

ICMR looks for partners to commercialize research

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The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, is looking out for private partners to commercialize various compounds and technologies. With an aim to promote Public Private Partnerships, the premier medical regulatory authority invited applications from various companies to commercialize products.

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The different compounds that are being looked upon for commercialization include a herbal insecticidal composition, an antineoplastic compound, a herbal composition useful as larvicide agent against dengue vector, use of formulation comprising human SP-D for transmitted infection including HIV.

The technologies that are being put for industrial collaborations are the Dot ELISA for diagnosis of sequelae to Chlamydia trachomatis infection in women using Chlamydial Heat Shock Protein-60, An Immunodiagnostic Reagent Macroliticidal Agents for Filariasis Control, A cyclic lipopeptide of Bacillus subtilis ssp. subtilis (VCRC- B471) with potential to kill mosquito stages, A process for pot staining of sputum for detection of Acid fast Bacilli.

The Indian patents have been already filed for few of the technologies by the Intellectual Property Right (IPR) cell of the ICMR. With such kind of innovative products and technologies made available, the private industry is expected to react positively to promote them.

IMB scientists find cause of rare skin cancer

Institute of Medical Biology (IMB) scientists under the Agency of Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) in Singapore are part of an international team of researchers who became the first in the world to discover the gene behind a rare skin cancer which grows rapidly for a few weeks before healing spontaneously, according to the research published in

Nature Genetics.

The peculiar behaviour of this rare self-healing cancer, called multiple self-healing squamous epithelioma (MSSE), was discovered to be caused by a failure in the gene called TGFBR1, which is a key component of a signalling pathway that can also be impaired in other cancers. This pathway is widely regarded in the field as a potential target for therapeutic intervention in cancer treatment.

Dr David Goudie, a clinical genetics consultant at Dundee University and a long term specialist in MSSE, said, "The unusual behaviour of this tumor has baffled scientists for over 40 years, so we are excited to have discovered the genetic faults that cause the disease. Understanding how tumors that lack TGFBR1 behave will surely help us to predict the clinical effects of drugs that target these cancer-promoting or cancer-inhibiting signals."