

## OSSD to form chemical libraries

DC | Abhish K. Bose | 19th May 2013



**Kottayam:** The Open Source Drug Discovery(OSSD), a Council for Science and Industrial Research(CSIR) venture is planning to build chemical libraries and chemically diverse compounds for successful drug discovery programs.

Developing successful drug discovery programs can be done only with the availability of chemical libraries and chemically diverse compounds. The aim of the OSSD is to bring about affordable healthcare and focus on neglected diseases. OSSD was initiated in September 2008 with its first target being to counter Tuberculosis.

CSIR is employing a multi-pronged strategy of utilizing the strong chemistry expertise available at various CSIR and non CSIR institutions, thereby acquiring natural products and synthetic chemical libraries. Various investigators from CSIR institutes such as (CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad),

CSIR-NCL, Pune, CSIR-NIEST, Trivandrum, CSIR-CRLI, Chennai, and CSIR-NIIST, Trivandrum are working on synthesizing diverse compounds that are being screened and stored at CSIR-IICT's bank.

“Apart from these, various compounds which are being synthesized at Universities, institutes and Colleges under OSSD Chem program are being screened at CSIR\_CDRI for both anti-Tuberculosis and anti Malaria compounds that will also be utilized for this purpose”, Zakir Thomas, Project Director of the OSSD program told DC.

In addition, various target-driven and whole cell based screening programs are taken forward for Structure Activity Relationship (SAR) by scientists at the various academic labs and Contract Research Organizations(CRO) in partnership with OSSD.

Currently OSSD is a global community with the participation of more than seven hundred users from 130 countries.

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