

AWSAR Award: Outstanding Story (PDF category)

Dr. Sangeeta Dutta, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Dr. Sangeeta Dutta is a Post-doctoral fellow at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in the field of Cancer and RNA biology. She has completed her PhD from INMAS, DRDO, Delhi and has received the DBT-research associateship for her post-doctoral project. She has five publications and one patent to her credit.



About Story

Her popular science story "JUNK that turns out to be the GOLD" addresses the role lncRNAs in cancer's pathobiology. lncRNAs are a vast collection of non-coding RNA with cell and stage-specific expression. Dysregulation, in their expression has been associated with many human disease conditions. She studied the mechanism of novel lncRNA Hmrl and found its role in leukemia biology.

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AWSAR Award: First Prize (PhD category)

Ms. Pooja Maurya, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Ms. Pooja Maurya is a doctoral Research Scholar at CSIR- Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, working in cancer drug development and drug resistance mechanisms. She has received the 'Young Scientist Award' at ICERB 2018 and the 'Women Research Excellence Award' at EIABSHWAR 2020.



About Story

Her popular Science story entitled "Power of resistant cancer: Plucked by drug combination strategy" is a conversation of cancer cell with its enzymes called Topoisomerase I and Ligase I, which work to survive cancer cells. This story details the identification of Topoisomerase I drug resistance mechanism in colorectal cancer cells and combating strategy.

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AWSAR Award: Second prize (PhD category)

Ms. Indu Joshi, New Delhi, Delhi

Ms. Indu Joshi is a doctoral student in the Computer Science and Engineering Department at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. She is a recipient of the prestigious Raman-Charpak Fellowship. She has represented India at reputed international forums such as BRICS Young Scientist Conclave and Heidelberg Laureate Forum. She has been awarded by the former President of India, Shri. Pranab Mukherjee for her academic excellence. Her doctoral research explores advanced deep learning techniques for automated fingerprint analysis.



About Story

Her popular science story entitled "Fostering Digital India through Artificial Intelligence Guided Fingerprint Matching of Rural Indian Population" discusses the application of artificial intelligence to improve fingerprint matching of the rural Indian population. Specifically, she proposes a fingerprint enhancement model to enhance the quality of fingerprint images and facilitate improved fingerprint matching of the rural population.

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AWSAR Award: Third prize (PhD category)

Ms. Shruti Soni, Bangalore, Karnataka

Ms. Shruti Soni is a doctoral research scholar working in point-of-care diagnostics in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Her Ph.D research work also includes developing a low-cost, portable sample preparation module to purify and concentrate nucleic acids for disease diagnosis from biological samples.



About Story

Her popular science story entitled "Pain-free way to manage your sugar rush" addresses an essential aspect of diabetes management that includes regular monitoring of blood sugar levels. The current diagnosis method involves an invasive and painful way of monitoring blood glucose level, which requires vein puncture or finger pricking, adding unnecessary discomfort to the patients. The story suggests a more user-friendly diagnostic body fluid that can be collected in a non-invasive and pain-free manner and can be used to monitor glucose levels.

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