



**No.E T/Med/Task Force: Neuro Biology/2014**

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Constitution of a Task Force on Neuro- Disease Biology –Regarding**

The undersigned is directed to constitute of a **Task Force on Neuro-Disease Biology (TFNDB)** with following mandate, terms and conditions and composition:

**Mandate:** Neuro-Disease Biology research is critical in India as a rise in different forms of mental illness is witnessed starting from developmental to old-age disorders. While there are malnourishment related issues in pre-term/new-born, the psychological disorders in adolescent and dementia-related diseases i.e. Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases in older are matters of grave concern. Clinical management of the disease and initiating appropriate disease-biology research are two fundamental pillars towards "Healthy Childhood; Healthy Old-age".

With that mission, the Department constituted a Task Force on Neuroscience in April 2009 primarily to work on creating a work force of researchers. 2 sequential RFAs resulted in creating a strong base of around 200 researchers with 2-3 focused groups working on specific areas e.g. Glial cell biology, Neuropathic pain, Traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Neuro Oncology, Neuro-Imaging, Neuro-Degeneration and Neurophysiology. Area specific fellowships have been initiated e.g. INCRE for neuro-clinical research & INCNE for student working in the field of cognitive & computational neuroscience.

It is now planned to consolidate the efforts in the form of researching into neuro-disease biology by bringing in neurologists; basic scientists, neuro-physiologists and computational biologists under a common umbrella to work in an interdisciplinary manner with a mandate on:

- I. Strategic thinking for Neuro-related Disease Biology;
- II. Discussion on setting-up Center of Excellence in neuro-specific areas;
- III. Recommending area-specific brain-storming/workshop/ conferences;
- IV. Appraisal, mentoring and monitoring for R&D projects;
- V. Making suggestions for HRD in critical areas by supporting fellowships for 6 & 12 months;
- VI. Constitute ad-hoc groups for future R&D in Neuro Disease Biology.

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