



The e-newsletter for the Indian Biotech industry

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ABLE Governing Body Members

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Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

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Mr G S Krishnan

Vice President
Ms. Deepanwita Chattopadhyay

General Secretary
Dr. Ezhil Subbian

Treasurer
Mr Ravi Bhola

Governing Body members

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Dr. B N Manohar

Dr. Jayashree Aiyar

Mr. Krishna Kalyan T. D.

Dr. Sandeep N Athalye

Mr. Sanjeev B Neelappa

Dr. S. Shriram

Ms. Sowmya L Balendiran

Dr. Vasan Sambandamurthy

Mr Venkat K Bundla

COO
Mr Narayanan Suresh

It's time for both Change and Continuity



After the successful conduct of the elections to the Governing Body of ABLE for the new term, 2024-26 in January, the team has taken over their responsibilities on April 1, 2024. As I have been re-elected as the President for the new term too, I would like to offer a very warm welcome to the new GB members and also to all the members who have entrusted us with this great responsibility.

We very much look forward to the support and cooperation, in continuing with our mission to make ABLE the most valuable association for all our members in particular and the BT fraternity in general, working together with all the Stakeholders.

It's time for both change and continuity. Continuity because some of the GB members continue along with me in the new team. Six members are serving on the GB for the first time and they will bring in new ideas and networks to propel the association into the next era. Overall, a perfect blend of experience and freshness in the team.

It was a challenging three years that went by, including the Covid recovery phase, in spite of this ABLE has achieved many significant things.

During April 2021- 24 we could accomplish the following:

- We could redraft the '**ABLE bylaws**' with guidance from Dr K K Narayanan and K&S Partners and approved by all of you, now the revised ABLE BYLAWS is in force since 2023. And one of the significant changes is that the Governing Body will serve hereafter only for TWO years and not Three.
- To support Biotech development and initiative in the regions, we had committed to open '**ABLE regional chapters**'. We have now opened the **Western region Chapter @ Venture Centre, Pune**, represented by Dr V Premnath, **Eastern Region Chapter @ KIIT Bhubaneswar**, represented by Dr Mrityunjay Suar and also we have signed In March the agreement to open the **Northern Region Chapter @ IIT Kanpur - Noida Office**, represented by Dr Amitabha Bandopadhyaya. This will ensure our efforts in the region are stepped up.
- With the **Membership drive** initiated by ABLE secretariat, we have added five more **Gold members and dozens of new members** in the other categories and these efforts will continue.
- The monthly '**Webinar**' initiative taken during COVID to keep our members and BT fraternity updated on the Industry progress was very well received and we are continuing this with relevant and interesting topics with expert speakers and is gaining more popularity. This will be continued and thanks to Mr Ravi Bhola and Dr Shriram Raghavan.

e) ABLE has been supporting **DBT/BIRAC** in preparing the '**BioEconomy report**' every year. In the 2023 report we deep dived into the 'Bio Industrial sector' and realized this segment has made tremendous contributions to boost the BioEconomy with BioSolutions, through use of Enzymes and Microbes, in the Food, Feed and Biofuel areas. We have made these significant corrections in the BioEconomy report.

f) ABLE's efforts in ensuring the '**Biodiversity Laws**' are revisited to support innovations and entrepreneurship was well received by the government and we now have the revised regulation to support this segment. Thanks to all the support from Mr Shrikumar Suryanarayan, Dr P M Murali and Dr Malathi Lakshmi Kumaran for playing an important role in this initiative.

g) Our successful student outreach activity through '**voice for BT**' **public speaking contest**, is being continued and we have now re-introduced the '**BEST Awards**' program also for BT students.

h) Our collaboration with '**State Governments**' to promote Biotechnology, similar to our efforts in Karnataka, has attracted a few other states like Gujarat and Odisha and are keen on knowing their contribution to the BioEconomy and how they could increase it further. This is a very positive development for the growth of BT segments in the regions and we have enquiries from a few other states for support from ABLE.

i) **DBT & BIRAC** have been seeking our support for not only the BioEconomy report, but also for conducting the '**Global Bio India**' and '**Bio Manufacturing**' initiatives, which is very positive for the benefit of our members

j) We have revived the ABLE '**India Pavilion**' efforts at '**BIO US**' which will have prominently DBT/BIRAC and State Governments participation. This will continue to benefit BT Pharma Companies and Startups who will be participating in the exhibition, in a big way.

Dr Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, our Hon. Non-executive Chairperson, has been a great source of inspiration and support as always. Our **past Presidents**, who are our governing council members, have been contributing and guiding us with their vast experience and we thank them all.

I am happy to note that our BT segment continues to perform strongly and we are confident of the BioEconomy crossing the \$ 150 billion target very soon. There are other exciting developments too to support the industry. The Department of Biotechnology is going to unveil an ambitious national Biomanufacturing Initiative to boost the domestic production of key biotech products.

There is an opportunity for our members to showcase their best to the world through the **India Pavilion**, set up by ABLE at the **BIO San Diego**, California from **June 3-6, 2024**. DBT-BIRAC will be conducting the next edition of the Global Bio India 2024 in September and the Bengaluru Tech Summit is slated for November 2024. We look forward to all your participation and support.

Together, we shall strive for the growth of the BioEconomy of the country.

ABLE Governing Body members Profile

Mr. G S Krishnan Hon. President, ABLE



Experienced thought-leader in the Industrial Bio-tech Segment, propagating Sustainable solutions using Enzymes and microbes across the SAARC countries with Global market exposure. In-depth knowledge and vast experience in Organizational Strategy, Business development, Leadership development, Mergers & acquisitions, Innovation & application development and General Management experience in a multinational environment. With this exposure, knowledge and experience, looking forward to contributing towards the growth of India's

Biotechnology sector and develop to become the largest Bioeconomy in the world.

After a 27-year tenure at Novonesis until March 2019 (formerly Novozymes South Asia Pvt. Ltd.), managed the Indian operations in the role as Managing Director and Regional President. Chaired the Board of the Indian entity and the India Leadership team. Currently engaged as an Independent Director, Consultant/Advisor across various Biotech Industries and also mentor a few upcoming leaders.

