



Translational Health Science and Technology Institute

(An Autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)

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PRESS RELEASE

Fourth Foundation day celebration of THSTI

Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) celebrated its fourth Foundation Day on 12th July 2013. The institute was set up under the 11th Plan of the Govt. of India as an autonomous institute under the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology. THSTI currently operates from the interim facilities in Gurgaon. The institute will be a part of the NCR Biotech Science Cluster at Faridabad. The construction of THSTI facilities at Faridabad are in final stages of completion.

THSTI is mandated to translate bench research to bedside clinical health care products for the most under privileged of the Indian population. Affordability of such health care is a primary consideration. THSTI is designed to achieve these objectives through seven of its niche centers and two extramural centers. THSTI also collaborates with national and international institutions to further its goals. Research at THSTI is multidisciplinary, involving scientists, clinicians, engineers, biotechnologists and policy makers among other experts.

It is through such collaborative endeavors that THSTI has contributed to ROTAVAC vaccine for diarrhea in infants and Celiac Disease Point of Care Test Kit. Among the several other projects underway are Preterm Birth Cohort studies, research on infectious diseases like Hepatitis E, Tuberculosis, Dengue, HIV, and the NutriVAC-D Trial to improve immune responses to vaccines in early infancy.

THSTI is also involved in the academic development of future biotechnologists and clinical scientists, which is a scarce resource at this time. THSTI's Ph. D. program is underway for the last three years, and is recognized by some of the leading universities in India. THSTI also has academic and scientific affiliations with Osaka University and University of Turku, Finland.

THSTI celebrated its fourth Foundation Day this year at the India International Center, New Delhi. Dr. Rita Colwell, former Director, United States National Science Foundation (NSF), delivered the Foundation Day address on "Waterborne Disease in the time of Climate Change: the cholera paradigm". Dr. M.K. Bhan, former Secretary, Department of Biotechnology presented the keynote address. The event was chaired by Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology. Dr. G.B. Nair, Executive Director, THSTI, presented a report on the progress made at the institute.