



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8 June, 2021

Dr Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is anchor donor for **Ignite Life Science Foundation**

Biocon founder and Executive Chairperson Dr Kiran Mazumdar Shaw announces a contribution of INR five crores to Ignite Life Science Foundation, to trigger funding for research at Indian scientific institutions.

Bangalore, India: 8 June 2021

Today, Ignite Life Science Foundation, a donor-funded organization dedicated to funding promising life science research, announced receipt of an initial donation from Dr Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

Dr Kiran Mazumdar Shaw's contribution will be part of the initial pool of funding for the research projects on "Pandemic Preparedness". These projects support national efforts in preparing for and responding to future pandemics. A key goal will be to build competencies that will enable India to mount a quick and effective response to future pandemics.

Commenting on her donation, Dr Kiran Mazumdar Shaw said - "I have always committed a large part of my philanthropy to backing biomedical research. I am pleased to support Ignite Life Science Foundation in its endeavour to catalyse promising work by Indian researchers, that will enable their contributions to become an integral part of the global ecosystem of innovative and advanced healthcare solutions."

Nobel Laureate Dr Venki Ramakrishnan (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, UK) reacted to the announcement by saying - "No country can prosper in the 21st century without being a



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technologically advanced, knowledge-based society. This requires substantial investment in science and innovation, an area in which India lags not only the West but also Asian countries like China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore. Most advanced countries have significant private investment in science, which is lacking in India. The Ignite Life Science Foundation thus has a crucial role to play in catalysing change, and the substantial initial donation by Kiran Mazumdar Shaw will hopefully set an example for other donors.”

Swami Subramaniam, CEO, Ignite Life Science said – “I welcome Dr Kiran Mazumdar Shaw’s contribution and, on behalf of the Board at Ignite, I wish to express our profound gratitude for her generosity towards this cause. Her contribution will help Ignite get started in a meaningful way towards generating proof of principle for our long-term mission, which is to help create and sustain a robust environment that promotes world-class scientific research and productivity here in India. We hope our work will bring conversations about science into mainstream and help grow philanthropic funding for scientific research to solve challenging health problems facing the country.



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ABOUT IGNITE LIFE SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Ignite Life Science foundation, a section 8 not-for-profit foundation was launched on Jan 15, 2020, by Nobel Laureate Dr. Venki Ramakrishnan. Ignite's purpose is to promote a vibrant ecosystem for scientific research in India by working with the stakeholder community, including philanthropists, scientists, policy makers in the Government and the beneficiaries of the outcomes of scientific research. Ignite will use a highly selective curatorial approach to screen projects and scientists for funding. Scientists will be supported through the lifecycle of the project through mentorship and access to networking opportunities through the wider network of scientists accessible through Ignite. Ignite will select program areas that target a specific India relevant problem. A multidisciplinary approach towards solving problems and collaborations between scientists at different institutions will be actively encouraged.

Ignite Life Science Foundation (ILSF) is promoted by eminent scientists, academicians and management professionals including Professor Pankaj Chandra (Vice Chancellor, Ahmedabad University), Professor Ramaswamy Subramanian (Director, Bindley Bioscience Center, Purdue University), Professor Jyotsna Dhawan, (Emeritus Scientist, CCMB-Hyderabad), Professor Gagandeep Kang (Wellcome Trust Laboratory – CMC, Vellore), Professor Shahid Jameel (Director – Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University), Dr Jogin Desai (CEO, Eystem), Dr Anand Anandkumar (CEO, Bugworks) and K Jayshankar (MD, Empowered Learning Systems).

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