

RICH COMMUNIQUE

July - September 2024



COVER STORY

» RICH and IIIT Hyderabad Set the Stage for Global AI Summit 2024

The Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) and IIIT Hyderabad recently hosted a groundbreaking curtain-raiser event, "AI in Healthcare: Today's Reality and Tomorrow's Potential," paving the way for the upcoming Global AI Summit 2024.



» Denovo Bioinnovations



» RICH Represents Telangana at Global BioIndia 2024



» RICH and IIIT Hyderabad Set the Stage for Global AI Summit 2024

The Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) and IIIT Hyderabad recently hosted a groundbreaking curtain-raiser event, “AI in Healthcare: Today’s Reality and Tomorrow’s Potential,” paving the way for the upcoming Global AI Summit 2024.

The event explored three key areas:

1. AI in Hospital Administration: Showcasing AI's role in optimizing operations and enhancing patient care delivery.
2. AI in Clinical Practice: Leading clinicians from various specialties demonstrated AI's impact on diagnostics, treatment planning, and personalized medicine.
3. Talent for AI in Healthcare: Highlighting the importance of skilled professionals and interdisciplinary collaboration in driving AI innovation.

Innovative startups presented cutting-edge AI solutions in hospital administration, neurology, oncology, and healthcare talent development, offering a glimpse into healthcare’s AI-driven future.

This event set the stage for the highly anticipated Global AI Summit 2024, which happened scheduled for September 5th & 6th in Hyderabad, promising to further explore AI’s transformative potential in healthcare.



Sector-Specific Highlights

» Acceleration Initiative for Deeptech startups in Devices, Diagnostics and Digital Health (AID). Program: Cohort 6 Announcement

The Acceleration Initiative for Deeptech startups in Devices, Diagnostics and Digital Health (AID). program announced the selection of startups for its sixth cohort. This cohort focuses on innovative companies specializing in three key healthcare domains: Devices, Diagnostics, and Digital Health.

The selected startups demonstrate significant potential in addressing critical healthcare challenges through technological advancements. Their participation in the AID program aligns with the initiative's goal of fostering innovation and driving progress in medical technology and healthcare delivery.

These companies will engage in a comprehensive program designed to accelerate their growth and market readiness in the competitive healthtech landscape.

The 16-week program will provide targeted support in four key areas:

- Product Development
- Regulatory Compliance
- Clinical Validation
- Go-to-Market Strategy

Each startup will receive expert guidance tailored to their specific needs in these critical domains.



Startup Spotlight



Denovo Bioinnovations: Medical Devices

Sector: Healthcare

Key Achievements:

- Denovo Bioinnovations recently secured substantial funding to support the launch of their innovative healthcare product.

2deg clicon: Sustainable Synthetic Diesel Innovation

Sector: Sustainability

2deg clicon has developed a synthetic diesel fuel using sustainable materials, matching conventional auto diesel properties.

Key Achievements:

- Product testing at ARAI & IIP
- Collaboration with IIT Hyderabad for engine performance evaluation
- This startup is advancing sustainable fuel alternatives for the automotive industry.



Agrodroid: Advancing AgriTech Solutions

Sector: Food & Agriculture

Key Achievement:

- Secured a grant from SISFS through RICH
- Agrodroid is making strides in the agricultural technology space, with recent financial backing to support their innovative solutions for the farming sector.



Pavakah Energy: Powering Sustainable Solutions

Sector: Sustainability

Key Achievement:

- Secured a grant from SISFS through RICH
- Pavakah Energy is advancing in the sustainability sector, with recent funding to support their innovative clean energy initiatives

RICH at Events

» RICH Represents Telangana at Global BioIndia 2024



Global Bio India attended by Maneesha N and Aravind Peddinti, showcased the state's commitment to becoming a leader in artificial intelligence innovation. The event highlighted the government's focus on integrating AI into key sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, education, and mobility. A comprehensive roadmap for developing an AI city was presented, along with initiatives to promote "AI for All" through university courses and public awareness programs. The summit featured announcements of global partnerships and MoUs to accelerate AI adoption. Notable agriculture-focused sessions included discussions on AI and Agritech in the Australia-India relationship, emphasizing responsible AI practices and data challenges, as well as presentations on Netherlands-India AI technology co-creation and sustainable climate control solutions by Priva. Overall, the summit underscored Telangana's proactive approach to embracing AI technologies and fostering international collaborations to position itself as a global AI hub.

