

IIRBS, Mahatma Gandhi University, the first institute to submit a molecule to the CSIR-OSDD National Molecule Repository.

Open Source Drug Discovery Project is an initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to find drugs for diseases that predominantly affect India and other developing nations, 'poor man's diseases' like Tuberculosis, Malaria, etc.

Even today, TB is one of the largest killer infectious disease, killing one person every 20 seconds around the world. India has one of the highest burden of TB, with about 1000 persons dying due to TB everyday, which translates to at least 2 deaths every 3 minutes.

As TB is a disease without a global market, there is very little interest among the multi national pharmaceutical companies to discover drugs for these diseases. Due to the lack of market and consequent lack of interest of global pharma, the diseases that predominantly affect the tropics are called 'neglected diseases'. The OSDD initiative works to find drugs for the neglected diseases.

In its quest to discover new drugs against TB, OSDD programme has started a new initiative to create a repository of molecules with drug like properties. The uniqueness of this initiative is that it aims to create this repository as a collaborative effort of Universities and Institutes across the country. Leading universities and institutes across the country like IITs, IISERs, IISc and universities from Jammu to Kerala, from Manipur to Maharashtra are part of this initiative.

The molecule repository will be screened against TB and Malaria by CSIR-Central Drug research Institute (CDRI)

The initiative is a unique collaborative effort to create a repository of molecules synthesized in universities and institutes across the country. This is one of its kind open innovation initiatives anywhere in the world. The project was launched nationally today.

Today, Institute for Intensive Research or Basic Sciences, Mahathma Gandhi University contributed the first molecule to this national repository. It is a novel compound published in a leading journal. CSIR-OSDD will screen this compound against TB and Malaria, the result of which will be published in OSDD portal.

Dr. Ibnusaud Coordinator of the IIRBS led the team of researchers from the institute particularly Dr. Grace Thomas, Ms. Deenamma Habel. The team was happy that they could be part of a national effort to find drugs for poor man's diseases.

Reference: www.osdd.net