- Director, External stakeholder relations – Novonesis (previously Novozymes South Asia Pvt Ltd), Consultant – Novo Holdings A/S – Denmark
- Advisor – Corbion, India
- Member - CII Bio Energy Committee,
- Hon. President - ABLE, (Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprise)
- Member - Vision Group on Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka,

During his tenure at Novozymes India, spanning 27 Years, led the Indian organization in various areas:

- Chairman of the Board of Indian entity
- Chaired the Indian Leadership team evolving the organization Strategy for Novozymes India
- Played a key role in the strategic acquisition of the Enzyme business of Biocon India and the successful integration
- Developed the organization from 5 to 625 employees preparing for the future at various stages, establishing a formulation unit, R&D and Application development labs, supporting global and local organisation
- Established shared service center in India as a viable and efficient off shore activity
- Successfully established a Green field production facility taking into consideration, the long term business opportunity in India.

Worked closely with external stakeholders and decision makers in the various Regulatory departments to ensure new innovations are approved on a fast track. Played a thought leadership role in ensuring we come to a consensus among all stakeholders to represent to the authorities on Industry demands. Member of various Industry bodies, contributing towards policy advocacy and propagating on the importance of Biotechnological solutions as a viable alternative to protect the environment. Projected on the opportunity in developing the Food, Bio Ag and Bio energy business in India, creating more job opportunities and rural development. A firm believer in the importance of Sustainable Biotech solutions as the only alternative to address climate change challenges. Active speaker in Biotech/ Bio Energy forums as an Industry leader. Participated as a speaker at "ECOSOC" at the United Nations, propagating Sustainable Development Goals of Novozymes.

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Ms. Deepanwita Chattopadhyay

Hon. Vice President, ABLE

Chairman & CEO, IKP Knowledge Park



Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, Chairman & CEO, IKP Knowledge Park, developed the first Life Science Research Park in India, in Hyderabad. She pioneered a Hardware Product Incubator and Makerspace, IKP EDEN, in Bangalore and works with Indian and global partners to support over 1400 innovation projects and early startups. Deepanwita is the recipient of the Golden Jubilee Biotech Park Lifetime Achievement Award 2023. She received the Vocational Excellence Award 2023-24 from Rotary Club, Hyderabad Deccan. She was recognized as one of the top 10 Enablers and Champions of the Incubation Ecosystem in India by the Department of Science & Technology, GoI in 2022. She received the FICCI FLO Influential Women Award, 2021 for Outstanding Contribution to the Innovation Ecosystem. In 2018 she was awarded the "Top Women Achievers of the Year 2017 in Asia" by AsiaOne Business Magazine and "Women of the Decade in Life Sciences & Innovation" by the Women Economic Forum. She authored the India Chapter for the Global Innovation Index Report GII 2020.

After brief stints as an engineering faculty at BITS, Pilani, India, a freelance science writer for children, Deepanwita joined the ICICI Bank in 1994 in the telecom practice of ICICI Advisory Services Division. She worked in telecom regulation and policy and advised the government and the private sector on telecom regulation, market forecasts and market entry strategies. She was deputed to IKP Knowledge Park (then ICICI Knowledge Park) as its CEO in August 2001. What followed in the next two decades and more was Deepanwita's deep engagement in the development of innovation ecosystems.

Deepanwita took over as the Chair of IKP in November 2015. She is a Director on the Boards of IKP, IKP Trust, IKP Ventures, Research & Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) and AIC-CCMB, and the President of IKP EDEN. She is also the Chair and Co-Founder of a startup, Support Elders Pvt. Ltd.

Deepanwita is a member of the Global Advisory Council and the immediate past Treasurer of the International Association of Science Parks (IASP) with its global headquarters in Malaga, Spain. She is on the Research Council of the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB), on the Executive Council of AGNII (Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations), Board of Governors of the Society for Technology Management (STEM) and on the Governing Council of several Incubators in India. She is a member of several National level committees of the Government including the S&T Cluster Apex Committee under the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt. of India, Committee of the Prime Minister's Fellowship for Doctoral Research, DST, GoI, Consultative Committee of S&T and Innovation in NITI Aayog and the Committee on Biotech Parks and the National Biodesign Consortium of the Department of Biotechnology, GoI.

Dr. Ezhil Subbian
Hon. General Secretary, ABLE
CEO, String Bio Pvt. Ltd.



Dr. Ezhil Subbian serves as the CEO of String. As one of the world leaders in gas fermentation, String's proprietary platform enables biomanufacturing of sustainable ingredients from greenhouse gases, for sectors fundamental to living including, food, agriculture and environment. String's vision is to redefine manufacturing and make sustainability market relevant.

Prior to String, Ezhil played key roles in biobased product innovation at different early-stage companies in the Silicon Valley ecosystem. Building on her experience over the last 20 years in biobased product commercialization and market growth, Ezhil's drive is to leverage the technology prowess of the west and the manufacturing capabilities of the east to develop sustainable innovations that can have global impact. Ezhil's work was most recently recognized with the Women Transforming India Award 2018 from United Nations and NITI Aayog.

Mr. Ravi Bhola
Treasurer, ABLE
Managing Partner, K&S Partners



Ravi is the Managing Partner at Intellectual Property (IP) Law firm, K&S Partners. He is practicing IP for more than two decades now. His focus areas are patents and designs. He has drafted and prosecuted large number of patent cases in diverse areas of technology.

Apart from the above, he is actively involved in complex advisory and contentious matters. He is a certified Patent Valuation Analyst and enjoys working with exciting startups, and mentors a few. Ravi provides pro bono support to a few charitable trusts and has set up Ossi Foundation along with his wife Anchal to help the underprivileged.

Dr. Ashvini Shete
Strategy & Technology Lead - Renewable Chemicals & Materials,
Praj Industries Limited



Ashvini, a seasoned professional at Praj Industries Limited, Pune, leads Strategy & Technology development for Renewable Chemicals & Materials. She's driven by sustainability, delving into renewable chemicals production for combating plastic pollution. Her commitment to green solutions aligns with her concern for environmental impact. Beyond her passions, Ashvini shapes Praj's strategic path in Renewable Chemicals & Materials.

She's pivotal in commercializing state-of-the-art technologies, cementing Praj's dedication to sustainability. Continually pioneering change, Ashvini champions sustainable innovation, leaving an indelible mark in her field.

Dr. B N Manohar

MD & CEO, Stempeutics Research Pvt. Ltd.



Manohar is the MD & CEO of Stempeutics – a leading stem cell research and product development Company based out of Bangalore, India. Manohar has transformed Stempeutics – a life science start-up from R&D to Commercialization stage with Global recognitions.

