

EXPLORING NANOSCIENCE - SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF NANOPARTICLES

*in collaboration with the DST unit of Nanoscience and Thematic unit of Excellence,
IIT-Madras*

SUPPORTED BY STAR COLLEGE SCHEME, DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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The Centre For Research in Science and Technology (CRIST), Stella Maris College, Chennai, conducted a three-month Certificate course on 'Exploring Nanoscience – Synthesis and Characterization of Nanoparticles' in collaboration with the DST unit of Nanoscience and Thematic unit of Excellence, IIT-Madras supported by Star College Scheme, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, from October 2015 to February 2016. This course was attended by 20 undergraduate students from the departments of Physics, Chemistry and Zoology. Dr. Mary Terry, (Administrative Director, CRIST) and Ms. Elizabeth Varghese were the co-ordinators of the programme. Over the three months, the students synthesized several nanoparticles (copper oxide, iron oxide, cuprous oxide, nickel oxide and silver nanoparticles) by both chemical methods and plant based green synthesis and learned of various characterization techniques. The course also included a lecture series, demonstrations and educational visits. **The highlight of this year's certificate course was the special invited lecture organized by IIT-Madras by Professor C.N.R. Rao, National Research Professor, Linus Pauling Research Professor & Honorary President, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, India. The 20 students who had registered for this course benefitted immensely from the special lecture on 'Nanostructured materials'.** A series of lectures were held at CRIST by eminent speakers which included Dr. T. Pradeep, Professor, DST Unit of Nanoscience and Thematic Unit of Excellence, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Dr. Sreeram, Principal Scientist, CLRI, Chennai, Dr. Scindia Jemima Swarnavalli G. Head, Department of Chemistry, Women's Christian College) and PhD research scholars. The students also participated in an educational visit to the DST unit of Nanoscience and Thematic unit of Excellence at IIT Madras to learn about the latest characterization techniques used in nanoscience.