

DBT/ InStem

InStem joins programmes to spread public awareness on antibiotic resistance problem

Department of Biotechnology's Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem) is joining the "Superheroes Against Superbugs" programme, a grassroots initiative launched in 2018 with initial support from the Wellcome Trust/DBT alliance to build a community dedicated to tackle the growing threat of antibiotic-resistant infections in India. The aim is to engage the general public to raise awareness and understanding of this major public health problem through activities, workshops, lectures that capture the attention and imagination of the audience.

Prof Colin Jamora's laboratory has taken the lead at inStem for this campaign. A major thrust of the Jamora laboratory's effort is directed at understanding wound healing in skin and had recently reported a way to unlock the release of natural substances called antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) from our skin (Bhatt et al Cell Reports, 2019). The participation in the Superheroes against Superbugs efforts is thus closely aligned to the Jamora Laboratory's research focus.

The laboratory members underwent training to conduct "Superheroes against Superbugs" activities through a day-long workshop by Prof. Somdatta of NCBS, who has been central to both the creation and implementing of this initiative. After the training, members of the Jamora lab, along with the communications office on our campus, will visit nearby government schools and conduct the activities to spread awareness against superbugs and anti-microbial resistance.