

Abhijit Das, PhD

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Neuro-epigenetics of development and behaviour

- Chromatin link to developmental neurobiology
- Epigenetic modifications in relation to memory formation
- Understanding neurodevelopmental disorders, memory deficits and ageing using fly model system

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor, School of Bioscience, IIT Kharagpur, India (February 2017 – till date)
- Research Associate, Gurdon Institute, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (January 2012 to February 2017). Principal investigator- Prof. Andrea Brand
- Post-doctoral Researcher, National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR), Bangalore, India (August 2011 to January 2012). Principal Investigator- Prof.- K. VijayRaghavan

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- PhD from National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR), Bangalore, India (2005-2012). Thesis supervisors: Late Prof. Veronica Rodrigues and Prof. K. VijayRaghavan
- MSc in Zoology from Department of Zoology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India (2003-2005). Specialization in Molecular, Applied and Clinical Genetics
- BSc (with honours in Zoology) from Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya, The University of Burdwan, India (2000-2003)

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- Fellowship of Indo Swiss Bilateral Research Initiative (ISBRI) from École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) Switzerland for working in Biozentrum, Basel, Switzerland (2007)
- Travel fellowship from Asia-Pacific Developmental Biology Network (APDBN), Japan (2008)
- Travel fellowship from Department of Science and Technology (DST), India (2010)

COURSES/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIUMS

- **“31st Mahabaleshwar in From Molecules to Networks and Behaviour”** organized by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). December, 2005-January, 2006
- **8th IBRO-APRC School of Neuroscience**, at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, India. September 2-10, 2006
- **Benny Shilo course on Developmental biology** at National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore - organized by Prof. K. VijayRaghavan (NCBS, India) and Prof Benny Shilo of the Weizmann Institute, Israel, December, 2006

- Poster presentation at “**Sushi and the snail: A meeting on cellular trafficking, circuits and behavior**” at National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore, India. February 23rd – 25th, 2007
- Poster presentation at the 16th CDB meeting on “**CIS-SEQUENCE REGULATION AND ITS EVOLUTION**” held in RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, Kobe, Japan, 29th Sept to 2nd Oct 2008
- Platform (oral) presentation at “**XXXII All India Cell Biology Conference & Symposium on Stem Cells and Pattern Formation**” organized by MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, India. 4th - 6th December 2008
- Poster presentation at the ‘**2010 Bangalore Maggot Meeting: Neural Circuits to Behaviour**’ organized by Matthies Louis, Reinhard Stocker and K. VijayRaghavan at National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore, India. July 25th – 27th, 2010
- Poster presentation at the “**Neurofly 2010: 13th European Drosophila Neurobiology Conference**”, Manchester, United Kingdom, organized by the University of Manchester, 1st to 5th September, 2010
- Platform presentation at the “**2016 IMB conference on Epigenetics in Development**”, in Institute of Molecular Biology, Mainz, Germany. 20-22 October, 2016

PUBLICATIONS

- **Abhijit Das**, Sonia Sen, Robert Lichtneckert, Ryuchi Okada, Kei Ito, Veronica Rodrigues, & Heinrich Reichert (2008). *Drosophila* olfactory local interneurons and projection neurons derive from a common neuroblast lineage specified by the empty spiracles gene. *Neural Development*, 3, 33
- **Abhijit Das**, Heinrich Reichert, and Veronica Rodrigues (2010). Notch Regulates the Generation of Diverse Cell Types from the Lateral Lineage of *Drosophila* Antennal Lobe. *Journal of Neurogenetics*, 24, 42–53
- **Abhijit Das**, Albert Chiang, Sejal Davla, Rashi Priya, Heinrich Reichert, K. VijayRaghavan and Veronica Rodrigues (2011). Identification and analysis of a glutamatergic local interneuron lineage in the adult *Drosophila* olfactory system. *Neural Systems and Circuits*. 1, 4
- Aoife Larkin, Somdatta Karak, Rashi Priya, **Abhijit Das**, Champakali Ayyub, Kei Ito, Veronica Rodrigues, and Mani Ramaswami (2010). Central synaptic mechanisms underlie short-term olfactory habituation in *Drosophila* larvae. *Learning and Memory*, 17: 645-653
- **Abhijit Das**, Tripti Gupta, Sejal Davla, Laura Lucia Prieto Godino, Sören Diegelmann, O.Venkateswara Reddy, K.Vijay Raghavan, Heinrich Reichert, Jennifer Lovick and Volker Hartenstein (2013). Neuroblast lineage-specific origin of the neurons of the *Drosophila* larval olfactory system, *Developmental Biology*, 15;373(2):322-37
- **Abhijit Das**, Robert Krautz, Chloe Shard and Andrea H. Brand. Heterochromatic silencing of stem cell genes by Su(var)3-9 blocks neuronal dedifferentiation (manuscript under preparation)
- **Abhijit Das**, Robert Krautz and Andrea H. Brand. Role of histone deacetylases in early neuronal differentiation (manuscript under preparation)