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Editors
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P.K. Seth



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Prof. Samir K. Brahmackari
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वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद् अनुसंधान भवन. २, रकी वार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001 COUNCH OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001



MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) is bringing out a Status Report on Neurosciences in India covering the studies undertaken during the last two decades.

Neuroscience is one of the fastest growing disciplines in biology and behavioral sciences. During the past two decades, a significant amount of work has been undertaken in India to understand the mystery of brain mechanisms of neurological disorders including the functional genomics of certain disorders and adverse effects of chemicals on brain as well as in diagnosis and treatment of nervous system disorders. CSIR laboratories have structured research programmes on fundamental and applied aspects of neuroscience. CSIR also provides extramural support to neuroscience research.

Indian Academy of Neurosciences, a premier academy of our country, has emerged as a multidisciplinary organization of neuroscience. It plays a significant role in bringing basic and clinical neuroscientists together and provides a unique platform for exchange of knowledge and has created wider awareness about brain functioning and brain related disorders.

I am sure that this status report would provide a lucid account of neuroscience studies undertaken in the country, which will be useful to students, researchers and the scientific community at large, both nationally and internationally.

Samir K Brahmachari

PREFACE

Neuroscience is a rapidly growing discipline world over and the advances in molecular, electrophysiology and computational neuroscience in recent years have today enabled much detailed understanding of the complex processes occurring within a neuron. The scope of neurosciences has now broadened to include any systematic scientific, experimental and theoretical investigations of central and peripheral nerves system of biological organisms.

Neuroscience studies are being carried out in several research institutions and Universities in India. Earlier the status of neurosciences studies was brought out by the Neurological Society of India, Trivandrum and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi in 1989. A significant quantum of work has been undertaken in the country during the last two decades in India to reveal the mysteries of the brain at cellular and molecular level. Their have been encouraging developments enabling the growth of neurosciences in the country since then. Establishment of a National Brain Research Centre (NBRC) in Manesar permitting interdisciplinary work in emerging areas, setting up of neuroscience centres and initiation of post graduate courses at some universities and institutions are few examples. The funding by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in neurosciences has also been enhanced. The Indian Academy of Neurosciences has emerged as the largest body of the neurosciences representing basic and clinical neuroscientists. It is playing a significant role in bringing the basic and clinical neuroscientists together.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support provided by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and thank to all the contributors for reviewing the status of work being carried out in area of their expertise. We are particularly grateful to Prof. P.N. Tandon for contributing an overview on Neurosciences and going through the manuscripts and providing useful suggestions.

We hope that this Status Report on Neurosciences during the last two decades would be useful to students, researchers and national and international scientific community.

B.N. Dhawan P.K. Seth Editors