

COVID-19 activities at CSIR-URDIP

New Delhi, May 05: India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has a specialized service Unit for Research and Development of Information Products (URDIP), Pune which is involved in the pre-research and pre-development phase of the research projects, by providing intellectual property and techno-commercial information services.

CSIR-URDIP provides value added information services to wide array of clients including start-up companies, SMEs, Research Institutes within and outside CSIR, large Indian Corporate and Multinational Corporations. Its primary clients include R&D, legal, new business development and multi-functional corporate teams.

CSIR-URDIP is providing continuous informatics support to many of the CSIR Labs engaged in ongoing COVID 19 activities. A dedicated portal (<https://urdip.res.in/covid19>) has been developed to showcase CSIR's efforts, initiatives, products and technologies to fight against COVID-19. This unit is providing informatics support to pre-emptive identification of supply chain issues in new launches of CSIR products and services for COVID-19 management.

CSIR-URDIP is working with domain experts from other labs - IICT, IIIM for Therapeutics, CCMB for diagnostics, NAL for devices and NCL for PPEs. Together we will be highlighting the issues that may arise or need to be addressed for the products being launched by CSIR with reference to supply chain.

Experts at CSIR-URDIP provided Freedom to Operate Study for the technology related to the hybrid adsorption-membrane separation system for enriching medical grade oxygen from air. This system can be used in the ventilators to treat critically ill COVID-19 affected patients. This technology has been jointly developed by CSIR-IIP and CSIR-NCL. CSIR-URDIP is contributing by offering IP support services in hospital assistive devices. A search for identifying Indian assignees who have patents on Ventilators in Indian jurisdiction has been performed at the unit.

Freedom to Operate search related to a BIPAC ventilator and pressure sensor developed by CSIR- NAL is being carried out to identify potentially relevant, in-force and hindering patents. A prior art search listing the entire relevant prior art for "Respiratory Masks" and "Disinfection Tunnels" has been performed and delivered to CSIR-CMERI.

This CSIR's unit is providing the complete clinical trial data information with respect to the drugs that are currently being repositioned for COVID 19 along with the required patent/FTO related information for the molecules/drugs of interest. The required details are being updated by URDIP-TEAM twice a week or as per the requirement of the researcher as well as the CSIR-Strategic Group.

CSIR in collaboration with Ministry of Ayush is looking for herbal/Natural Products for the prevention/treatment of COVID19. At present, compilation of clinical studies published in patent and non patent scientific literature on 67 medicinal plants used in Traditional Indian Medicine is underway at the CSIR-URDIP.