

## Editorial

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*S Mahadevan, Chief Editor*

Every issue of *Resonance* honours an individual who has made significant contributions to science or engineering and whose life and achievements are inspirational. In this issue, we make a departure by honouring an institution – The Indian Institute of Science, which is celebrating its centenary. As P Balaram, its present director, states in his article, the history of IISc is intimately linked with the evolution of higher education and scientific research in the country during the twentieth century. The Institute's impact in terms of providing highly trained researchers and technologists to the nation and the world at large has been phenomenal. Its alumni are spread far and wide over the world, occupying eminent positions in both industry and academia. Many members of the *Resonance* editorial board are from IISc. So are the chief editors of several leading journals of the Indian Academy of Sciences. It is one of the few institutions where research driven primarily by curiosity still flourishes and scholarship is respected.



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Located on a magnificent campus, the Institute provides unique opportunities for both academic as well as personal growth of its faculty who enjoy total academic freedom. The coexistence of science and technology enables research collaborations across disciplines. This is reflected in many of the emerging areas of research in the Institute such as bioengineering, nanotechnology and neurosciences. The biological sciences division of the Institute is extraordinary in terms of the range and diversity of research pursued, literally from *E. coli* to elephants. For students and young researchers, it has provided an ideal learning environment for a hundred years.

What does the future hold for the Institute? With the emergence of newer and better funded research institutions, can the Institute maintain its preeminent position in the country in the 21st century? Can it continue to attract creative faculty and motivated students and young researchers? Supported by dynamic leadership on the one hand and dedication on the part of its faculty and students for realizing the goals of its benevolent founder, there are no reasons for not being optimistic.

On this centenary year, *Resonance* wishes the Indian Institute of Science, many more productive centuries in pursuit of excellence in science education and research.

