Propagation
A Journal of Science Communication

Editorial

At the outset, I wish our readers – belatedly though – a very happy, productive and fulfilling New Year. For *Propagation*, the year 2012 begins with a change in its editorial board. Dr. Jayanta Sthanapati, former chief editor, has since retired on superannuation after having put the journal on a roll. We express our deep appreciation for his valuable contribution.

In India, we have one of the world's fastest growing networks of science centres, planetariums and other public institutions engaged in science communication. Substantial quantum of professional knowledge and intellectual artifacts in the field are being generated at individual levels, which merits peer attention and recognition. *Propagation* was conceived in this background for sharing and recognizing original works in the field of science communication in India & abroad. And in this venture, we have been receiving valuable support and contributions from both our readers and authors. Thanks to all of you.

This issue has nine articles contributed by professionals in the field of science communication, science historians, practicing scientists and popular science writers.

The article 'Aspects of Iron Technology in India' traces the rich history of iron technology in India at three stages of her techno-cultural development. The authors of the article 'Need for Study of History & Philosophy of Science and Technology' explores why such a study *should become a part of modern S&T education* for inculcating a culture of innovation leading to knowledge societies without gender and culture bias and for a living planet with high sustainability index. 'On Nehru's Concept of Scientific Temper of Mind and its Place in Modern India' the author analyzes Nehru's own idea of scientific temper and gives a short account of its nature and importance in contemporary India.

The article 'Expanding the Role of Educators in Science Museums' addresses the need and scope for widening the role of museum educators in all aspects of their institutional mission and not simply in the organization and conduct of school programs.

Penned on the occasion of the International Year of Chemistry, the article 'Marie Curie - An Immortal Life in Science' is a tribute to one of the greatest scientists of all time about whom Albert Einstein once said, 'Marie Curie is, of all celebrated beings, the only one whom fame has not corrupted.' The author of the article 'Girish Chandra Bose: A Pioneer in Indian Agriculture' gives a brief overview of the pioneering work of Bose in improving Indian agriculture.

Written in a popular manner for non-specialists, the article '100 Years of Superconductivity' traces how our understanding of the phenomenon has developed over the last hundred years. The article 'Social Insects- Shaping Our Future' makes an interesting reading about insects like ants, bees, wasps, which are known for showing complex societal behavior and organizational ability. Recent researches on their behavior have inspired the development of some novel computer programs which promise to solve some of the complicated problems of the modern human society. And the last article in this issue is a scientific paper on the 'Design of an automated system for medical diagnosis'.

We hope our readers will find the content of this first issue of 2012 interesting and useful, and we look forward to their feedback and suggestions.

E Islam
Chief Editor