

## **NCBS houses Shanta Wadhvani Centre for cardiac and neural research for regenerative medicine study**

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National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS) campus now houses the Shanta Wadhvani Centre for Cardiac and Neural Research. This Centre will support world class research in regenerative biology. With the commitment to world class research across a variety of industry segments, Wadhvani Foundation has taken a step to further its innovation initiative.

In 2009, the Wadhvani Foundation launched the Innovation initiative to help accelerate world class research in India by establishing the Wadhvani Research Centre in Biosciences and Biotechnology (WRCBB) at IIT Bombay.

WRCBB initiative is growing rapidly to its target of 25-30 world-class faculty and 100-150 post-graduate students engaged in leading edge research, supported by an international advisory board of well-known scientists. The intent is to catalyze additional centres of innovation across a variety of sectors in partnership with existing research institutes, government and Industry. This five year initiative was inaugurated by Dr. Romesh Wadhvani, the Chairman of Wadhvani Foundation & Founder of Symphony Technology Group in the presence of the Director of NCBS, Professor K. Vijay Raghavan and Dr. Ajay Kela, President and CEO of Wadhvani Foundation.

The key objective of Shanta Wadhvani Center for Cardiac and Neural Research is to scale up the research ecosystem in India to be at par with international levels.. Our partnerships in scientific research will help in stimulating the knowledge base in the country. Also, to become a world leader in the Biotechnology and Science vertical there is great need for building a public private partnership to complete the ecosystem that enables world-class research and this Centre is the important step in that direction, stated Dr. Wadhvani.

Professor K. Vijay Raghavan, Officiating Director of inStem and the Director of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) said that the setting up of the facility is viewed as a the best in basic research. The Centre can address important biomedical questions through wise and generous enabling support from philanthropy. We are very grateful to the Wadhvani Foundation for their support that allows us to speed up in these very important and competitive areas. Success in cutting-edge science requires us to be nimble and flexible. It allows us to put in place the best teams, including fellowships for group leaders, post-docs and students of any nationality to work in our campus and our students and postdocs to go elsewhere for collaborations, he added. "India has a large talent pool and enormous local need/opportunity across a number of industry segments that needs the right infrastructural support to become world-class in research and innovation. Through our Innovation initiative we look forward to creating platforms for Indian organizations to get world class facilities, equipment and access to global talent in the chosen verticals" said Dr. Ajay Kela, President and CEO, Wadhvani Foundation. The Foundation was set up in 2000 by Dr. Romesh Wadhvani, an IIT-Bombay alumnus with a doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University and an IT entrepreneur from the Silicon Valley, California. Two primary thrust areas are the Large Scale Job Creation and Skill Development. Entrepreneurship and Innovation focus on Job Creation whilst skilling is achieved through Skill Colleges Initiatives. Two parallel Chairs with CSIS in Washington and ICRIER in Delhi support Indo-US Policy Studies. The Foundation works across the higher education spectrum, leveraging Government resources and market forces to achieve scale.