

IISc establishes viral genome sequencing lab

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A viral genome sequencing lab has been inaugurated at the Centre for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. The lab was established with a grant from CryptoRelief. The grant supported the expansion of the existing Viral BSL3 facility at IISc.

The viral genome sequencing lab will focus on studies related to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. These include continuous surveillance and tracking of virus mutations and variants. The expanded Viral BSL3 facility will support research on assessment of virulence and cross-reactive immunity of SARS-CoV-2 mutants and variants of concern in cell culture and animal models.

Professor Govindan Rangarajan, Director of IISc, said: "The Viral Genome Sequencing Lab will contribute not only towards tackling the threat that COVID-19 poses, but will also ensure that we are ready to handle future health emergencies as well. We are grateful to CryptoRelief for partnering with us on this critical initiative."