

Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow
(Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)

MoES Project: 'Drugs from the Sea'
(Sponsored by Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi)

**Advertisement for Project Proposals from
Researchers in Universities and Research Institutes**

In order to harness the bioactive principles from the vast marine biota occurring in Indian waters for human therapeutic purposes, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, has been implementing a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional Research and Development programme on '**Development of potential drugs from ocean (Short title: Drugs from the Sea)**' since, 1991. At present there are 14 different reputed R&D labs including universities that are actively participating in this programme under the coordination of Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow. With a view to strengthen the scope of the programme and draw more fresh talent, in quest for prospecting biomedically useful substances from the seas around India and enhancing their efficacies, a call for new research proposals towards developing novel anti-cancer, anti-fungal, anti-microbial and anti-inflammatory drugs – is being made under the broad categories listed below.

1. Search for bio-actives (small molecules, peptides and proteins) from marine flora and fauna including bacterial resources.
2. Synthetic chemical libraries based on the existing marine natural product leads and chemical transformations of abundant marine natural products to develop NCEs for the above disease areas.
3. Any other activity with the same general objectives.

Researchers in universities and research institutes in the country are invited to submit detailed project proposals in the prescribed format of MoES. These shall undergo peer-review followed by detailed evaluation and presentation before the Steering Committee. Adequate details should be provided in the proposal to facilitate rigorous evaluation. Selected projects on synthetic chemical libraries will be expected to provide typically 20 or more well characterized synthetic compounds (minimum quantity of 20 mg each of more than 95% purity) per year, based on marine natural product leads, in any of the disease areas mentioned above. The synthetic schemes must be robust for scaling up at later stages. These projects shall be considered for funding by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for consumables, justifiable equipment and limited manpower costs for a three year period with yearly performance based renewal. The proforma of proposal can be downloaded from CDRI website (<http://www.cdriindia.org/uploaded/advertisement-25.01.2011.pdf>) or Ministry of Earth Sciences website (www.dod.nic.in). For any query the proponents may write to the **Director**, CDRI, Lucknow (drugs_sea@cdri.res.in).

A soft copy of the proposal is to be e-mailed to the **Director**, CDRI, Lucknow (drugs_sea@cdri.res.in) and five hard copies by mail to **Director**, CDRI, Chattar Manzil Palace, Lucknow 226 001, UP. Last date for submission of project proposal in response to this advertisement is **one month** from the date of publication.