

Institute for Stem Cell Science & Regenerative Medicine (InStem), Bengaluru

Kannada-Language Drosophila Workshop

New Delhi, March 12: In February a Science Outreach initiative was held at the Government High School, Hebbal. The activity focussed on demonstrating how Drosophila (fruit fly) is a model organism used to study developmental genetics.

Lab members from the Bangalore Life Science Cluster- Fly Facility - Nataraj N, Srividhya A, Jithin and Hemavathi C from inStem were the main forces behind the successful Kannada-language school outreach. Kishore V, Anitha V A, and Shwetha H Manna Ghalia from C-CAMP also participated in demonstrating the models. The Communications Office along with Akshaya Patra, an NGO that runs the school lunch programme, facilitated the effort.

The team demonstrated models showing different stages of the Drosophila life cycle, mutations in the gene resulting in physical changes in the fly, and the culturing of Drosophila. There were also discussions on differences between wild and mutated fly varieties, and few physical agents resulting in mutations. More than 30 ninth grade students, along with their biology teacher and principal attended the programme. The enthusiasm of the students was evident as they keenly observed the models, and interacted with the team. The students opened up their thoughts and came up with interesting questions as the team interacted in Kannada. Activities like this have been mindfully curated with a view to form a more inclusive environment of outreach with non-English medium institutions.

Annual Presentation of Research

InStem's Annual Review of Research, which includes presentations of science in the form of talks and posters is scheduled on Feb 24-26th, 2020. Invited talks from scientists in Institutes in India and eminent researchers are also included in the programme. The dedicated Poster Sessions of ~2 hours each day form the highlight of the meeting.

Communication and Outreach

As part of an extended Science Day Celebration, inStem is hosting an outreach talk for undergraduate students from local colleges and for trainees in inStem and NCBS laboratories on February 29, 2020.

Postdoctoral fellows at inStem and NCBS are organizing a Lecture Series in Advanced Biology 2020. Theme: Evolution of Systems across timescales, a weekend course for undergraduates, which will continue till March 22, 2020

Co-ordinating Postdocs: Anusha Jahagirdar, Bhaktee Dongaonkar, Dhananjay Chaturvedi, Megan Aylward, Rashmi Sharma, Renjitha Gopurappilly, Sandeep Ameta, Shirish Mishra, Shruthi Balachandra, Sowmya Jahnavi, Sriram Varahan, Subhasri Ghosh and Vidya Ramesh.

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