

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
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Prof. K. Vijayraghavan,
Director,
NCBS,
Bangalore-560065.

Dear Vijay,

This is in continuation of my discussion with you about the financial support and staff that I need. I am separately writing a project proposal for the 10th plan, which will give details and necessary justifications. The purpose of their note is to give an indication, in general terms, of the level of support I would like to get , so that you might discuss it with Prof. Jha and make provisions in the budget for 2001-2002.

During the past six years my work has been supported by two grants from DBT and WHO. These grants covered the salaries of staff, both long term and short term. My experience has been that, working with short term JRFs or post docs, it is very difficult to maintain continuity in projects and bring these to expeditious conclusion. I am therefore, trying to change the pattern of recruitment in my group to ensure that I work with associates who intend to spend a minimum of two to three years with me and are committed seriously enough to the research programme to bring it to ~~some~~ satisfactory completion. You will appreciate that, at my age, I cannot afford to do otherwise. I have already explained to you what I am currently trying to do.

Briefly, I would like to ask for NCBS funds to maintain an academic staff of about four including post docs and JRFs, with terms of about 3 years. In order to find these I want to maintain a flow of short-term visitors (five to six months duration). Naturally support for all of them need not come from NCBS, but I do need some provision to pay short-term visitors when necessary.

I also require some technical assistance with engineering and computer-electronics for behavioral experiments and electrophysiology. It will be best to obtain this through consultants and short term contracts.

My WHO grant come^b to an end in June. I will try to raise outside support but this is likely to take time. I would therefore ~~like to~~ request NCBS to make provision for the salaries of the present members of my group after June, till their terms end. I would also like to request you make some provision in the current plan allocation for my work in 2001- 2002, roughly of the same order as the non-plan allocation. The amount is not very large and perhaps we could ask Prof. Jha to make a special allocation.

Regards,

Sincerely yours,

O. Siddiqi.