

Bangalore,
4th Feb. 2013.

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Feedback on the School on Axonal Transport and Motor Proteins, Jan. 13—26 (2013).

Biology is becoming an increasingly quantitative and inter-disciplinary science and there is an urgent need to train students in quantitative measurement techniques, analysis, and modeling apart from other biological methods. The School on Axonal Transport and Motor Proteins offered research students a very well balanced exposure to state-of-the-art experimental techniques, basic physical concepts, analysis methods and computer modeling concepts, as well as the current status in this field. Besides, it also gave them information, via leading experts in the field, on the connection between defects in axonal transport and neurodegenerative conditions.

The topics for lectures and research updates were well chosen and organised. There was excellent use of blackboard to describe concepts in physics and computation to biology students using simple examples. Regular tutorials were conducted to assess and reinforce their understanding. There was also ample time for students to interact with teachers.

My own lecture was aimed at teaching biology students (mainly) the concept of viscoelasticity and its importance in axonal transport and dynamics. This was done partly as blackboard lecture to introduce the basic concepts and partly as a computer aided presentation to update them on the status of the field and some of the modern research methods that are used.

For reasons mentioned at the beginning of this letter, there is a dire need to organise more such programs to introduce physical and computational methods and concepts to biology students and the importance of physics in biology to physics students, early in their career.

Yours sincerely,

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