Company’s novel product “Stempeucel®” has been granted manufacturing and marketing approval for the treatment of Critical Limb Ischemia (CLI) and Knee Osteoarthritis (OA) by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). Stempeucel® becomes the first allogeneic cell therapy product to be approved for commercial use in India and the first stem cell product to be approved Globally for CLI indication. Over 20 countries including US, UK, Japan & China has granted patent for the novelty and inventiveness of the drug. Europe has recognized this drug by granting Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product classification and Orphan Drug Designation. Stempeutics has put India on the “World map of Regenerative Medicine”. Under Manohar’s leadership Stempeutics has established marketing partnership with Pharma Companies Cipla and Alkem Labs.

Stempeutics has been recognized as India’s hottest startups by Business Today in 2008 and Karnataka Government bestowed “Emerging Company of the Year award” in 2011 and 2013. In 2017 Manohar was awarded “Biotechnologist of the Year” award by Wockhardt Foundation, India. In 2018 Stempeutics received “Top 25 most innovative Company” award from CII. Manohar has raised more than US \$25M by establishing strategic alliance with Cipla and with Kemwell Biopharma.

Dr. Jayashree Aiyar

VP and Head Discovery Biology, Syngene International Ltd.



Jayashree holds a Ph.D in Immunology from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and has pursued her post-doctoral research at the California Institute of Technology and the University of California at Irvine. She has over 20 years of global experience as a molecular pharmacologist and has been associated with leading global organizations like AstraZeneca, Merck, Ambrx Inc. and Theravance. She has more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters to her credit. At Syngene, Jayashree leads a team of 700 scientists to support drug discovery of small and large molecules as well as cell and

gene therapy.

Mr. Krishna Kalyan T. D.

Executive Director & COO, Laurus Bio Pvt. Ltd.



Krishna Kalyan is presently the Executive Director & COO of Laurus Bio Pvt. Ltd.. He is a senior leader with extensive experience in achieving business excellence in biotech and technology industries. His primary area of expertise includes corporate strategy, large scale manufacturing and business process optimization. He has led cross-functional high-performance teams in early stage and large organizations across geographies. Krishna Kalyan holds a M.S by Research degree in Management from IIT Madras..

Dr. Sandeep Nilkanth Athalye

Chief Development Officer, Biocon Biologics



Dr. Sandeep Athalye is the Chief Development Officer at Biocon Biologics since 2023 and has been responsible for Clinical Development & Operations, Pharmacovigilance & Drug Safety, Medical and Regulatory Affairs. After a stint with Biocon early in his career, Sandeep joined back the organization in 2017.

He has over 20 years of experience in Clinical Development and Medical Affairs spanning US, Europe, and Asia. Sandeep spent 12 years in the US with Schering Plough and Novartis, where he was responsible for global development of assets across several therapeutic areas. He then led the clinical development team at Biocon, before taking up a leadership role at Boehringer Ingelheim in Germany in the Biosimilars Unit. He also has experience of setting up development operations in China.

Sandeep has done a mini MBA in BioPharma Innovation at the Rutgers University, New Brunswick, US; a MS in Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Toledo, US and an MBBS in Medicine at the Bharati Vidyapeeth, India.

Mr. Sanjeev Balahall Neelappa

Managing Director, Yokogawa Technology Solutions India Pvt. Ltd.



Sanjeev is presently the Managing Director of Yokogawa Technology Solutions. He has good experience in New Business Incubation, Business Development, and leading Global Business R&D Centers. Working on building New Business in New Market and in New Industry segment around Bio, Digital Technology, Decarbonization, ISWM, and Alternate Energy. He is well connected with Industry association, Academia, Research institutes, VC's & start-up ecosystem. Sanjeev has a strong background in Global Program management, Operations Management, People & Technical leadership and Quality assurance with an outstanding track record in leading projects from initial concept phase through final Deployment.

Dr. S. Shriram

Senior Vice President, Jananom Pvt. Ltd.



Shriram, presently the senior vice president at Jananom, India's first company to offer Synthetic biology as a service (Saas), has over 2 decades of experience in building 6 start-ups in life sciences and operated in 28 countries around the world. He lends his support to more than 60 startups along the east coast of India and advises many technology incubators including Golden Jubilee Biotech Park Chennai, KIIT-TBI Bhubaneswar, a-Idea-Naarm, Hyderabad, VIT, Vellore, RCB-BSC Faridabad, VCR Park, Vizag. He is also on boards of some of the investment committees for startups. He is now part of AICTE committee to formulate a model curriculum for B.Tech courses in Biotechnology.

He has a Masters in biochemical engineering, M.Phil and Ph.D in computational systems biology, MBA in international business with focus on transfer pricing for biotechnology intangibles, a certified "Key Executive Professional" from Harvard Business School in Boston, USA

Ms. Sowmya Lakshmi Balendiran

Co-Founder & Chief Business Officer, Sea6 Energy



India edition.

Sowmya is the Co-founder and Chief Business Officer at Sea6 Energy. She graduated with a Major in Biotechnology, and later went on to pursue an Executive Management program from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. She has over 12+ years of experience in International Sales & Marketing and has established business in more than 20+ countries. She has been accredited with several awards including being featured in the "Top 50 women in Biotech" in India, World Economic Forum Davos 2023, GP ORF in green and Science category and also received a special mention in Forbes "30 under 30" -

Dr. Vasan Sambandamurthy

Senior Vice President - Global Strategy, Bugworks Research Inc.



Vasan brings 20+ years of professional experience in vaccine and drug development at Novartis, AstraZeneca, and Biocon. At these organizations, he provided strategic direction, and orchestrated major business operations to develop affordable medicines across oncology, diabetes, infectious diseases and inflammation.

Most recently, he was the Chief Executive Officer of DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, a global funding agency promoting basic, biomedical and clinical research across India. He has 50+ publications in peer-reviewed international journals and co-inventor on 4 patents

Mr. Venkat Kamalakar Bundla

Managing Director, Garphi Biosciences Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Venkat Kamalakar Bundla is the Founder Managing Director of Garphi Biosciences. A B.Pharm (Hons) and MBA, Venkat has 3 plus decades of extensive and diverse experience in consulting, operations & general management. He has demonstrated success in leadership roles and has a wide experience in working and supporting Business and R&D of Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology companies globally. After excelling in Leadership positions with increasingly progressive mandates, for several large pharmaceutical organizations, where he played a vital role across wide geographies - Americas, Asia, Europe and globally, he co-founded Garphi Biosciences. He is also invested in many a cutting-edge start-up in the Pharma & Technology space and is actively involved in policymaking and strategic planning initiatives for these startups.

