

different primer pairs specific for the envelope glycoprotein (*E1*) and non-structural protein (*nsP1*) genes of the CHIK virus. The RT mixture was used to synthesize and amplify cDNA, which was then sequenced for phylogenetic analysis.

The entire RT-PCR procedure takes less than 4 h. Joseph *et al.* detected chi-

kungunya in five out of 20 samples of serum. According to them, RT-PCR is even more sensitive than ELISA, detecting three samples CHIK-positive which were earlier ELISA-negative.

Thus, RT-PCR is a cheaper but powerful tool for the detection and characterization of CHIK viral infection, helping in the prompt and effective clinical

management of the disease in developing countries.

1. Joseph *et al.*, *Indian J. Exp. Biol.*, 2008, **46**, 573–578.

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## 2008 Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prizes

The Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India has recently announced the winners of the 2008 Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Award for science and technology. The SSB prizes comprising a citation, a plaque and a cash award of Rs 500,000 are given every year to scientists below 45 years of age. The SSB prize winners for 2008 are as follows.

Biological Sciences: G. P. S. Raghava, Institute of Microbial Technology, CSIR, Chandigarh and L. S. Shashidhara, Cen-

tre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, CSIR, Hyderabad.

Chemical Sciences: Pradeep Thappil, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Jarugu Narasimha Moorthy, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.

Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences: P. N. Vinayachandran, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Engineering Sciences: Ranjan Kumar Mallik, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

Mathematical Sciences: Jaikumar Radhakrishnan, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.

Medical Sciences: Ravinder Goswami, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

Physical Sciences: Raghunathan Sri-anand, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune and Srikanth Sastry, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore.

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## CSIR Young Scientist and CSIR Technology Awards 2008

The CSIR Young Scientist Awards for the year 2008 and CSIR Technology Awards 2008 under various categories were given away by the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Kapil Sibal on the occasion of the 66th CSIR Foundation Day in New Delhi.

The 2008 CSIR Young Scientist awardees under the different categories are as follows.

Biological Sciences: Beena Pillai, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, Delhi.

Chemical Sciences: Subhash Ghosh, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, and Melepurath Deepa, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences: Sinai Khandeparker Lidita

Dilip, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa and Simanchal Padhy, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad.

Engineering Sciences: Ranjan Kumar Sahu, National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur and Satyajit Vishnu Shukla, National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.

Physical Sciences: Pankaj Poddar, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.

The winners of the CSIR Technology Awards 2008 are:

Life Sciences: 'Team CCMB' of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad won this award for developing a polymerase chain reaction-based novel, universal technique for forensic applications.

Innovation: 'Team CDRI' of the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow won this award for discovering guggulsterone and developing analogues with a novel mechanism of action as hypolipidemic agents.

Business Development and Technology Marketing: 'Team URDIP' of the Unit for Research and Development of Information Products, Pune won this award for creating a niche in the knowledge-based service sector.

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