for Research, Treatment and Education on Cancer (ACTREC), Mumbai.

The 5th Scientific Workshop on ICGC was held at Kyoto, Japan during July 10-12, 2011 and was attended by all stakeholders i.e. India, UK, Canada, Spain, Germany, China, France, Japan, USA and others. Based on the progress made, India was selected as one of the 5 countries to present the data generated on oral cancer. Prof. Partha Majumder, Director, NIBMG, Kalyani, West Bengal presented the important findings on clinical characterization of the patients, collection of data on demographic and environmental exposures, and isolation of DNA samples from blood and tumor tissues collected from each patient, and catalogue of genomic alterations in the first 25 gingivobuccal cancer patients. These findings have strong implications for developing better ways for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of oral cancer. ■

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