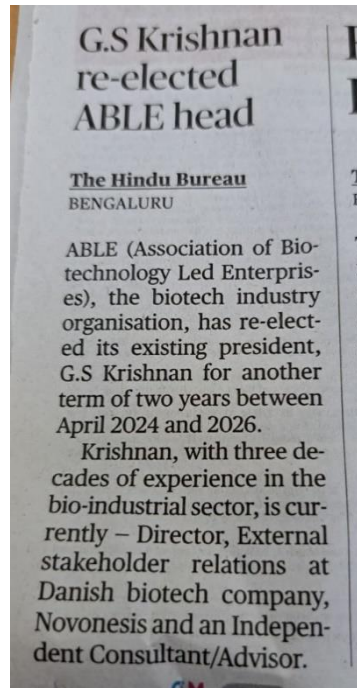
Widely travelled and networked with good connections in the industry, Venkat brings to the table, a strong techno-commercial and operational expertise. His extensive experience of being on both sides of the negotiation table in several multi- million-dollar global deals adds immense value to the organizations which seek his advice and guidance to mentor their new age leaders in the upcoming ventures. His uncanny ability to understand the interests of the company with greater objectivity and his intent to challenge the direction and performance of the companies & its teams ensures the interests of corporate stakeholders are well protected before the priorities of the Managements or Boards. He has a knack of taking a deep look into the financials of the company to verify fiscal responsibility and to put necessary controls in place if required.

Venkat is also an active Angel Investor and is the board member & adviser for a number of Life Science companies in India, Europe and USA. An avid golfer, he is affiliated to many Industry bodies and is a regular speaker at various events organized by Academia & industry in India and abroad. Currently he serves on the Boards of ABLE (Association of Biotechnology led Enterprises) India & TIE Hyderabad.

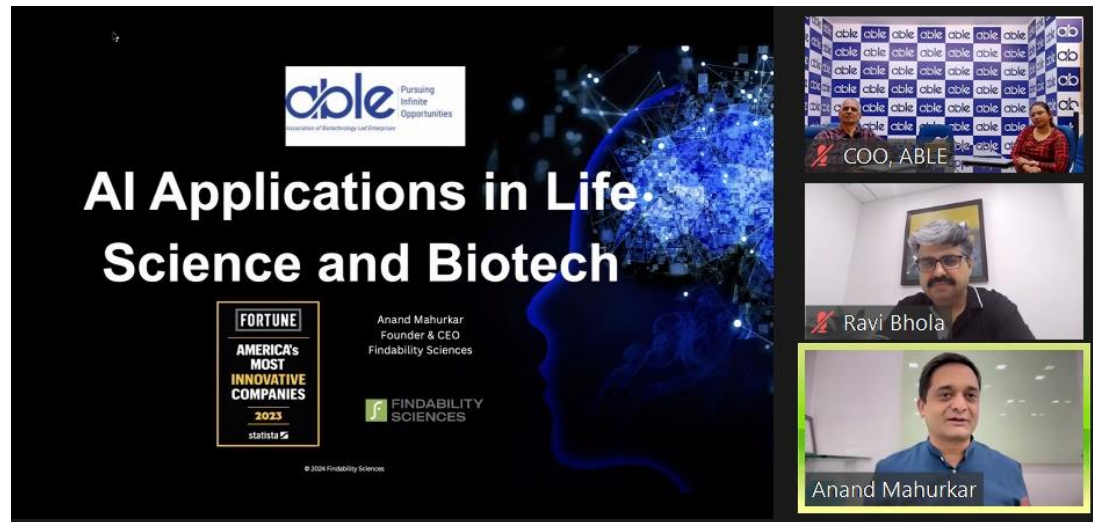
ABLE Press release

G S Krishnan re-elected ABLE President for 2024 - 2026

ABLE thanks prominent media platforms like Times of India, The Hindu, BioSpectrum, Express Pharma, Pharmabiz, BioVoice and others for publishing our announcement that Mr. G S Krishnan has been re-elected as ABLE President for the term extending from 2024 to 2026.



AI Revolutionizes Life Sciences and Biotech: Insights from Findability Sciences CEO



An online webinar on March 15, spearheaded by Dr Anand Mahurkar, CEO of Findability Sciences in Boston, illuminated the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in life sciences and biotech. Mahurkar delved into AI's evolution over the past two decades, highlighting machine learning as a cornerstone component.

Machine learning, encompassing supervised, unsupervised, and reinforced learning, has become pivotal in deciphering structured and unstructured data, including natural language processing and computer vision. However, the latest frontier, Generative AI (GAI), enables the creation of new content akin to existing data.

Mahurkar illustrated the journey to Generative AI, exemplified by generative image and language models such as Large Language Models (LLMs) like GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer). Despite its ability to generate human-like text, GAI introduces unpredictability, requiring business users to grasp its nuances.

He emphasized the synergy of a robust data architecture, data pre-processing, and discriminative AI alongside GAI for comprehensive enterprise forecasting and business process optimization. Examples include AI serving as a co-pilot for regulatory compliance, biomolecule sequence generation, and studying the effects of meditation on brain activities.

From supply chain automation to disease classification, AI's applications are revolutionizing life sciences and biotech, catapulting the industry towards unprecedented innovation and efficiency.

ABLE members Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute collaborate to make more Oral Polio vaccines



By Narayanan Suresh

Bangalore, April 3, 2024: In a major development, two key ABLE members, Bharat Biotech, Hyderabad and Serum Institute of India, Pune, have announced a joint collaboration effort to produce more oral polio vaccine (OPV) to boost the supply of this important vaccine in the country.

In an announcement on April 2, Bharat Biotech said the company will source the drug substance for OPV from Serum Institute owned Dutch subsidiary, Bilthoven Biological (BBio). Both Bharat Biotech and Serum Institute will jointly obtain regulatory approvals and commercial license to make OPV in the country, for both domestic and international markets.

Bharat Biotech has an installed capacity to produce up to 500 million doses of the vaccine. The world is pushing for a complete eradication of polio virus with the few dozen cases still reported from only three countries. India is Polio Free but continues to undertake annual Polio vaccination camps to prevent any recurrence of this dreaded disease that mainly cripples children.

“Oral Polio Vaccines have been an integral part of India’s Universal Immunization Program (UIP) for several decades, with Bharat Biotech being one of the largest suppliers to immunization programs across the world. This collaboration between BBIL and BBio exemplifies cooperation between vaccine companies, ensuring a secure supply of oral polio vaccines and fortifies the nation’s mission to eradicate polio,” said Dr. Krishna Ella, Executive Chairman of Bharat Biotech.

