Context and rationale
The scale up of DOTS in India is a great public health accomplishment, and yet undiagnosed and poorly managed TB continues to fuel the epidemic. Recognizing these challenges, the Government of India has set an ambitious goal of providing universal access to quality diagnosis and treatment for all TB patients in the country. Innovative tools and delivery systems in both the public and private sectors are critical for reaching this goal. The current in-vitro diagnostics market in India is dominated by imported and generic products, with virtually no innovations. But India has the potential to solve its TB problem with “home-grown” solutions. Just as Indian pharma and biotech companies revolutionized access to high-quality, affordable AIDS drugs and hepatitis vaccines through generic production, Indian diagnostic companies could also become the world’s hub for high-quality generic diagnostics. India also has the potential to lead the world in developing innovative TB diagnostics. For this to happen, Indian industry must move from the import and imitation approach to genuine innovation in both product development as well as delivery. This will require permissive policies, enhanced funding, and greater collaboration between government, donors, researchers and the private industry.

Content and themes
This conference will convene industry leaders, innovative thinkers, researchers, funders, and policy makers, to stimulate increased industry/biotech engagement in diagnostic innovations that can help TB control in India and elsewhere. Sessions will focus on topics such as market size for TB diagnostics, IVD market analysis and value chain, target product profiles and market needs, frugal innovation and affordable diagnostics, intellectual property issues, regulation of diagnostics, sources of funding, prize models, business models for engaging private sector, scientific obstacles for R&D, barriers to innovation in India, academia-industry relations, and role of emerging economies and BRICS in the next wave of TB innovations.

Confirmed speakers & panelists
Anu Acharya, Ocimum Biosolutions, Hyderabad, India
Tanjore Balganesh, AstraZeneca, Bangalore, India
Steven Buchbaum, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA
Sanjeev Chaudhry, SRL, India
Vir S. Chauhan, ICGEB, New Delhi, India
Anand Daniel, Accel Partners, Bangalore, India
Dhananjaya Dendukuri, Achira Labs, Bangalore, India
Pradip Desai, Span Diagnostics, Surat, India
Bindu Dey, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, India
Puneet Dewan, WHO, SEARO, New Delhi, India
Sami Guzder, Avestagen, Bangalore, India
Rekha Hemrajani, Exelixis Inc. & Omidyar Network, USA
Szymon Jaroslawski, IBAB, Bangalore, India
Nalini Krishnan, REACH, Chennai, India
Rishikesha Krishnan, IIM, Bangalore, India
Ashok Kumar, Central TB Division, DGHs, New Delhi, India
Blessi Kumar, TB/HIV activist and consultant, Delhi, India
BV Ravi Kumar, Xcyton Diagnostics, Bangalore, India
Bala S Manian, Reamatrix, Bangalore, India
Jaykumar Menon, X Prize Foundation, USA
Shrishendu Mukherjee, Wellcome Trust, India
Chandrasekhar Nair, BigTec Labs, Bangalore, India
Anjali Nayyar, Global Health Strategies, India
V Raja, GE Healthcare, Bangalore, India
Camilla Rodrigues, Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai, India
Gayatri Saberwal, IBAB, Bangalore, India
Sandeep Sen, Sen Labs, Patna, India
Anand Sivaraman, Remido, Bangalore, India
Peter Small, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA
Soumya Swaminathan, TRC, Chennai
Jaya Tyagi, AIIMS, New Delhi, India
Suresh Vazirani, Transasia Biomedicals, Mumbai, India
Suri Venkathachalam, Connexios, Bangalore, India
Gene Walther, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA

Limited spaces. Industry participants will get preference.
Registration form available at: www.sjri.res.in
Meeting coordinators
Dr. John Kenneth, MD, SJRI, Bangalore [johnkennet@gmail.com]
Dr. Madhukar Pai, MD, PhD, McGill University, Montreal [madhukar.pai@mcgill.ca]