

Name of the awardee	Name of the award	Name of the awarding body	Year of award
Misbah Un Nisa	Newton Bhabha Fellowship	DBT India and Newton Fund	2019
Misbah Un Nisa	Bursary Travel Award	Wellcome Genome Campus, UK	2019
Syed Qaaifah Gillani	Travel fellowship	International Society for Biocuration	2019
Syed Qaaifah Gillani	GetIn Fellowship	DBT-IUSSTF (Indo-US)	2019
Nusrat Nabi	B4 Young Scientist	DBT	2019
Zarka Sarwar	Best oral presentation award	Department of Biotechnology, University of Kashmir	2019
Sameer Ahmed Bhat	Post-doctoral fellowship	University of Illinois, USA	2020
Nusrat Nabi	Best poster presentation award	44th All India Cell Biology Conference & International Symposium on Molecular And Cellular Insights Of Human Diseases	2022
Nusrat Nabi	Outstanding oral presentation award	EMBO-Wellcome trust	2023
Nusrat Nabi	Travel Award for attending the EMBO Lecture	DBT	2023
Nusrat Nabi	CCI-Excellence Award for the best oral presentation	3rd World Congress on Translational Cancer Research and Immunotherapy	2023
Rouf Maqbool	Post-doctoral fellowship	University of Texas, USA	2023
Misbah Un Nisa	National Post-Doctoral Fellowship	DST-SERB	2024
Misbah Un Nisa	RA	CSIR	2024

FIRST PERSON

First person – Syed Qaaifah Gillani

First Person is a series of interviews with the first authors of a selection of papers published in Journal of Cell Science, helping early-career researchers promote themselves alongside their papers. Syed Qaaifah Gillani is first author on 'PCTAIRE1 promotes mitotic progression and resistance against antimitotic and apoptotic signals', published in JCS. Syed Qaaifah conducted the research described in this article while a PhD student in Dr Shaida Andrabi's lab at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Kashmir, India, and as a visiting research scholar at the Biosciences Institute, Newcastle University, UK, and the Dana–Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA. She is now a postdoc in the lab of Dr Anja Zeigerer at Helmholtz Zentrum Munich, Germany, investigating the connection of endosomal trafficking to liver metabolism, and its impact on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and diabetes.

How would you explain the main findings of your paper in lay terms?

Mitosis is regulated by a number of kinases, and alteration in the expression or activity of these kinases is bound to have an impact on cell division. Dysregulation of the activity or expression of many of these kinases results in an uncontrolled growth of cells, leading to tumorigenesis. Additionally, some of these kinases are also responsible for chemotherapy resistance of cancer cells, which is one of the major concerns for efficient cancer treatment. This highlights the importance of identifying such candidates so that they can be characterized in detail. In this context, we screened a library of 196 kinases and identified the kinases that are involved in mitosis and impart resistance against cell death. In particular, among these kinases, our research sheds light on the novel mitotic roles of PCTAIRE1. Our study shows that PCTAIRE1 localizes to the mitotic spindle and also interacts with PP2A and PLK1, which are among the key players of mitotic progression. Additionally, our findings also show PCTAIRE1 to be a kinase that is involved in imparting chemotherapeutic resistance to cancer cells, and thus highlight its significance as a potential drug target to overcome resistance exhibited by cancer cells in response to conventional chemotherapy.

Were there any specific challenges associated with this project? If so, how did you overcome them?

Characterization of the kinases identified in the library screen required in-depth mitotic studies, which were technically challenging in the lab, primarily due to limited infrastructure for such studies. Fortunately, we collaborated with outstanding scientists who had immense expertise in mitosis and kinase signaling. This allowed us to perform live-cell imaging and extensive microscopy in addition to various drug assays that helped us to understand the roles of these kinases in detail.

When doing the research, did you have a particular result or 'eureka' moment that has stuck with you?

I remember when I first detected PCTAIRE1 using immunofluorescence; I was thrilled to see it right at the



Syed Qaaifah Gillani

centrosomes. I was not expecting this, as my main objective was to just observe the localization of PCTAIRE1 with respect to polyomavirus small T (PolST). It was truly a 'eureka' moment for me, as it was an interesting and novel finding, and I was not even looking for it. Nevertheless, it set the direction for our next experiments.

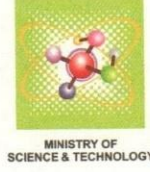
Why did you choose Journal of Cell Science for your paper?

Journal of Cell Science is committed to publishing high-quality research work after an extensive peer review process. It has earned recognition as being an outstanding journal in the field of cell biology and has a broad readership across the scientific community. Since our research encompasses diverse aspects of cell biology, JCS was the best option for our paper to reach a wider scientific audience.