Added Mr Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India: “We are delighted to join forces with Bharat Biotech to reinforce the global supply of polio vaccines. Our vision is to eradicate Polio worldwide, taking a crucial step towards reducing the impact of this deadly disease on vulnerable populations.”

Serum Institute had acquired Bilthoven Biologicals from the Holland government in 2012 and the acquisition provided the Pune company the BBaccess to technology and expertise for making the IPV (Injectable Polio Vaccine, Salk), earlier possessed by only 3 other vaccine manufacturers. BBio is spread over 40 acres with an installed manufacturing capacity of over 20 million doses of vaccines annually. The production facilities are State-of-art and fully compliant with cGMP and biopharmaceutical requirements.

Serum Institute, the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer, has an installed capacity to produce more than 4 billion doses of vaccines. Bharat Biotech is also a leading global supplier of a large number of important vaccines.

ABLE member Praj Industries Ranked No. 1 in the 'Hottest Top 50 Companies in Advanced Bioeconomy'

Praj Industries is ranked as No. 1 in the list of 'Hottest Top 50 Companies in Advanced Bioeconomy', becoming the first Asian and Indian company to bag this honour. This announcement was made at Global Bioeconomy's flagship industry conference – AB4 held at Washington DC last week. The US-based media house, The Digest with more than 6.1 million unique readers, conducts the annual rankings of the globally most competitive companies in Bioeconomy.

This recognition is a testament of Praj's Climate Action initiatives in Global Bioeconomy under the visionary leadership of Founder Chairman, Dr. Pramod Chaudhari.

Praj's Journey from being an aspirant in the global ranking to Numero Uni Position in its Ruby Anniversary Year, is a story of Purpose, Passion, and Perfection.

This development comes as a shot-in-the-arm at a time, when Bioeconomy is poised to leapfrog and make significant contributions to help India become the third largest economy by 2027. As a flag-bearer of Bioeconomy, Praj with its partners, is well-positioned to capitalize the ushering opportunities.



4th Annual Women in Biotech Awards 2024

The 4th annual Women in Biotech awards 2024 organized by the Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Women Society, Chennai along with ABLE has successfully conducted the selection process to recognize outstanding women achievers in diverse fields within the life sciences sector. A panel of esteemed judges evaluated the nominees based on the Uniqueness of the work carried out, Social Impact, Leadership Role, Organizational Highlights and Awards & Recognition.

The 5-member jury comprised eminent personalities from the biotech industry:

- Mr. G S Krishnan, Hon. President - ABLE
- Ms. Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, Chairman & CEO - IKP Knowledge Park
- Dr. Ezhil Subbian, CEO and Co-founder - String Bio Pvt Ltd
- Mr Ravi Bhola, Managing Partner - K&S Partners
- Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO - ABLE

A total of 23 applications were received across various award categories, showcasing the remarkable talent and achievements of women in the biotech industry. The jury faced a challenging task in selecting the winners. The awards will be presented soon.

The following distinguished women were recognized for their exceptional contributions:



The Women Scientist of the Year has been awarded to Dr Ashima Bhaskar (ICGEB, New Delhi).



The Women Entrepreneur of the Year has been awarded to Dr Fatima Benazir (Azooka Labs, Bangalore)



The Most Innovative Biotech Women Entrepreneur in Tamil Nadu has been awarded to Dr Menaga Magendran (Bioneemtec, Chennai)

Karnataka Biotech Policy draft - Interaction meetings

ABLE had been mandated by Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka to get feedback/suggestions/further inputs from various stakeholders by having interaction meetings across the Karnataka state. ABLE had conducted interaction meeting at the following places and gathered inputs for the Karnataka Biotechnology Policy Draft.

- Sahyadri College of Science, Vidya Nagar, Shivamogga
- Manipal - Government of Karnataka Bioincubator, Manipal
- Yenepoya Technology Incubator, Mangaluru
- CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru
- KLE University (KAHER), Belagavi
- University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad
- Centre for Cellular And Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), Bengaluru
- Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC), Bengaluru

Also, an online interaction meeting was held for the Stakeholders from Bidar, Bagalkot, Davangere, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Hassan & Tumkur Districts.





On February 22nd, 2024, ABLE presented the finalized details of the inputs collected by various stakeholders across the state for the draft Karnataka Biotechnology Policy to Vision Group on Biotechnology (VGBT). It is a committee appointed by Karnataka government to advise on biotechnology policy initiatives in Karnataka headed by the chairperson of the group Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.



ABLE meeting with U.S. National Academy of Sciences



On 5th March 2024, officials from U.S. National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) team visited ABLÉ office to discuss on launching a project focused on the International bioeconomy and U.S.-India cooperation under Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET). The National Academies, together with its Indian partners, will facilitate a virtual workshop series to define the research and innovation ecosystem, policy and practices, and infrastructure landscapes for bioeconomy in the United States and India, highlighting joint and collaborative efforts.

President Biden and Prime Minister Modi announced the establishment of iCET to elevate and expand the strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between the governments, businesses, and academic institutions of the two countries by fostering an open, accessible, and secure technology ecosystem, based on mutual trust and confidence, that will reinforce our democratic values and institutions.

Through both in-person and virtual workshops, the project will engage a wide range of experts to strengthen the safety and security environment for emerging biotechnologies of concern. More broadly, it will seek a range of opportunities for supporting and sustaining deeper engagement between experts in the United States and India across multiple priority research and development fields.

ABLE's participation at BioAsia 2024



The 21st edition of BioAsia 2024, the premier life sciences and healthcare forum in Asia was held in the thriving city of Hyderabad, India, from February 26-28, 2024 with the theme of “Data and AI: Redefining Possibilities”. The event was organized by the Government of Telangana and ABLE was one of the Supporting Organization for the event.

The event fostered insightful discussions, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities that collectively explored the potential opportunities data and AI can unleash for life sciences companies. Participants got to engage with visionaries and pioneers, exchange knowledge, and forge collaborations that could shape the trajectory of the industry. Multiple tracks had been designed to cover a range of topics, including pharmaceutical innovations, medtech advances, investment roadmapping, and data-powered R&D. Industry thought leaders from over 50 countries came together in this platform to discuss ideas to further affordable and accessible solutions. As part of the main conference, BioAsia offered specially curated workshops, an exhibition arena for cutting-edge product displays from young ventures, B2B meeting spaces, and lab/facility visits such as the Genome Valley tour, facilitating greater engagement.

