

Congratulations! Dr K VijayRaghavan

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Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Krishnaswamy VijayRaghavan, senior professor and director, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bangalore. He has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society on April 19, 2012. Born on February 3, 1954, Dr VijayRaghavan, is an outstanding geneticist and traced the footsteps of his mentor Dr Obaid Siddiqui, who is currently a National Research Professor at NCBS, to become a Fellow. Dr

Siddiqui was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1984.

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Dr VijayRaghavan is the 43rd Indian to be elected as Fellow of the Royal Society. The Royal Society was founded in 1660 to recognize, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity. Fellows are elected for life and some of the most famous Fellows from India include Dr Ardaseer Cursetjee, Dr Srinivasa Ramanujan, Dr Jagadish Chandra Bose, and Dr CV Raman. Dr Cursetjee was the first from India to be elected to the Royal Society. He was elected in 1841. Mathematician Dr Ramanujan was elected in 1918 and Physicist Dr Bose in 1920. It is interesting to note that India has been producing about 5-6 Fellows every decade since the 1970s. The period 1980-90 saw eight scientists getting elected. Interestingly while the bulk (35 percent) of the Fellows have worked in the areas of physics, 28 percent of the Fellows have worked in the area of biology,

medicine, etc.

This recognition increases the stature of NCBS as a world-class institute. It is also an acknowledgement of India's research strength in the area of genetics. Dr VijayRaghavan has been applauded for his research on understanding the cellular and molecular principles of adult muscle development in *Drosophila* is widely recognized. He has married these studies with those on the development of the nervous system to study the control and

development of movement.

We are very honored to be closely associated with Dr VijayRaghavan, Dr Siddiqui, amongst other outstanding scientists during the last 10 years. Dr VijayRaghavan has served as a Jury member for selection of BioSpectrum India Awards in 2004-05 and the TR35 India Awards in 2009, while Dr Siddiqui was the Recipient of BioSpectrum Life Time Achievement Award 2010. Dr Raghunath Anant Mashelkar, another prominent scientist in the biotech circles, was elected Fellow in 1998.

BioSpectrum is in its 10th year. There have been lots of changes in the biotech eco-system during these years and industry has grown and matured, but it has not got the recognition that it deserves. We have decided to take the lead in building "Brand Biotech India". We are kickstarting this exercise with BSLSRG 2012 - Gateway to India's Life Sciences Industry with the theme around doing business with India. This would be circulated at BIO, Boston. We would also launch a new look and more informative report on the Indian bioscience industry in June 2012. This would capture Industry's performance from 2002 to 2012 and map the turning points and key milestones. I would urge you all to be part of this important exercise. It's time that we work cohesively.