

## Report on “Workshop on Axonal Transport and Neurodegeneration”

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I attended this workshop as a lecturer. I gave two lectures, one on the mechanism of synapse formation and the other on the mechanism of axon regeneration. My lectures emphasized the genetic approaches in the model organism *C. elegans* to discover the molecular regulators that play fundamental roles in synapse formation and axon regeneration. My lectures concluded by illustrating the mechanistic conservation between *C. elegans* and mammals. Dr. Sandhya Koushika and I also led a two-hours discussion section on five research papers (see course syllabus). These papers were chosen for the purpose of both teaching the students about the cutting edge technology of cellular imaging analysis and for discussion on seemingly different and provocative conclusions. Each paper was presented by two students. We met with the students the day before their presentation and tutored the students on how to deliver the important findings. The students gave a clear summary of each work and thoughtful critiques on technical merit and conceptual advances. Most students also learned to stay on time for their presentation.

I have truly enjoyed hearing the science covered in this workshop. The range of topics in the workshop represents the important area of cell biology of axonal transport, neuronal regeneration and degeneration. The speakers are leaders of their field. Their lectures were information rich and well prepared for students at entry and advanced levels. The students showed enthusiastic attention during every lecture, and their questions indicated a clear understanding on the subjects presented. The poster presentation from the students was one of the highlights at the workshop, and fostered greater individual interactions between the lecturers and the students. I have continued to reflect on the ideas brought upon by the students.

The organization of the workshop was outstanding. The organizers, Drs. Krishanu Ray, Roop Mallik were instrumental in bringing together this group of highly intelligent students and inspiring lecturers. They worked tirelessly before, during, and after the workshop from coordinating the logistics of travellers from outside of India, to fostering interaction among participants and keeping the running of the workshop, such as time of presentation and discussion, on time. They have earned the most deserving “thank you” from the entire group. The location of the workshop is most enjoyable by all standards. The closed compound allowed further causal social interactions among the participants. I believe that such bounding experience will soon result in collaborative and productive research. Overall, this workshop is a complete success, and is one of the most informative and stimulating workshops I have attended in the past five years, both at the United States and in Europe.