

Minutes of the first meeting of the Faculty held at 11.30 am on Wednesday, July 21, 1999.

The following were present:

Prof. Jayant B. Udganonkar - Chairman  
Prof. K. VijayRaghavan  
Prof. M. K. Mathew  
Prof. Sudhir Krishna  
Prof. M. M. Panicker  
Prof. Gaiti Hasan  
Dr. Manjari Mazumdar  
Dr. Apurva Sarin  
Dr. R. Sowdhamini  
Dr. Upinder S. Bhalla  
Dr. Satyajit Mayor  
Prof. O. Siddiqi - Special Invitee  
Shri T. M. Sahadevan - Secretary  
Dr. Shona Chattarji - Did not attend the meeting as he is abroad

The meeting started with a presentation by Prof. M. M. Panicker on his work.

The items discussed are listed below:

### 1. Teaching responsibilities of faculty members

Prof. Mathew briefed the committee on the existing system. Different course formats have been tried:

A set of Basic Courses run independently and concurrently; an Omnibus Basic Course run serially; An OmniBus Basic Course run with partial overlaps and Specialised Basic modules added on.

Attending courses in IISc have now become difficult and it was felt that our dependence on IISc will have to be stopped or reduced. Prof. Sudhir Krishna felt that it will be healthy to send students to IISc for the Molecular Biology Course as they can interact with people there. The fact that it would take a whole morning or afternoon session to attend a single class was discussed and most members were of the opinion that this was a small price to pay and that they would be willing to have their students away from the lab for that duration. This was generally accepted. It was also pointed out that this course is about 25-30 Lectures. Prof. Gaiti Hasan suggested that this course can be taught once in two years.

On sharing teaching responsibility, Prof. Udgaonkar suggested that each faculty should contribute to teach 1 course a year. This was generally agreed.

Prof. VijayRaghavan said that Dr. Anuranjan Anand of JNC has come forward to conduct a course on Genetics jointly by JNC and NCBS. From NCBS Prof. Gaiti Hasan and himself will share the teaching load. He also emphasized that including "Human Genetics" in this will be important.

Prof. Mathew said that 1-2 students can assist in teaching the basic courses and the students are enthusiastic about this.

Prof. VijayRaghavan suggested that workshops be conducted in addition to advanced courses by experts from outside or from within after advance planning. Prof. Mathew agreed that this is fine as long as there is adequate evaluation. Other suggestions were for organizing workshops for IIT (Delhi & Madras) students during summer/winter vacation on topics like neural networks, bio engineering etc. Prof. Sudhir Krishna desired that these workshops must be done, when NCBS students are available (particularly Junior Scholars). Both these proposals were accepted and for the latter Dr. Upinder Bhalla was requested to take the initiative.

Prof. Panicker suggested that when courses are formulated it must be ensured that no important area is left out.

Dr. Sowdhamini pointed out that she is organizing a one-day workshop on "Protein Structure Bioinformatics and Genomics" and that those who attend can be evaluated for one credit. She has plans to organize another workshop or a crash course on "Sequence analysis and protein structure prediction" in collaboration with MBU in IISc.

Prof. VijayRaghavan said that he will write to the Director IISc on NCBS students crediting IISc Courses; but pointed out that there are difficulties in IISc students crediting courses / workshops organized in NCBS.

Prof. O. Siddiqi suggested that tutors be attached to students especially when they join. It was pointed out that when new scholars join integrated Ph.D. they undergo 3 lab rotations. Till they are assigned to a group, they have no guide. To overcome this, it was decided to have two faculty members to be mentors of new Integrated Ph.D. students till they are assigned to a group. It was decided that this year Dr. Upinder Bhalla and Dr. Apurva Sarin will take care of the new students.

It was noted that the courses to be taught this year are as follows:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Major Teacher</b>
<u>Basic Courses</u>	
Biochemistry & Biophysics	M. K. Mathew
Genetics	K. VijayRaghavan
Cell Biology	Satyajit Mayor (with Manjari Mazumdar)
Neurobiology	Upinder Bhalla (with Sumantra Chattarji)
<u>Advanced Courses</u>	
Olfaction	Obaid Siddiqi (During Jan 2000 semester)
Son et Lumiere II	K S Krishnan and M. K. Mathew (Jan-March 2000)
Recent Advances in Signal Transduction	Gaiti Hasan (Feb-March 2000)

### Conclusion:

1. Attending courses in IISc – at least the Molecular Biology course will be encouraged
2. Course on 'Genetics' will be organized jointly by JNC & NCBS and Prof. VijayRaghavan & Gaiti Hasan will share the NCBS load of teaching this.