ABLE's participation at EMERGE 2024



ABLE was happy to be a part of EMERGE 2024 organized by Section Infin-8 Foundation and IFIA Bharat - India's first beachside startup festival where founders, entrepreneurs, mentors and investors from various segments converged to foster and nurture emerging startups.

It was a three-day event from 16-18 February with the Tapasya Beach Festival in Tannirbhavi beach, Mangaluru. The networking event also featured talks and presentations highlighting the distinct approaches of incubation, IPR and various aspects of the startup ecosystem. With a bustling gathering of over 1000 participants, Emerge 2024 offered enlightening talks, hands-on workshops, and a plethora of cutting-edge AI applications. It was a transformative experience designed to empower and fortify the entrepreneurial community.



ABLE supported Government of Karnataka to conduct Elevate 2023 Call 2 and Elevate Unnati 2023



ABLE has played a pivotal role in supporting the Government of Karnataka (GoK) in conducting Elevate 2023 Call 2 and Elevate Unnati 2023.

ELEVATE 2023 is intended to identify top innovative startups in Karnataka, who would be given Government support to scale up their product or solution so that they can elevate to the next level whereas **ELEVATE Unnati 2023** is intended to identify most innovative startups having Director(s)/ Partner(s) belong to the SC/ ST community in Karnataka, who would be given support to scale up their product or solution so that they can elevate to the next level.

ABLE was a part of the selection process with the help of other Industry bodies like NASSCOM, TiE-Bangalore, Deshpande Foundation, IESA, etc. ABLE had the engagement of its member organizations as esteemed jurors to evaluate proposals from Biotech, Medtech and Lifesciences Sectors. 817 startups enrolled in the ELEVATE program.

[Click here to know the list of winners.](#)



BIO International Convention at San Diego, USA

June 3-6, 2024

India Pavilion organized by ABLE at BIO International Convention will be held from June 3-6 at San Diego, USA. A 1500 square feet pavilion, strategically positioned near a prime entrance of the convention centre is designed to captivate attention and attract a massive influx of visitors.

BIO International Convention & Exhibition is one of the leading biotech events in the world. It brings together the brightest minds and innovative companies from across the globe. It serves as an unparalleled platform for networking, knowledge-sharing, and showcasing cutting-edge technologies and advancements in the field of biotechnology. The BIO 2023 had 1540 exhibiting companies, 20560 registrants from 73 countries and record breaking 57000+ partnering meetings. There were 180+ Indian delegates from 75+ companies. This presents an unparalleled opportunity for biotech organizations to showcase their innovations on the global stage alongside industry leaders and innovators. Last few stalls left. **Please contact us if you are interested to showcase your organization to a global audience.**



[Click here for detailed Proposal-cum-Information booklet.](#)

We also have opportunity to feature your esteemed organization in the upcoming **India Biotech Handbook 2024**, set to be unveiled during the prestigious BIO International Convention in San Diego, USA, from June 3-6, 2024. [Click here to know more.](#)

CONNECT & CAPTIVATE

The Global Biotech audience by advertising in **India Biotech Handbook 2024**

ABLE offers advertisement opportunity to showcase your organization in the India Biotech Handbook 2024, that will be officially released during the Convention in the India Pavilion at BIO San Diego 2024 specially for organisations who are unable to attend the event or those registered only for Business Forum Partnering.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to reach a targeted audience and maximize your exposure at one of the largest global biotech events.

Special discount for ABLE members

Last date : 25th April 2024

Contact:
gm@ableindia.org.in
+91 99000 48833

Scan for more information

ABLE President G S Krishnan to speak at BioStartUps CEO & Founder Conclave 2024 on 12th April in Mumbai



BioStartUps
Leading Biotech Startups

CEO & Founder Conclave '24
Fueling Innovation and Growth in Biotechnology

12th, April, 2024 | CIDCO Convention Hall, Mumbai

- Moderator -


G S Krishnan
President, Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE)

- Speakers -


Dr. Taslimarif Saliyed
Director & CEO, Centre for Cellular And Molecular Platforms


Dr. Vishal Warke
Director - R&D, Cell Culture & Immunology, Himedia Laboratories


Raghavendra Goud Vaggu
Founding Promoter for startups in new age technologies


Dr. Manisha Premnath
COO, Venture Center


Dr. Mohamed Adil A. A
Managing Director, Bangalore BioInnovation Centre


Dr. Vadiraja Bhat
Biopharma Business Development Manager, Agilent Technologies

Engaging with India's Biotech
Startup Ecosystem Leaders: Fireside Perspectives!

A special talk on biotech startup ecosystem



N Suresh
COO, Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE)

BioSpectrum is organising the first edition of the **BioStartUps CEO and Founder Conclave'24** being held on 12th April at CIDCO Convention Hall, Mumbai, is a premier event that brings together the brightest minds and innovators in the biotech industry. This conclave serves as a unique platform for networking, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration, providing invaluable insights for emerging and established leaders alike. The theme of the event is "Fueling Innovation & Growth in Biotechnology".

Mr. G S Krishnan, Hon. President of ABLE will be chairing the panel discussion on 'Navigating the BioStartups Landscape' and Mr. Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE will be delivering a special talk on biotech startup ecosystem. Ms Deepanwita Chattopadhyay, Hon. Vice President, ABLE and Chairperson IKP Knowledge Park will also be chairing the session on "Innovations in Biotechnology".

The event will facilitate in-depth discussions on current biotech trends, regulatory challenges, innovations and highlighting cutting-edge biotech technologies, products, and services. There will also be practical workshops and sessions that will equip startup founders with essential skills and insights. A very good platform to foster connections between biotech entrepreneurs, investors, industry experts, and potential collaborators.

