



श्री चित्रा तिरुनाल आयुर्विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, तिरुवनन्तपुरम –
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**SREE CHITRA TIRUNAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES AND
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(An Institute of National Importance under DST ; Government of India)
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Press note on Heart Failure Biobank Inauguration to be held on August 5th 2021

Heart failure (HF) is emerging as a major health problem in India, with reported mortality of nearly 60% at 5 years which is higher than many common cancers. Indian patients are younger by 10 years and has more co-morbidities.

There is need for more research in the field of HF and in this background ICMR has initiated the National Center for Advanced Research and Excellence in HF, (CARE-HF) at SCTIMST with a funding of 5 Crores. One of the major components of the project is the development of the Heart Failure Biobank which is the first in the country. With a fund allocation of 85 Lakhs, state-of-the-art storage facilities are set-up in the HF Biobank at SCTIMST.

The principal investigator of the project, Dr. Harikrishnan S said that the storage facilities include -4, -20, -80 degree freezers and a Liquid Nitrogen storage system which can store bio-samples at – 140 degrees for years. Currently there is facility to store nearly 25000 biosamples.

The biospecimens include blood, serum, tissue samples obtained during open-heart surgery and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and

genomic DNA collected from heart failure patients. The Biobank activity is supervised by a Technical Advisory Committee with a member from ICMR.

Prof. Ajitkumar VK, Director SCTIMST explained that biobanks are an important resource containing collections of high-quality biological human samples that can be used to understand molecular pathways, and to improve the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of Heart Failure.

Prof. Balram Bhargava, Secretary DHR and DG, ICMR, will virtually inaugurate the Heart Failure Biobank on 5TH August, Thursday @ 3 PM, along with messages from Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary DST and Dr V. K. Saraswat, President of SCTIMST and Member-NITI Aayog.

The bio-specimens are collected after informed consent from patients who are willing to donate specimens. The de-identified samples stored and catalogued will be linked to clinical data such as physiological measures, imaging data like ECG, Echocardiography MRI and follow-up data. Researchers and clinicians interested in research related to HF can join collaborative research programs with HF program at SCTIMST. The research proposal has to follow all the ethical guidelines and should be approved by the TAC and Ethics Committee of SCTIMST.

HF Biobank at SCTIMST has already signed an MOU with InStem Bangalore for collaborative research in Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, a disease which runs in families with thickening of heart muscles.

Please see the below youtube link for live streaming:

<https://youtu.be/QhqBs82Rfwc>



