

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL GENOMICS

An autonomous institution of the Government of India, Department of Biotechnology

CITIZEN'S CHARTER

The National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) was approved for establishment by the Union Cabinet of India in February 2009. The Institute is located in Kalyani, about 50 km north of Kolkata. A network of road and rail connect our Institute to Kolkata.

The mantra of the Institute is *Accelerating Genomics for Health*. Health of an individual is largely determined by her/his genetic endowment. An individual receives this endowment from her/his parents and passes it on to her/his children. The endowment is the composition of DNA material as genes contained within the chromosomes of a cell. During the passage of this endowment, certain changes in composition occur. The set of all genes and other DNA that regulate genes, etc. is called the genome.

The genetic endowment determines, to a large extent, the health problems that we may face later in life. Life-styles also matter. Genes do not usually act alone. Together with environmental exposures due to the life-style we lead, the genes determine the diseases to which we may be susceptible, the medication to which we may respond well, etc. Therefore, how an individual's genetic endowment impacts on her/his health, including how the impact is modulated by life-style factors, is of paramount importance in controlling health and well-being and avoiding disease. NIBMG strives to accelerate this genomic understanding for betterment of health of all citizens.

Our Vision & Mission

We are grounded on the idea that genetics and genomics comprise a powerful body of knowledge and techniques to understand human health and disease. We strive to translate the scientific knowledge acquired by us to transform human health, focusing on health and disease issues that are of high relevance to our nation.

Vision: To enhance knowledge on human health and disease through genomics and translate the knowledge using appropriate technologies for promotion of well-being and improvement of genetics based health care in India.

Mission: To create necessary physical infrastructure and build capacity to serve as the expert base for the establishment of principles and practice of medical genetics and to conduct and promote cutting edge research in biomedical genomics for better understanding and containment of public health burden.

Our Objectives

- To conduct and promote cutting-edge research in biomedical genomics of current and future medical relevance for the nation.
- To provide basic research evidence using biomedical genomic approaches for betterment of public health programmes and services.
- To establish state-of-the-art infrastructure for genomic and proteomic analyses, with the explicit goal of improving public health in India through use of genomic knowledge and technologies.
- To seed research, education, translation and service networks among clinicians and researchers from different disciplines for promotion of better public health through the establishment of genomics infrastructure in hospitals and medical colleges.
- To anchor young talent on the national soil and build capacity in Biomedical Genomics, through organizing post-graduate courses, training programmes and Ph.D. courses in Medical Biotechnology, Human Genetics, Molecular & Genetic Epidemiology and to facilitate their early participation in research, translation and services for promotion of genetics-based healthcare.
- To enable better understanding of new medical biotechnologies to permit faster but more discriminating uptake by health care providers.

What We Do and Who We Serve

All normal characteristics of humans, including behaviour, and diseases afflicting humans, have genetic components. Diseases are often the extremes of a normal continuum of human variation in normal characteristics. The genetic components underlying normal human variation and disease are incompletely understood. A clear understanding of these components will be 'enabling'; enabling prediction, enabling prevention, enabling deceleration of progression, enabling therapy and enabling gain of biological knowledge. We are primarily a research institution with the lofty goal of 'enabling'; we wish to understand the genetic underpinnings of all major human diseases, particularly those that are of importance to citizens of India, translate our research findings to reduce the burden of disease, and build a formidable team of enablers through collaboration and training. In other words, we are enablers of Genomic Medicine.

The above description of 'what we do' also automatically identifies **who we serve**. We serve all citizens of India in particular, and all citizens of the world in general. We pay particular attention to diseases that are of

high prevalence in India; therefore, we particularly focus on the citizens of India. We train Indian students, and help build capacity in India. However, no disease is confined to a specific geographical region or a specific ethnicity. Therefore, as we generate scientific evidence on genetic effects in human health and how these effects are modulated by life-style factors, we also serve the citizens of the world.

Our service to the citizens of India comprises explanations of our research activities through regular public-outreach programs, involving them to participate in our research, wherever possible provide genetic testing to citizens at high-risk for genetic diseases, train young citizens in understanding and undertaking research on genetics of health and disease. and help establish genomic research and service facilities in other institutions and hospitals.

How can a Citizen Establish Contact with Us and Obtain Our Services

As a national institution, every citizen has access to our Institute. Establishing contact with us is easy. A citizen may write a letter to us. Our postal address is: National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, P.O.: N.S.S., Kalyani 741251, West Bengal. Or, a citizen may contact our Director by email: director@nibmg.ac.in. Consistent with the objectives listed above, a citizen may request our service, which we pledge to provide promptly and transparently. Grievances are also dealt with promptly and transparently. Any grievance may be placed to the Director, NIBMG, either by writing a letter or by email. Various Committees have been established in the Institute to deal with grievances of various types. The Director, upon receiving a grievance, passes it on to the relevant Committee with a deadline for return of report. As soon as the Director is satisfied with the report of the Committee, the report is transmitted to the person filing the grievance.

Our Expectations from Citizens

We expect citizens to interact with us closely. Anyone is free to visit us at any time and ask us questions and request for a tour of our institute. We love visits by students, including school students. We expect that citizens will ask us to deliver public lectures in their neighbourhoods and explain to them what we do. We expect that citizens will ask groups of students to be trained by us. In other words, we like to be asked questions and be scientifically challenged by the citizens whom we serve.

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