

**No. BT/MED/SCB/Adv/2008**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Science & Technology**  
**Department of Biotechnology**  
**Block No –2 (6-8<sup>th</sup> floors), CGO Complex,**  
**Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110 003**

**Sub: Call for Proposals on “Induced Pluripotent Stem (iPS) Cell Research”**

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) invites research proposals for “Induced Pluripotent Stem (iPS) Cell Research”. The discovery that somatic cells can be converted into stem-like cells (iPS cells) by ‘reprogramming’ via introduction of selected ‘pluripotency’ genes has opened up new and exciting areas of stem cell research. Considering the potential of this technology for creating patient and disease-specific pluripotent stem cells for both basic as well as clinical research, it is essential to initiate research in this area in the country. Therefore, research in this area in the country. Therefore, research proposals are invited on:

1. Induction, derivation and characterization of human iPS cells by viral and non-viral approaches
2. Exploring similarities and differences between iPS cells and ES cells
3. Understanding the biological basis of reprogramming

The proposals may be single or multi-centre, and should define milestones, set timelines and defined role of individual institutes/centres based on their expertise. Public-Private Partnership are strongly encouraged. Private companies can also apply under SBIRI Scheme of DBT. (Details are available on DBT websites). Public-private partnership project outside SBIRI format can also be considered. Basic scientists/clinical researchers with necessary expertise in stem cell biology, regulation of gene expression, developmental biology and other related areas may submit project proposals with specific aims and objectives on DBT’s format available at DBT’s websites [www.dbtindia.gov.in](http://www.dbtindia.gov.in) OR [www.dbtindia.nic.in](http://www.dbtindia.nic.in).

**Project proposals (25 copies) may be sent to Dr. Alka Sharma, Joint Director, Department of Biotechnology (Room No. 713), Ministry of Science & Technology, Block No.-2, C.G.O Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003. Any additional query may be addressed at Tel: 011-24363699, Fax: 011-24362884, email: [alka.dbt@nic.in](mailto:alka.dbt@nic.in).**