To secure your spot at **BioStartUps CEO and Founder Conclave'24**, simply click on the following <https://thebiostartups.com/ceo-event-2024/forms/registration.php> or visit the event website at <https://thebiostartups.com/ceo-and-founder-conclave-2024>

ABLE's West Zone Chapter Initiatives

BioPune Seminar Series

BioPune Seminar Series presents talks in the areas of Biotechnology, Biomedical Engineering, Bioinformatics, Biomass value addition and related areas which are of interest and relevance to the biosciences-based technology and entrepreneurship community in Pune. **As West Zone Chapter for ABLE, Venture Center through these seminar series aims to felicitate some of Pune's Biotech Innovation Ecosystem Leaders and recognize their contribution to the space.**

Series 1: Public Health Impact via Biotech: Felicitation of Leaders

This event was held on 29th January 2024. It saw a combination of industry and startup leaders that were felicitated for their noteworthy accomplishments. Cyrus Karkaria, President of Biotech Lupin talked about Lupin's journey as one of the world top 10 generics company, highlighting Lupin's global focus, and their shift towards complex generics. He also highlighted the success story of Etancercept. Himanshu Gadgil, CEO of Enzene Biosciences emphasized the need for local innovation to address specific needs and highlighted Enzene's disruptive approach in the biopharmaceutical sector, sharing the success story of teriparatide, a product capturing 50% of the market in two years. Mahesh Kumar Verma (Ahammune Biosciences), Anuya Nisal (Founder & CEO, Serigen Mediproducts), and Jayant Khandare (Co-founder & Chief Scientific Officer, Actorius Innovation & Research) passionately shared their startup journeys and showcased cutting-edge technologies in vitiligo treatment, tissue regeneration, and liquid biopsy for metastasis detection respectively. Mr Narayanan Suresh, COO, ABLE felicitated the leaders for their exemplary work by the biotech innovative ecosystem in Pune.



Series 2: The Triple Helix Model of Innovation: Learnings for Pune from Boston and Developing Countries

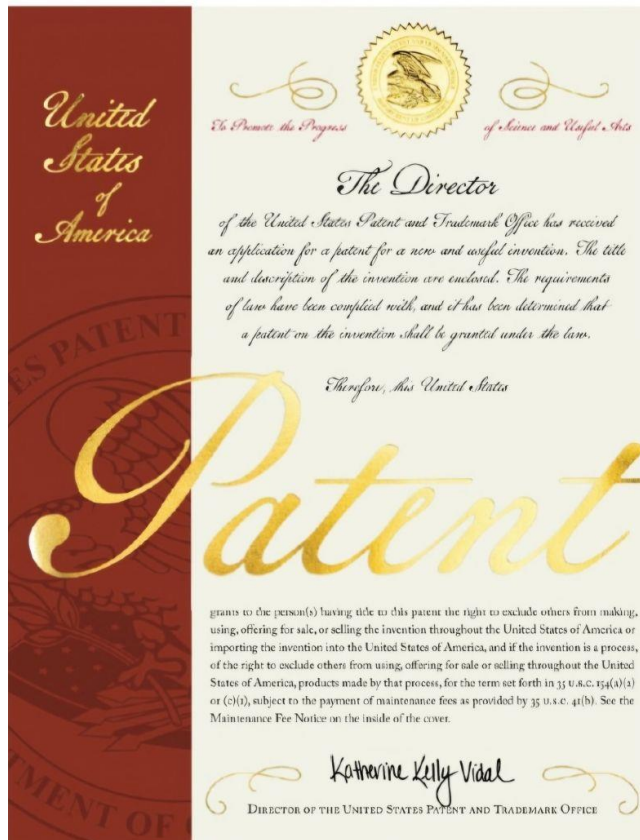
The networking event commenced on 6th February 2024 with the much awaited keynote address on the Triple Helix Model of Innovation by Dr. Ashley Stevens. It was followed by the felicitation of a selective group of startup & industry leaders that shared their own journeys towards excellence:

- Dr. Kumbhar of Praj Industries for pushing the frontiers in generating SAF from AgroWaste.
- Mainik Chakraborty & Dr. Dhakephalkar of GPS Renewables & Agharkar Research Institute respectively for pushing the frontiers in generating BioCNG from AgroWaste.
- Hasmukh Rawal & Dr. Shaligram of Mylab Discovery Solutions & Serum Institute of India respectively for inclusion of Serum-Mylab's indigenously developed latent TB test - Cy-TB in the National Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Programme.
- Aditya Bhaskaran of Indus Biotech for science-led innovations in nutraceuticals, functional foods and botanical drugs backed by numerous patents and publications.



BIOTECH NEWS

ABLE member Jananom Pvt. Ltd. granted US PATENT in the area of Living Medicines



“Jananom, a company specializing in synthetic biology services and products, is excited to announce its plans to advance three specialty chemical strains to the next level of process development this year. The company's team of experienced scientists, who have previously successfully scaled up various groundbreaking and unprecedented molecules, will lead this initiative.”, said Dr. Murali Panchapagesa Muthuswamy, the founder of Jananom. Jananom is granted US Patent no. US 11,898,183 B2 dated February 13, 2024 in the area of living medicines.

ABLE member Biocon Biologics, Eris Lifesciences Collaborate to Enhance Patient Access in India

Biocon Biologics Limited (BBL), a global biosimilars company, partners with Eris Lifesciences to expand patient access to Metabolics, Oncology, and Critical Care products in India. This extends their existing collaboration for Nephrology and Dermatology products. The deal, valued at INR 12,420 million, includes a 10-year supply agreement and ensures continuity for 430 transitioning employees. Effective April 1, 2024, subject to customary closing conditions, this strategic move aligns with Biocon Biologics' goal to maximize market potential and patient reach. CEO Shreehas Tambe highlights the commitment to delivering high-quality biosimilars to millions of Indian patients. With a legacy of impacting lives through diabetes, cancer, and critical care products, Biocon Biologics remains dedicated to providing affordable healthcare solutions. This partnership underscores their mission to bridge healthcare gaps and make a significant difference in patient outcomes globally.

ABLE member Biocon Biologics Finalizes Agreement for US Launch of Stelara Biosimilar, Bmab 1200

Biocon Biologics has reached a significant milestone with the finalization of a settlement and license agreement with Janssen Biotech Inc. and Johnson & Johnson. This paves the way for the commercialization of Bmab 1200, its proposed biosimilar to Stelara®, in the United States. Under the agreement, BBL gains the license to introduce Bmab 1200 to the US market in February 2025, pending FDA approval. The FDA has already accepted BBL's Biologics License Application for Bmab 1200 under the 351(k) pathway. Additionally, the settlement involves the dismissal of the pending Inter Partes Review for US 10961307 before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. CEO Shreehas Tambe expressed contentment with the agreement, highlighting the company's commitment to scientific innovation. He emphasized the opportunity to offer a reliable biosimilar option in the US market, further strengthening BBL's foothold in immunology. Matthew Erick, Chief Commercial Officer – Advanced Markets, reiterated the significance of this achievement in providing affordable, life-changing biosimilar medicines to patients with inflammatory diseases. Stelara® (Ustekinumab), the reference brand, amassed \$7 billion in US sales in 2023, showcasing the potential impact of Bmab 1200's market entry.

