

## **CeNS-Manipal University interaction meeting and joint workshop held at Manipal University, 16-17 August 2016**

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The Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru and The Centre for Applied Nanosciences, Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics, Manipal University (MU), Manipal held a scientific interaction meeting at Manipal University, Manipal on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 in which all the faculties and selected students from the two organizations participated. The meeting included formal presentations by each of the faculty and focused discussions by smaller groups. Emphasis was placed in identifying topics of common interests and forging new collaborative programmes. As a sequel to this, the two centres jointly organized at the same venue a “Workshop on Nano and Soft Matter Sciences’ on 17 August 2016 at Manipal University, Manipal. Dr. Santhosh C., MU & Dr. S. Krishna Prasad, CeNS, and Dr. Sajan D. George, MU & Dr. S. Angappane, CeNS were the Conveners, and the Co-conveners, respectively for both the events. As a token of appreciation for hosting the event, Prof. G. U. Kulkarni, Director, CeNS presented mementos to the participating faculty of MU. The CeNS participation at the workshop included the keynote address as well as oral contributions by five faculty members. An equal number of lectures were delivered by the hosting organization. A poster session was also held during the event in which a total of 18 posters were presented by student participants. The speakers provided, for the benefit of the students, the basic background knowledge for the topics, and then highlighted the research work being carried out in their laboratories. Future directions in the respective fields were also pointed out. The lectures as well as the posters were well received by the participants with interesting interactive sessions. With a view to encourage the students, the organizers requested Dr. Geetha G. Nair and Dr. C. V. Yelamaggad to assess the posters for the content as well as the ability of the presenters in comprehending the science involved. Based on these criteria Ms. Vanessa Rodrigues, MU and Mr. Sunil Walia, CeNS were declared as joint winners of the prize. The award carried a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 1000/- to each of the winners, given by CeNS.

During the two-day programme several students approached the CeNS faculty for opportunities to undertake research work at the Centre. To cater to such requests and any future requirements, participants were provided information about the Outreach programmes of the Centre, specifically the Research Outreach Initiative. At the Valedictory and the Outlook session, several attendees expressed the benefits they derived from attending the event and thanked the two organizations for hosting the event.

Three faculty members of CeNS, Dr. S. Krishna Prasad, Dr. Geetha G. Nair and Dr. S. Angappane used the opportunity to also give lectures under the V4 programme of the Centre. About 80 students from Madhava Krupa School, Manipal participated in the programme.