



SCIENCE CLUB
UNIVERSITY SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

' Chemical Communication in Biology '

Speaker



Professor Padmanabhan Balaram

National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS),
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Abstract

Chemistry is the language of communication in biology. Living organisms respond with exquisite specificity to chemical emissions of other organisms. The field of chemical ecology seeks to understand the interactions of organisms and their environment, providing insights into the evolutionary influences that have shaped diverse biological phenomena. Chemical communication is mediated by a very large library of molecules produced by biochemical synthesis (natural products), a process that requires orchestration of sequential chemical reactions, catalysed by enzymes produced by gene encoded protein synthesis. This lecture presents an introduction to the complexity of the chemical processes that are the key drivers of biology.

When?

Saturday 13th January 2018
at 12:00 Noon

Where?

P C Ray Hall,
Department of Chemistry ,
Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune

Contact Details

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About Speaker

Professor Padmanabhan Balaram



Professor Padmanabhan Balaram obtained his B.Sc. (1967) from Poona University, M.Sc. (1969) from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur and Ph.D. (1972) in chemistry from the Carnegie-Mellon University, USA. He worked as a Research Associate at the Harvard University (1972-73) with Prof. RB Woodward of the Department of Chemistry. On return to India, he joined the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), Bangalore as a Lecturer (1973), and then became Assistant Professor (1977), Associate Professor (1982) and finally a Professor in 1986. He was Director of the Institute from 2005-2014.

He has contributed extensively to the area of molecular biophysics and chemical biology in a career spread over four decades. As the Editor of Current Science from 1995 to 2013 he authored over 300 editorials on a wide range of topics of interest to the scientific community in India. He has been associated with a number of advisory bodies of the government including the National Knowledge Commission (2007-2010), the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (2005-2014) and the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Union Cabinet (SAC-C, 2001-).

Professor Balaram is a recipient of several awards and honours, including Padma Shri (2002); Padma Bhushan (2014). He is a Fellow of Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore; INSA, New Delhi, National Academy of Sciences (Allahabad) and The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World , Trieste, Italy (TWAS).

He is currently Professor Emeritus, Molecular Biophysics Unit, IISc and DST Year of Science Chair Professor, National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR) Bangalore.