



Champalimaud Foundation

Cutting-edge stem cell research facility opened in India



Leonor Beleza (left), President of the Champalimaud Foundation, and Smt. Purandareswari (right), the Minister of State for Human Resource Development in India, light candles to inaugurate the C-TRACER facility.

C-TRACER OPENED AT AN INAUGURATION CEREMONY IN HYDERABAD, INDIA

The Champalimaud Translational Centre for Eye Research (**C-TRACER**) was inaugurated on January 30th at the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) in Hyderabad, India. C-TRACER was created by the Champalimaud Foundation in partnership with LVPEI to carry out cutting-edge research into stem cells for clinical applications.

C-TRACER will use cutting-edge methodologies as it strives to further the

knowledge of vision in such a way that it can be readily applied to the patient. In particular, C-TRACER will utilise stem cells in the treatment of eye diseases. C-TRACER will draw on the experience of the Stem Cell Biology Laboratory of the LV Prasad Eye Institute, which is currently at the forefront of this work and has developed a revolutionary technique of using stem cells from living adults to grow the outer part of corneas. These are then surgically implanted into the patient in one of the most cutting-edge procedures in medical science. This work will be continued at C-TRACER, where live stem cells will be used to push back the boundaries of medical science and help those with vision disorders.



The inauguration ceremony for this revolutionary facility was attended by many of the leading figures in the fields of eye health and public affairs in India. Among the speakers were: Leonor Beleza, President of the Champalimaud Foundation; Dr GN RAO, Director of LVPEI and Chairman of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness; Prof. Brien Holden, Chairman of the International Centre for Eyecare Education, in Australia; Prof. N.K. Ganguly, Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research; His Excellency Luis Filipe de Castro Mendes, Ambassador of Portugal to India; and Smt. Purandareswari, the Minister of State for Human Resource Development in India.



Leonor Beleza speaks during the inauguration ceremony

In addition to its core research C-TRACER will also take part in exchange programmes involving scientists chosen by the Champalimaud Foundation and the Prasad Institute. In this way, the C-TRACER facilities and expertise will train and develop the skills of scientists from Portugal and beyond. In addition, the centre will host programmes of “capacity building” aimed at researchers from Lusophone countries such as Mozambique, Angola and East Timor.

Consequently, C-TRACER will develop as an exportable model of excellence which will contribute to the health and well-being of people in the developing world.

The Champalimaud Centre for Translational Eye Research is led by Professor Balasubramanian, one of India’s foremost medical researchers. Prof. Balasubramanian will take charge of the C-TRACER facility and oversee some of the world’s leading stem cell research.

With the creation of the C-TRACER the Champalimaud Foundation is making a significant contribution to the prevention and eradication of vision related disease and illness in Portugal, in the countries of the Portuguese language, in India and around the World.



The opening of the C-TRACER facility continues the Champalimaud Foundation’s commitment to translational research. This form of research is defined as scientific study that begins in the laboratory before progressing to the clinical arena, or patient’s “bedside”. In this way the Champalimaud Foundation aims to use the fruits of scientific endeavour to bring maximum benefit to those most in need in society.