

Syngene announces second year of STEM scholarship and mentorship program for women in collaboration with RICH

30 women from tier 2 and 3 institutions have been selected for the second cohort of the program

21 women successfully completed the 2023 program; 12 landed industry jobs, while 9 extended their internships to pursue master's degrees

18th June 2024, Hyderabad: Syngene International Ltd., a leading integrated research, development, and manufacturing services company, announced the second cohort of the Scholarship, Mentoring and Industry Orientation for Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) in collaboration with the **Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH)**. This program offers scholarships to women studying STEM subjects at tier 2 and 3 institutions across various regions of the country to enable them to gain industry experience in research institutions and companies and receive mentoring support.

Out of 549 applications, 216 profiles were shortlisted based on academic merit, socio-economic background, and STEM disciplines. One-on-one interviews were conducted with 151 students to assess their achievements and research interests. The top 60 applications were then reviewed by the Selection Committee, comprising experts from both industry and academia. As a result, the second cohort of the program has identified 30 women, with 10 selected from undergraduate programs and 20 from postgraduate programs.

During the launch of this cohort, Dr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government, I&C and IT Dept, Govt. of Telangana; Ms. G. Nirupa, Joint Secretary, Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutional Society (TGSWREIS) and Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutional Society (TGTWREIS), Govt. Of Telangana; Dr. Vishal Choudhary, Scientist F, Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt. of India; Dr. Sridevi Khambhampaty, Vice President, Biopharmaceutical Development, Syngene International; and Dr. Anupama Shetty, Mission Director, Biocon Foundation, were in attendance.

Sridevi Khambhampaty, Vice President – Biopharmaceutical Development from Syngene International Ltd said, *"We are delighted with the outcomes of the first cohort of the program. Encouraging women in STEM subjects is not just about achieving gender parity—it's about unlocking innovation. Diverse perspectives breed creativity, and by fostering an inclusive environment, we empower women to pursue their passion and enrich our collective pool of knowledge. By offering these opportunities, we are investing in the future of science and technology."*

Despite increased female enrolment in existing STEM programs, dropout rates and limited career opportunities persist, especially for women from tier 2 and 3 cities. The Syngene/RICH program addresses these issues by offering scholarships and mentorship, enabling students to gain internships and practical experience in top research institutions and industries. Scholarships alleviate the financial burden for students, while mentorship provides career guidance, exposure to emerging STEM fields, and bridges the

gap between theory and practice. This support boosts confidence, enhances project quality, facilitates networking, and empowers women to excel.

21 women who successfully completed the first cohort of the program were felicitated during this launch.

Ms. Akshita Kulshrestha from the first cohort of the 'Women in STEM' program, said, *"The mentorship support from Mr. Narasimha Reddy Dondeti and Mr. Suneelshekhhar Yapara from Syngene International has been a cornerstone of my academic and career growth. They offered invaluable guidance and insights that have shaped my journey in significant ways. They have provided real-world context, skill development, networking opportunities, project guidance, career insights, and given me the confidence to pursue my aspirations in scientific research."*

Ms. Rashmi Pimpale, CEO, Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) said, *"I am excited to reflect on the impact we have achieved through the collaboration with Syngene. Beyond financial assistance, our aim was to provide marginalized female students with invaluable hands-on learning opportunities in the top research and development institutions and industries located in Hyderabad. We believe this exposure acts as a bridge between academia and industry, igniting a passion for STEM among young women."*

The program was delivered by Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad, Biocon Foundation and Syngene Scientific Services Ltd.

About Syngene

Syngene International Ltd. (BSE: 539268, NSE: SYNGENE, ISIN: INE 398R01022) is an integrated research, development, and manufacturing services company serving the global pharmaceutical, biotechnology, nutrition, animal health, consumer goods, and specialty chemical sectors. Syngene's more than 6000 scientists offer both skills and the capacity to deliver great science, robust data security, and world class manufacturing, at speed, to improve time-to-market and lower the cost of innovation. With a combination of dedicated research facilities for Amgen, Baxter, and Bristol-Myers Squibb as well as 2 Mn sq. ft of specialist discovery, development, and manufacturing facilities, Syngene works with biotech companies pursuing leading-edge science as well as multinationals, including GSK, Zoetis and Merck KGaA. For more details, visit www.syngeneintl.com. For the Company's latest Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) report, visit <https://esgreport.syngeneintl.com/>

Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH)

Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) is the Hyderabad Science & Technology (S&T) Cluster, an initiative spearheaded by the Office of Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India. Launched in 2017 by the Government of Telangana, RICH acts as a facilitator and aims to foster greater collaboration between various entities in the research and innovation space. RICH has initiated multidisciplinary projects in the areas of agriculture, nutrition, health and waste management. These projects leverage the local expertise and strengths of Telangana and facilitate ease of access to funding from the relevant central ministries.

About Biocon Foundation

Biocon Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Biocon, Biocon Biologics and Syngene International, is working to empower marginalized communities since 2005. Biocon Foundation partners with the society to promote social and economic inclusion. It has thus made significant investments in enhancing access to quality healthcare, education and civic infrastructure along with environmental sustainability initiatives. These programs create a momentum to elevate the vulnerable and underserved sections of the society. The Foundation has built a strong reputation for the quality of its programs and their impact in addressing social, humanitarian and environmental challenges faced by the communities it serves. The programs have contributed to realizing the vision of empowering and integrating the underprivileged into the social and economic mainstream of India.