

## Game Changers in Drug Discovery & Development: BioSpectrum Technology Forum 2011 – Bangalore & Mumbai

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*After the thumping success of the BioSpectrum Technology Forum (BSTF) in Goa in 2010, BioSpectrum takes the event to two cities - Bangalore and Mumbai - in 2011*

### **What is BSTF**

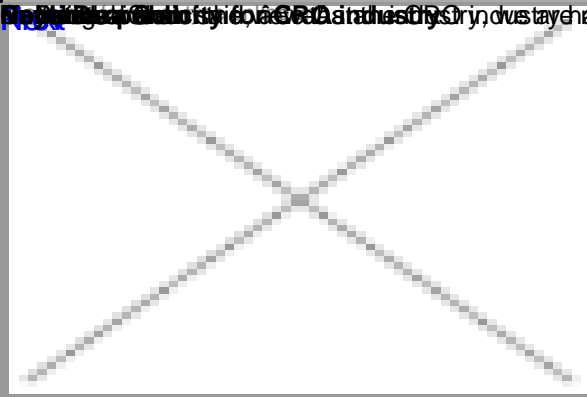
Every year, BioSpectrum brings together research heads and scientists of biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies on a common platform to enable industry leaders to interact and share their views and opinions.

The BioSpectrum Technology Forum was taken to two cities this year to make it more accessible to delegates. While the first leg of the event was held on September 21 at Chancery Pavillion in Bangalore, the second leg was held on September 23 at Leela Palace in Mumbai. West Pharmaceutical Services sponsored the Mumbai event.

Elaborating the vision of the BSTF and role of BioSpectrum, Mr Narayanan Suresh, group editor, BioSpectrum, said in his welcome address, “BioSpectrum mirrors the views of the industry and works closely with its leaders. Earlier, we were involved in policy advocacy and regulatory change campaigns. We then looked at moving to the next level and we did this by organizing events such as the BSTF that encourage interaction with industry leaders at different levels.”

### **The theme of BSTF 2011**

The theme for this year's forum was 'Game Changers in Drug Discovery & Development'. This topic was covered with five sessions - 'Next Generation Innovation', 'Computer-aided Drug Discovery', 'Strategies to Strengthen the Drug Pipeline' and



ow to Leverage the Opportunity'.

is an exciting area. In our BioSpectrum Asia-Pacific CRO indicated that they will focus on drug discovery in the years to send their work to Asia

**Suresh**  
ioSpectrum

Session I:

## Stem Cells & Gene Therapy

### Panelists

**Bangalore:** Dr. Rakhi Pal, scientist, Advanced Neuro-Science Allies, Mr Ambar Rao, director, Cryo StemCell and Mr Narayanan Suresh, group editor, BioSpectrum (moderator)

**Mumbai:** Ms Dipta Chaudhury, program manager, pharma and biotech practice, South Asia and Middle East, Frost & Sullivan (moderator); Dr Milind Antani, head of pharma & life sciences, Nishith Desai Associates; and Dr Chandra Vishwanathan, head, regenerative medicine, Reliance Life Sciences

Dr Rakhi Pal

**Dr Rakhi Pal**, scientist  
Advanced Neuro-Science Allies

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mesenchymal stem cells can differentiate into dopamine terminals and release dopamine.

Mr Ambar Rao

**Mr Ambar Rao**, director  
Cryo StemCell

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When we started cell banking, the level of understanding among the clientele was very poor or did not exist at all. Other challenges we faced were the logistics and regulation troubles. Over a period of time, we were able to establish a good stream of revenue with an increase in the number of clientele banking stem cells. Recently, we successfully transported stem cells for transplant to the Gujarat Cancer Research Institute. The sample was shipped in liquid nitrogen. We follow stringent norms in handling our products and we have, so far, done around 80-odd transplants for liver cirrhosis, myocardial infraction and other conditions where our application was put to use.