

Dr. MICHAEL FERNANDES

✉ Bangalore, India

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DIRECTOR - RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ✦ BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Strong track record of generating extraordinary performance in a fiercely competitive scenario

SYNOPSIS

- Qualified as **Ph.D. - Biochemistry**, Texas Tech University, offering an experience of **over 43 years** including **25 years in biomedical sciences** and **18 years in pre-clinical translational R&D** on using humanized severe combined immune-deficient mouse model systems that produce human immune responses. Has worked closely with international research institutions and organizations in the UK, Italy, Canada, and India.
 - Proven expertise while serving as **Principal Investigator, Division Head, Chief Scientific Officer, and Senior Consultant of pre-clinical translational laboratory/division of gene therapy and regenerative medicine in stem cells and infectious disease and multi-disciplinary department/division in biomedical sciences, biotechnology and drug discovery, for about two decades.**
 - Demonstrated skills in directing gene therapy studies for haematological disorders (inhibition of blood cell formation viz. differentiation of hematopoietic progenitor stem cells in HIV infection) and cancer drug discovery studies by inducement of cancer stem cells, and oncolytic viral therapy using vaccinia virus directed drug delivery, all utilizing the small humanized mouse model systems for pre-clinical research and development of therapeutics. **Possess a patent approved** on hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in culture in vitro and another on cancer stem cells is awaiting finalization.
 - Has been continually funded to the tune of several thousand or millions of dollars for several years and this required excellent writing and knowledge skills in state-of-the-art science and instrumentation and leadership skills. Has also spoken at various international conferences and made presentations and also serves as an **Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Stem Cells.**
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Career Highlights

- *Principal Investigator on multi-million dollar grants, secured/obtained funding for translational, regenerative, and infectious disease medicine, and multi-faceted approaches and gene and cellular strategies to therapy, vaccines and drug discovery.*
 - *Co-Principal Investigator on a grant submitted to the UK government sponsored Stem Cells for Safer Medicine (SC4SM) in collaboration with Kings College London.*
 - *Dealt with the Chief of the Initial Review Groups, Center for Scientific Review, US National Institutes of Health (NIH), as a grant peer reviewer and grant review committee member on AIDS Vaccines and Immunology Special Emphasis Panel. Grant reviewer for the Scottish Executive Health Department, Edinburgh, UK; Italian Ministry of Health; and American Heart Association.*
 - *Designed and developed from the ground up a new laboratory for biomarkers, cancer drug development and revenue generation, as Visiting Chief Scientific Officer and Head, Cancer Stem Cells and Infectious Diseases, Avesthagen Pvt Ltd, Bangalore, India.*
 - *Launched and led as Editor-in-Chief, the development of the visionary Journal of Stem Cells, a publication now accepted for indexing in the US National Library of Medicine (PubMed / Medline). Constituted an international editorial advisory board for the journal which is published from New York by Nova Publishers.*
 - *Successfully procured research grant funding for: Rescue Of Human CD34+ Progenitor Stem Cell Differentiation and Multilineage Hematopoiesis In HIV-1 Infection Using Chimeric SCID-Hu Mouse Model Systems; Inducement, Characterization and Targeting of Hematopoietic Cancer Stem Cells; and Role of c-Mpl in HIV-1 Induced Cytopenias. As Program Director, the grant funding amounted to about \$2 million per year for several years besides other smaller grant funding and awards for several more years.*
 - *Utilized expert leadership and research skills along with extensive talent as a Principal Investigator scientist to design and effectively execute innovative and visionary research projects by leading top teams of technical and laboratory staff. Supervision and training of 12 postdoctoral researchers, 10 Bachelor's degree students, 6 PhD students, and several (15) technicians.*
 - *Supervised multiple research projects (>10) as Division Head with each project group consisting of 10-20 scientific personnel.*
 - *Organized The Stem Cell Partnering Series (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) for the Fostering Business Collaborations Sessions which brought together academicians, clinicians and medical professionals, corporate scientists and executives, financial investors and venture capitalists, and legal representatives and attorneys.*
 - *Patent approved for In Vitro Tissue Culture Assay to Screen Potential Drugs for HCV, UC Case No. 2001-067-1 (Hepatitis C Virus), approved in February 2007.*
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

HAFFKINE INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH AND TESTING, MUMBAI, since 2012

Adjunct Professor of Virology and Immunology

MERISIS THERAPEUTICS, DIPONED BIOINTELLIGENCE LLP, BANGALORE, since 2012

Scientific Director

POORNAPRAJNA INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, BANGALORE, since 2012

Professor of Biological Sciences and Ramalingaswami Fellow (Dept of Biotechnology, Govt of India)

SVYASA UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE, since 2012

Adjunct Professor, Integrative Cell Biology