

## **DBT/ National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune**

### **NCCS's National Cell Repository facilitates deposition of and access to cell lines for research**

**By Sunderarajan Padmanabhan**

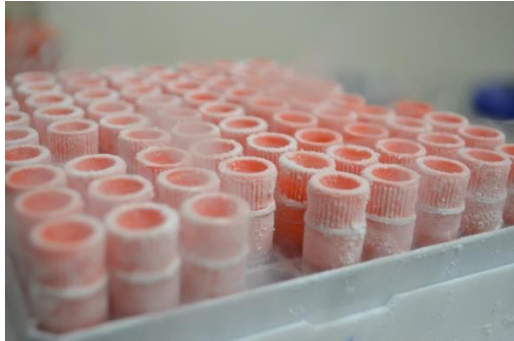
New Delhi, February 19: Cell biology involves the study of cells, the 'basic unit of life'. A variety of factors that influence the functioning of cells collectively determine the ability of the animal to function as a whole. Consequently, to gain essential insights into how the body operates under conditions of health and disease, it is necessary to study the nuances of how cellular activities play out at the molecular level and understand all the factors involved. For this purpose, researchers use cell lines, which are cells grown in the laboratory under controlled environmental conditions and are an indispensable tool for cell biology.

The origins of the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, can be traced back to the 'National Tissue Culture Facility'. Dr. Ulhas Wagh and his team at the Department of Zoology, University of Pune, conceptualized and initiated it to serve as a national repository for animal cell lines. Registration of this facility as a Society in 1988 formally marked the inception of NCCS.

Since then, the over fifty thousand cell cultures supplied by NCCS to more than five hundred organizations has played a big role in facilitating high quality cell biology research by academia and industry across India. Furthermore, the cell line authentication and *Mycoplasma* testing services offered, as well as the training in cell culture technology given by NCCS twice a year, provide valuable support to students and researchers. The repository has also been instrumental in helping NCCS establish itself as a premier research institute in cell biology.

Scientists often develop indigenous or modified cell lines during their research, which may prove to be useful for other researchers as well. Cell lines developed indigenously are especially important, since they are invaluable for conducting studies relevant to the Indian population. To facilitate access to such cell lines, NCCS now invites researchers to deposit their indigenously developed or modified cell lines, in its National Cell Repository. Following deposition, these cell lines will be tested for quality control and accepted after completion of all due procedures including submission of relevant publications and material transfer agreement (MTA). The cell lines would be securely deposited, maintained and subsequently made available to researchers

across the country as per their demand and signing of MTA, if any. This activity would facilitate optimal access to these resources, especially those resulting from Government-funded projects.



Cell culture vials

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**NCCS Website announcement:**

<https://www.nccs.res.in/uploads/repository/CellLineDeposition.pdf>

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