

Obituary

Soumajit Saha and Avanish Srivastava were pursuing a PhD degree in the Department of Biological Sciences, TIFR. They passed away in an unfortunate accident near the town of Wai in Maharashtra on the 27th of January 2018.

Soumajit Saha (1992-2018)



A brilliant mind and an excellent researcher. He joined the Department of Biological Sciences in 2013 as an Integrated Ph. D. student, with a lot of excitement and a sense of adventure. He opted to work with Prof. Basuthkar Jagadeeshwar Rao on the mechanism balancing cell protective actions and cell death pathways. He advanced the research rapidly and brought out some clear insights about the tipping point determined by a protein named PARP1. He was working on a draft manuscript describing his work that was to be submitted shortly. We will remember him as a bright and spirited individual, poised to launch into an exciting journey in research that was cut short by an unexpected turn of events.

Avanish Srivastava (1989-2018)



A talented young man who joined the Department of Biological Sciences with a lot of enthusiasm, and a sense of purpose, to pursue his research interest and a Ph. D. degree in 2014. He opted to work with Prof. Maithreyi Narasimha and was investigating the influence of reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated in the mitochondria, on signalling pathways that pattern cell and tissue morphogenesis in *Drosophila*. His work was beginning to reveal that ROS generated even as a by-product of metabolism could influence tissue growth and patterning during development. He was passionate about science, and about ROS and keen to understand how such simple chemical species might modulate tissue form and function. He was independent-minded, a gentleman, and a genuine person whose potential remained unfulfilled due to the tragic accident.

From the Maithreyi Narasimha Lab

Remembering Avanish Shrivastava- wonderful colleague, dear friend, good soul, ROS expert, badminton champion.*



You were smart, sure and strong, passionate and sincere about life and science, fun-loving and adventurous, humane and always helpful. You've left an "Avanish-shaped hole" in our universe that cannot be closed, that we will strive to fill with your visions of ROS, memories of our conversations and laughter, and scattered pictures of the smiles you left behind. You will be sorely missed.
Maithreyi and the lab*

* ROS : Reactive oxygen species, Avanish's favourite chemical species, whose role in patterning tissues he was investigating

Thoughts from friends



Muddassar Ali Khan

Soumajit

It's very hard to accept that you are not with us, your loss is irreparable. It seems like yesterday when you came to Shobhona's lab for rotation and we became friends. You have always made people laugh in their hard times; your presence in DBS will always be missed. May your soul rest in peace.

Avanish

You were like a gem, a perfectionist in everything be in lab or outside lab. We will miss playing cricket and football with you. I have always seen you as an enthusiastic and a positive person. I never knew that you were that brave as well! May your soul rest in peace.

Abhrajyoti Chakravarti

I would like to tell something about Soumajit, as I interacted with him quite frequently. He was my senior from the neighbouring lab, and I went to their lab to melt agar or agarose quite often. Whenever he saw me down due to work related stress, he used to help me out and provide mental support. He gave valuable suggestions as a senior while going through the days of project 2. I have not interacted with Avanish that much but I've had a chance to play counter strike with him. He was an amazing player. I will surely miss two of my very good seniors.

Sashaina Fanibunda

Avanish

An extremely generous, helpful and cheerful person. A humble human being, he was always a pleasure to interact with. He will be fondly remembered and missed.

Soumajit

A very humble, helpful and fun-loving person. A wonderful and generous human being. He will be fondly remembered and missed.