Have you had any significant mentors who have helped you beyond supervision in the lab? How was their guidance special?

I have been fortunate to have had outstanding mentors at every step of my scientific journey. My PhD supervisor, Dr Shaida Andrabi, has been an excellent mentor, and his guidance was fundamental in shaping my research career. He has always supported me and encouraged me to evolve both on a scientific and personal level. I am also grateful to Professor Jonathan Higgins and Professor Thomas Roberts, who supervised me during my research visits to their labs. Their immense expertise in the relevant fields and worthy inputs from time to time were crucial to the findings of this research.

Syed Qaaifah Gillani's contact details: Helmholtz Zentrum München, Institute for Diabetes and Cancer, Ingolstädter Landstraße 1, 85764 Neuherberg, Germany. E-mail: qaaifah@gmail.com



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F.No. BT/IN/UK/DBT-BC/2018-19
2018

भारत सरकार
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
बायोटेक्नोलॉजी विभाग
ब्लॉक-2,7 वां तल, सी० जी० ओ० कम्पलेक्स
लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Block-2, 7th Floor C.G.O. Complex
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated: 30th October,

Subject: Selection for Newton Bhabha PhD Placement Programme coordinated by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and British Council, UK – regarding.

Dear Ms. Misbah Un Nisa,

I am pleased to inform that your application submitted under Newton Bhabha PhD Placement Programme for the year 2018-19 has been recommended by the India- UK Joint Panel for Short-Term PhD Placement (for 02-04 months) at Universities/ Institutes at UK.

2. Based on your submission, your candidature has been recommended for:

Host Institute	Host Supervisor
The Institute of Cancer Research	Prof. Jonathon Pines

3. **Your short term placement is expected to start from January 2019.**

4. For Short-Term PhD Placement the following payments shall be made by the respective agency as detailed below:

a) **Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India:**

- To and fro (India to UK to India), shortest route by Air India in economy class.
- Visa fee (type III), overseas travel insurance (actual cost as per Government of India norms) and local transport expenses.

b) **British Council, UK:**

- Monthly Stipend (to cover meals, accommodation and domestic travel, etc.) and bench fee (if any),

5. Kindly communicate the following information within 20 days from the receipt of this Award letter:

- Acceptance of the host institute from UK indicating the duration of the placement.
- Acceptance of the offer from your side.
- Approval/ Endorsement from your current Supervisor and Head of Institution/ Registrar of the University, along with an undertaking stating that you would comply with the terms and conditions of Newton Bhabha PhD Placement Programme.
- Bank details of home institute as per the Proforma enclosed.

Amit Parikh

Contd.2/-

वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसन्धान परिषद्
मानव संसाधन विकास समूह
सीएसआईआर – कॉम्प्लेक्स, लाइब्रेरी अवेन्यु, पुसा, नई दिल्ली-110012

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
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CSIR COMPLEX, Library Avenue, Pusa
New Delhi – 110012

जीव रसायन विज्ञान, जैव भौतिकी, प्रतिरक्षा विज्ञान, सूक्ष्मजीवविज्ञान, जैव प्रणाली का शरीर क्रिया विज्ञान (LIFE-12)

(साक्षात्कार दिनांक - 19th- 20th मार्च 2024)

Biochemistry, Biophysics, Immunology, Microbiology & Physiology of Living Systems (LIFE-12)

(Interview Date - 19th 20th March 2024)

सीनियर रिसर्च फेलोशिप के लिए चयनित उम्मीदवारों की सूची
LIST OF SELECTED CANDIDATES FOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATESHIP

S. NO.	NAME	Application NO.
क्र. सं.	नाम	आवेदन संख्या
1	SANDIP DEY	312-1944-2721/2K23/1
2	SHEEMONA CHOWDHARY	312-1720-5842/2K23/1
3	NIKITA BISHT	312-395-7140/2K23/1
4	AVNISH KUMAR VERMA	312-340-872/2K23/1
5	DHANEESHA M	312-997-6887/2K23/1
6	SWATI VARSHNEY	312-5082-6134/2K23/1
7	SHUBHA J. R.	312-6051-1554/2K23/1
8	TINA ROY	312-1933-7529/2K23/1
9	SIMRAN SINSINWAR	312-2951-2977/2K23/1
10	DR SYED MOHAMMAD ZAKARIYA	312-3713-8789/2K23/1
11	HANWANT SINGH	312-2925-4240/2K23/1
12	FAIZAN ABUL QAIS	312-2667-4416/2K23/1
13	BHUVARAGAVAN SREERAMULU	312-4926-2820/2K23/1
14	MISBAH UN NISA	312-5715-1179/2K23/1
15	MANJULIKA SHUKLA	312-5541-8043/2K23/1