

DBT-inStem organises virtual popular talks on gene therapy and ageing

New Delhi, July 21: Science Café is a monthly series of curated science talks by scientists associated with the Bangalore Life Sciences Cluster that consists of inStem, NCBS and C-CAMP. It is an effort to bring science to lay people in the city with various initiatives that allow interactions with the general public and local communities. To adapt to the changing situation, Science Café' has changed to an electronic mode in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The BLISC
SCIENCE CAFÉ
presents
Gene therapy - What does it mean?
with Prof. Alok Srivastava (Centre for Stem Cell Research, CMC Vellore)
Prof. Srivastava will explain what gene therapy is and discuss its development and applications in the world and in India.
Why do we age? How do we age?
with Dr. Arvind Ramanathan (DBT-inStem)
Recent scientific insights into this mystery using the medium of comic book art.

8th July
Wednesday
5 pm (IST)

Register on Zoom or watch the Live Stream:
tinyurl.com/SCJuly8
youtube.com/BLISCIndia

BLISC
Bangalore
Life Science
Cluster

ncbs
National Centre for Biological Sciences
The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

inStem
DBT Indian Institute of Stem Cell Research and Regeneration

C-CAMP
Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

SCIENCE THE CITY
A Bangalore Life Science Cluster
(BLISC) Initiative

This month's Science Café featured two speakers – Dr. Arvind Ramanathan from inStem; and Prof. Alok Srivastava from Centre for Stem Cell Research, a centre of inStem at CMC Vellore. While Prof. Srivastava spoke about gene therapy, its development and applications in India and the world, Dr. Ramanathan gave a talk on 'the biology of ageing – why and how we age?', with recent scientific insights into this mystery using the medium of comic book art, hand-drawn by him.

In his talk, Dr Alok mentioned that gene therapy related research has the potential to cure presently incurable diseases such as hereditary diseases, genetic disorders, and cancers. He concluded his talk stating that a team at CMC Vellore is working on mRNA based vaccine for SARS-CoV-2 for which animal studies have been initiated. Dr. Arvind, in his talk, spoke about the natural variations in aging in the animal kingdom and about the various studies trying to understand how lifespan is regulated, mapping it with early discoveries in genetic regulation of lifespan in *C.elegans* that established nutrient sensing as a central axis. Further, he mentioned the discovery of the target of Rapamycin protein and interaction of nutrients

with circadian rhythms. He concluded the talk with the role of senescent cells in aging and their emergence as a target in diseases of aging.

This 100 minutes session was LIVE streamed on BLiSC India YouTube channel and live tweeted on DBT-inStem Twitter handle. It was a houseful session with nearly 150 participants. This session was recorded on July 08, 2020 and can be watched here.

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