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C-CAMP to build Centre of Excellence in Antimicrobial Resistance innovation with SBI Foundation

14 October 2023 | News

The CoE plans to kick off its operations by identifying and nurturing up to 12 innovations in the next 2 years



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the focus of a new partnership between Bengaluru-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) and SBI Foundation. The project will establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AMR innovation by providing a structured platform for support systems and frameworks to advance the development, translation and scale-up of

indigenous deep science entrepreneurships in AMR domain.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been identified by WHO as one of the top ten global health threats claiming 700,000 lives per year globally with a projected fatality rate of 10 million per year by 2050. While India is one of the leading nations from the Global South in research towards AMR mitigation, deep science entrepreneurial efforts to deliver these emerging solutions from bench to bedside have shown a serious lacuna.

Announcing the initiative, Prof Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt of India in New Delhi, said “AMR poses a grave challenge to public health systems across the world and is a WHO priority. Paradoxically, AMR is one of the least funded domains in biotechnology due to its skewed market economics. Funding and handholding support for this deep science sector by the C-CAMP-SBIF CoE will be tremendous boost for AMR innovation development.”

C-CAMP Director-CEO Dr Taslimarif Saiyed said, “As the latest ICMR study on AMR showed, last-resort antibiotics like carbapenems are beginning to fail in hospital-acquired infections in ICUs with signs of locally resistant strains emerging. This implies a dire need for indigenous solutions tailored for Indian conditions which this CoE will help identify and support.”

The CoE will be under the aegis of the global India AMR Innovation hub or IAIH platform also anchored by C-CAMP & chaired by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser. Being under the IAIH umbrella, the CoE will leverage the network of global stakeholders already built by IAIH, thus amplifying the cumulative impact, economic sustainability and global competitiveness of the supported innovations.

The focus of the CoE will be on identifying and supporting through funding and other means, a 360 degree portfolio of cutting-edge deep-science solutions, across AMR and the larger One Health domain spanning Food and Agriculture, Environment and Healthcare. The project proposes the funding quantum as an efficient Revolving Fund between the 2 CoE partners which is structured to optimise grant utilisation and available long-term corpus within the ecosystem for support to more deep-science startups at the pre-equity seed stage.

The CoE plans to kick off its operations by identifying and nurturing up to 12 innovations in the next 2 years. A nation-wide India AMR Grand Challenges call is to be announced soon.