



Dr. Premnath Venugopalan

Technologist, Inventor, Innovation Manager, Business Incubation Manager, Startup Mentor, Entrepreneur

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Current status/ position/ designation

- Head of NCL Innovations (the department within CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) charged with the responsibility of championing the cause of technology innovation within NCL)
- Head, Intellectual Property Group, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (India’s leading IP management group in the non-profit sector)
- Sr. Principal Scientist, Polymer Science and Engineering, CSIR-NCL
- Director, Venture Center (India’s largest science business incubator)

Educational qualifications

- PhD, MIT, Cambridge, USA, 1997
- B. Tech, IIT- Bombay, 1992
- Chevening Technology Enterprise Scholar with Centre for Scientific Enterprise Ltd, London Business School and Dept of Material Science, University of Cambridge, UK (2004-2005)

Professional Experience

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIALIZATION

Inventor/ technology developer for following commercialized technologies:

- High crosslinked UHMWPE materials for joint replacement produced by Zimmer-Biomet
- Porous polyethylene implants produced by Biopore Surgicals

Inventor/ technology developer for following technologies under development:

- Silk based biomedical implants
- PLLA based medical products
- Specialty security fibre technology

Founder:

- Orthocrafts Innovations Pvt Ltd (degradable synthetic polymer based biomed products start-up)
- BiolMed Innovations Pvt Ltd (silk based biomaterials start-up).

Recognitions/Notable:

- NCL RF-Cipla Hamied Award for the Best Process/ Product Development, 2006.
- Member of High Level Committee on Indigenization of Security Features, RBI, 2016

INNOVATION MANAGEMENT & IP MANAGEMENT

Key contributions:

- Set up and provided leadership to India’s leading innovation management

group at CSIR-NCL. CSIR-NCL is India's largest patent filing non-profit. CSIR-NCL has one of the best track records in India in technology transfer.

- Set-up and mentored Intellectual Property Facilitation Center in Pune. This is the best performing IPFC of MoMSME in the country.

Founder Director:

- CSIR-Tech Pvt Ltd (a technology commercialization company)

Recognitions/ Notable:

- CSIR Technology Award for Technology Marketing and Business Development, 2013 (Received from Minister of Science and Technology, GoI)
- Member of the National Panel for Technology-Led Innovation Policy, Government of India, 2017. Have been member for High-Powered Committee for CSIR. Member of TAG at ARCI (DST, GoI) , Hyderabad
- CSIR-NCL is the only Indian organization to be mentioned in the WIPO report of World's top 100 Inventive Clusters of the World released in 2017. CSIR-NCL's efforts helped Pune to be listed as 1 out of 3 Indian cities in the top 100 inventive clusters of the world.

BUSINESS INCUBATION & VENTURE FUNDING

Key contributions:

- Set up and provided leadership to India's largest science-based and inventive enterprises incubator. Developed a self-sustaining model for incubation of knowledge intensive startups. Developed a rich innovation ecosystem including mentors, infrastructure, advanced scientific facilities, grant and seed funding, networks, events etc.

Recognitions/ Notable:

- National Award for Technology Business Incubator, 2015 (received from President of India)
- Member of panels for BIRAC (DBT, GoI), TIFAC (DST, GoI), NSTEDB (DST, GoI), GSBTM (GoG), PMC (GoM).

CONSULTING PROJECTS

Consulting projects have been focused on

- Polymer science and technology
- Technology landscaping, opportunity identification and technology strategy
- Technology due diligence
- Strategy and planning

Notable clients:

- General Electric
- Reliance Industries
- Cosmo Films
- Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Press
- Mott MacDonald

Current Research Interests

- Biomed products development with a materials science focus
- Novel technology for security documents