



RSC | Advancing the
Chemical Sciences

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**CSIR-OSDD Collaborates with the Royal Society of Chemistry
“Advancing Cheminformatics for novel drugs”**

New Delhi, India (29 January 2013) - In pursuit of common aims and to raise awareness of the importance of cheminformatics to accelerate the discovery of novel therapies for neglected diseases like TB and Malaria, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which provides scientific and industrial R&D that maximises the economic, environmental and societal benefits for the people of India, announced today a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between its Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD) initiative and Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), the largest European organisation for advancing chemical sciences.

The MoU, spanning three years, aims to address the objective of finding novel, faster-acting, and more effective regimens for TB and Malaria by advancing the discipline of Cheminformatics. The collaboration envisions conducting workshops and conferences to build links between experts and leaders in the coming years and will focus on jointly building an online repository of real and virtual molecular structures along with developing free-to-use software tools for drug discovery and development. The partnership also aims at exploring the possibility of advancing OSDD's e-learning program for students.

India's Minister for Science & Technology, Shri. Jaipal Reddy, said: “The Royal Society of Chemistry has undoubted strength in the field of chemistry. This strength will now be coupled with the strengths of the OSDD programme, deployed to improve the innovation for neglected diseases”.

The minister stressed the importance of scientific institutions to work towards finding solutions for problems that predominantly affect the poorer sections of the society, like the need for new drugs for Tuberculosis, Malaria and Kala-Azar (Leishmaniasis).

Prof. Samir K Brahmachari, Director General CSIR and Chief Mentor OSDD, underlined the importance of this collaboration for finding new drugs for neglected diseases like tuberculosis (TB).

He said “What we cannot do alone, we with complementary skills, need to work together. Finding new drugs for TB is a major challenge. We are joining hands to find New Chemical Entities which could be potential anti-TB drugs.”

The RSC's Immediate Past President, David Phillips, is in India to announce the MoU. He said: “Through this agreement, the CSIR and RSC are responding to the challenge of ‘lost data’ – that is the 90% of research output that never gets published.

“That data, that information, that knowledge, is lost to society. But it has enormous value to the chemical science research community.

“Using new tools and new disciplines, like Cheminformatics or eScience, we can recapture that lost information. The importance of Cheminformatics in addressing this challenge cannot be underestimated.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

About the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) & Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD):

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is an autonomous society whose President is the Prime Minister of India. CSIR is an ensemble of 37 laboratories in engineering, physical, biological, chemical and information science clusters, funded chiefly by the government of India. CSIR laboratories engage about 5000 scientists and almost 10000 students pursuing higher degrees. CSIR provides scientific and industrial R&D that maximizes the economic, environmental and societal benefits for the people of India.

Open Source Drug Discovery (OSDD) is an initiative funded and led by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. OSDD is a team India consortium with global partnership with a vision to provide affordable healthcare to the developing world to solve the complex problems associated with discovering novel therapies for diseases like Tuberculosis, Malaria and Leishmaniasis.

For more information please visit www.osdd.net

About the Royal Society of Chemistry

The Royal Society of Chemistry is the largest organisation in Europe for advancing the chemical sciences. Supported by a worldwide network of members and an international publishing business, RSC's activities span education, conferences, science policy, development of chemical applications and the promotion of chemistry to the public.

For more information please visit: www.rsc.org