India Moves to Set Regulatory Framework for Cultivated Meat & Seafood

India is taking strides towards establishing a regulatory framework for the approval of cell-based foods, including cultivated meat and seafood, as reported by the Good Food Institute. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is spearheading this initiative, signaling a pivotal move towards regulating the safety of these emerging food technologies.

This development aligns with efforts worldwide to provide a clear and predictable pathway for the market entry of cultivated meat and seafood. In India, institutions like the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and the Department of Biotechnology are actively supporting research projects in this domain.

The cultivated meat and seafood industry in India, although in its infancy, holds immense promise, buoyed by the country's robust pharmaceutical sector. Sneha Singh, Managing Director of GFI India, envisions India becoming a key supplier of cell culture media ingredients essential for cultivated meat production.

Startups such as MyoWorks, Matt Biotech, and Clear Meat are already making strides in providing solutions for the burgeoning cell agriculture and pharmaceutical sectors. GFI India is collaborating with governmental institutions to foster innovation and ensure regulatory compliance in this burgeoning field.

With growing concerns over environmental sustainability and rising meat consumption, cultivated meat and seafood offer a promising avenue to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and alleviate pressure on land and water resources. As India embraces this innovative approach to protein production, it positions itself at the forefront of a global shift towards more sustainable food systems.

ICT Mumbai's SATHI FOUNDATION (Mumbai Biocluster) Awarded Rs. 60 Crore for Accelerating Biopharmaceutical Innovation



In a significant boost to India's biopharmaceutical ecosystem, the Department of Science and Technology's (DST) SATHI initiative has granted Rs. 60 Crore (Approx. \$7 Million) to the Mumbai Biocluster. Comprising esteemed institutions such as ICT Mumbai, IIT Bombay, TIFR, ACTREC, and Khalsa College, Mumbai, the biocluster aims to revolutionize drug development in the country. Led by ICT Mumbai's Vice Chancellor Prof. AB Pandit and Dr. Ratnesh Jain, the Principle Investigator of the DST-SATHI project, the Mumbai Biocluster is set to catalyze innovation in biopharmaceuticals. Supported by Dr. Prasanna Venkatraman from ACTREC, Dr. Pratiksha Palahe from Khalsa College, Prof Sudipta Maiti from TIFR, and Prof. Rohit Srivastava from IIT Bombay, the collaborative effort will accelerate the development of critical therapies for diseases like cancer, rare diseases, and infectious diseases.

The biocluster will serve as an accelerator for startups, academia, MSMEs, and industries, providing state-of-the-art infrastructure and expertise for faster development of biopharmaceutical products. With a focus on monoclonal antibodies, vaccines, Mrna technology, and cell & gene therapy, the facility will address key challenges faced during technology scale-up and validation in the drug development phase. Central to the biocluster's mission is the provision of a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility, enabling drug development at an affordable cost. By bridging the gap between research and commercialization, the Mumbai Biocluster aims to propel India to the forefront of biopharmaceutical innovation, driving economic growth and improving healthcare outcomes. With the support of the DST-SATHI grant and the collective expertise of its member institutions, the Mumbai Biocluster is poised to revolutionize the landscape of biopharmaceutical research and development in India.

ABLE member Aurobindo arm CuraTeQ successfully wraps up Ph-1 trial for Omalizumab biosimilar

CuraTeQ Biologics Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, announced that their omalizumab biosimilar candidate BP11 has met the phase 1 trial end points vis-à-vis the EU and US sourced reference product Xolair. The PK/PD trial was conducted in 165 healthy volunteers in Australia and New Zealand.

“The primary objective was to prove pharmacokinetic (PK) equivalence between BP11, US and EU sourced Xolair. 165 healthy volunteers were randomized to receive either BP11 or EU or US licensed omalizumab via subcutaneous route of administration. Results of both primary parameters, i.e. maximum serum concentration (C_{max}) and area under concentration-time curve from time zero to infinity (AUC_{0-inf}), were contained within 80-125% bioequivalence limit demonstrating PK equivalence between BP11 and both US and EU sourced Xolair.

BP11 also had similar IgE levels to Xolair demonstrating comparable pharmacodynamic profile versus US and EU sourced Xolair. The safety and immunogenicity profiles were also found comparable versus the originator’s product,” said Dr. Arpit Prajapati, head of clinical sciences at CuraTeQ Biologics.

Dr. Disha Dadke, associate president and head R&D, said, “We have initiated a phase 3 study of our omalizumab candidate BP11 for the treatment of chronic spontaneous or idiopathic urticaria, which is a presence of hives that are itchy and can last for a number of weeks with no apparent external trigger. The phase 3 efficacy and safety study is being conducted across multiple sites in seven European countries and in 600 patients with chronic spontaneous urticaria. Additionally, a separate phase 3 trial in asthma patients is being carried out in the Indian population. CuraTeQ intends to file the omalizumab biosimilar product in India in 2024 and is on track to file the product in regulated markets in 2025.”

Aurobindo Pharma Limited is an integrated global pharmaceutical company headquartered in Hyderabad, India. The company develops, manufactures, and commercializes a wide range of generic pharmaceuticals, branded specialty pharmaceuticals and active pharmaceutical ingredients globally in over 150 countries.

Source: PharmaBiz

ASSOCIATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY LED ENTERPRISES (ABLE)

Comments and questions are welcome and should be addressed to:

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FOCUS AREAS

- Inputs for Streamlining Regulatory Process
- Inputs for Accelerating BioEconomy through Advocacy
- Industry Recommendations for the Union Budget for the Biotech Sector
- Proposing Fiscal Incentives for Biotech Sector
- Strengthening IPR System
- Proactive Member Focus Initiatives
- Kindling & Fostering the Fire of Entrepreneurship
- Catalysing Opportunities for Start-ups and SMEs
- Proposals for Venture Capital Fund
- Encouraging the Biotech Sector through Investment
- Facilitating Partnership through Industry, Academia & Start-up
- Promoting more Incubators in Biotech Clusters
- Working Closely with the State Government & Identify Potential Opportunities for Biotech Development
- Promoting Entrepreneurship & Imparting Skill development for freshers in Biotech
- Support Student Internship Programs & Facilitate Placement
- Promoting Biotech among Budding Biotech Students through various Competitions