

## CSIR General News

### CSIR appoints nanoscience research leader

Dr Suprakas Sinha Ray has joined the CSIR as the Nanoscience Research Group Leader within the R&D core. He will lead the first emerging research area (ERA) in the CSIR - the Nanoscience Research Group - to conduct scientific research on the properties and structure of nanomaterials, which could lead to new materials and new applications for nanotechnology within local industries.

Before joining the CSIR, Ray was a research scientist at the Department of Chemical engineering at Laval University in Quebec, Canada. He studied physical chemistry at the University of Calcutta, India, where he received his Masters degree in molecular spectroscopy in 1996. In 2001 he received a PhD from the University of Calcutta for his thesis titled "Preparation and Evaluation of Nanocomposites of Heterocyclic Polymers and various Nanodimensional Inorganic Oxides". From April 2001 to February 2004, he was a postdoctoral fellow, appointed by the Japanese government, at the Toyota Technological Institute in Nagoya, Japan.

He has published more than 55 articles in international journals, three review articles, five patents, some 25 articles in various refereed conference proceedings and four book chapters on various aspects of polymer nanocomposite materials. Recently, he wrote a book titled "Polymer Nanocomposites and Their Applications".

He is also an associate editor of the Journal of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, an international peer-reviewed journal covering all aspects of nanoscience and nanotechnology in science, engineering and medicine.

The Nanoscience Research Group is hosted by CSIR Materials Science and Manufacturing, which has a track record in materials research and good experience with the incubation of new initiatives. The unit is also increasingly involved in the research and application of nanomaterials in fields such as energy, drug delivery, aerospace technologies, sensors, metals, composite materials, new manufacturing technologies and textiles.

The CSIR aims to be a world player in the discovery and development of new materials and material properties at the nanoscale within the next five years. The objectives of the Nanoscience Research Group are to:

- conduct leading research into the design, modelling and synthesis of nanomaterials with targeted properties and various possible applications
- effectively disseminate the outcomes of its research activities
- facilitate the application of its research outputs and outcomes in support of national priorities and needs
- make a meaningful contribution to strengthening the national science base and developing strategic human capital and human resources.

The research focus of the group will be on design, modelling and synthesis of nanomaterials with specific properties and various possible applications. Initial focus will be on carbon nanotubes, silicon nanoparticles and nanolayer deposition techniques. The group will also collaborate with units and centres in the CSIR, universities, science councils, the private and public sectors and international research institutions.

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