

## Cell Repository

NCCS has been long serving as a National Cell Repository for cell lines in India. The cell repository manages the expansion, cryopreservation and distribution of cell lines to researchers in academia and government as well as private research institutions and industry in India. In the year 2019-20, three thousand four hundred and thirty cell cultures have been provided to 2010 users in the country, spread across five hundred and four organizations. The repository has also supplied one hundred and eighty six cell cultures to scientists in NCCS. Furthermore, the repository caters towards providing a variety of cell culture media to in-house scientists, and has supplied almost 700 litres in the year 2019-20. Additionally, cell line authentication by Short Tandem Repeat (STR) analysis and Mycoplasma testing services provided by the repository are also used by both in-house scientists and external users.

The repository team initiated mechanisms for the addition of cell lines to its exiting collection. A Material Transfer Agreement was signed with the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, USA, Frederick, USA. 72 cell lines were obtained under this MTA for research purposes, to be used by the scientists of NCCS. Efforts were undertaken to encourage scientists from NCCS and other organizations to deposit their indigenously developed or modified cell lines in cell repository.

Two National hands-on training workshops on “Basic Cell Culture Technology” were organized from May 6th-9th, 2019 and October 22nd-25th, 2019. Training for important cell culture practices related to cell line maintenance, expansion, cryopreservation, revival and other specialized techniques were included in the workshop. Early career researchers including doctoral students, young faculty and technical staff from academic and non-academic institutions from all over the country were selected and imparted training. A total of 42 participants from 36 institutes across the nation have been imparted training.

The repository team participated in the Open Day organized as a prelude to India International Science Festival (IISF), 2019 on October 23rd, 2019, and subsequently participated in the ‘Mega Science, Technology & Industry Expo’ at IISF 2019, Kolkata from November 5th-8th, 2019 for popularization of science especially amongst students. The research activities of NCCS were highlighted, and various types of cell lines were displayed. The visitors to the NCCS booth were made aware of the importance of cell lines, cell repository and services offered. The repository personnel also participated in the Global BioIndia 2019 from November 21st-23rd Nov, 2019, at New Delhi, where the services and initiatives of the cell repository that have relevance to the industry were exhibited. The repository team also actively participated in other out-reach events such as the healthcare exhibition, “Kutuhul”, organized by Vidnyan Bharati, at Pune from February 7th-10th, 2020 and the National Science Day Open Day on February 28th, 2020. Various types of cell lines were displayed, and information about their importance and usage in research, and about the services of the cell repository was also disseminate.