On 23rd and 24th August 2024, RICH's Life Sciences Vertical team, led by Dr. Sushmitha Sundar and Mr. Aravind Kumar, conducted an Awareness Session at SMBT Hospital in Nashik. The event targeted students, clinicians, and start-ups, focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship in healthcare. The team delivered sessions on innovation for clinicians and explored innovations in public health. This program aimed to inspire healthcare professionals and students to drive innovation in the medical field, potentially leading to improved healthcare solutions.



The One Day Workshop on Biodegradable Implants - Materials and Processes, organized by ARCI in 2024, brought together experts from various sectors to discuss the translation of biodegradable implants from research to clinical use. Dr. Sushmitha Sundar, Head of Life Sciences Vertical at RICH, participated as a panelist in the discussion on “Development, Certification, and Manufacturability of Biodegradable Medical Implants: The Way Forward.” The workshop highlighted advancements in biodegradable materials research, regulatory challenges, and manufacturing scalability. Dr. Sundar presented the start-up perspective, discussing the challenges in scaling from TRL-1 to TRL-9 and RICH’s efforts to support biomedical start-ups. The event underscored the progress made in biodegradable implant research over the past decade and emphasized the importance of collaboration and government support in translational research.



Capgemini organized an event titled “Breaking barriers, and shaping the future of Life Sciences” (date unspecified), which featured a roundtable discussion on Next-Gen Customer Experience in Healthcare. Dr. Sushmitha Sundar, Head of Life Sciences Vertical at RICH, participated as a panel member in this discussion. The roundtable aimed to explore transformative strategies that could redefine customer experience in the healthcare sector in the digital era. Dr. Sundar contributed valuable insights on innovative approaches to enhance customer interactions and experiences within the healthcare industry, aligning with the event’s goal of shaping the future of life sciences and breaking barriers in the field.



On 24th August 2024, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and St. Francis College for Women jointly organized a session on design thinking and grant opportunities. Dr. Sushmitha Sundar, Head of Life Sciences Vertical at RICH, and Mr. Aravind Kumar, Sr. Project Manager of Life Sciences Vertical, delivered the session as part of the college's NSS Activity. The event aimed to educate students about design thinking principles and various grant opportunities available to them. This collaborative effort between DPIIT and St. Francis College for Women provided students with valuable insights into innovation processes and potential funding sources, enhancing their knowledge and skills in these crucial areas. The session likely contributed to the students' understanding of how to approach problem-solving creatively and how to seek financial support for their innovative ideas.

» Hackathon Curtain Raiser Event by MATH - T-Hub

MATH - T-Hub organized a Hackathon Curtain Raiser Event. Dr. Sushmitha Sundar, Head of Life Sciences Vertical at RICH (Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad), represented the organization at this event. The curtain raiser likely served as an introduction to an upcoming hackathon, aiming to generate excitement and provide crucial information about the competition. Dr. Sundar's participation highlighted the significance of life sciences in the innovation ecosystem and demonstrated RICH's commitment to fostering technological advancements and entrepreneurship in the field. This event provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the hackathon's objectives, rules, and potential impact, while also networking with industry professionals and like-minded individuals.



» CII MSME Summit

The CII MSME Summit, held on 27th September 2024, saw active participation from RICH (Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad) representatives Srinivas Cherla, Director of Sustainability, and Naga Durga Babu Nainala, Project Manager (Sustainability). Representing RICH as a state enabler, they engaged in meaningful discussions with industry leaders, MSME sector heads, and bankers. The summit provided an excellent platform to explore funding options for MSMEs and examine the implications of the newly unveiled MSME State policy. A key focus of the discussions was the critical need for increased R&D activities to drive MSME sector development. This event allowed RICH to showcase its role in supporting MSMEs and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about sustainable growth strategies for this crucial economic sector. The interactions at the summit likely laid the groundwork for future collaborations and initiatives aimed at strengthening the MSME ecosystem in the region.



» Visit to MSME Development Institute

On 23rd September 2024, Srinivas Cherla and Naga Durga Babu Nainala from RICH visited the MSME Development Institute. They introduced RICH's initiatives for MSME development in Telangana and discussed MSME DI's district-level engagement, capacity building programs, and relevant government schemes. The visit focused on exploring potential collaborations, particularly in decarbonization and energy efficiency initiatives for MSMEs in Telangana. This meeting aimed to strengthen the relationship between RICH and MSME DI, potentially leading to future joint efforts to support the MSME ecosystem in the region.

» CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2024

On 11th and 12th September 2024, Srinivas Cherla and Naga Durga Babu Nainala represented RICH at the CII Energy Efficiency Summit 2024. They engaged with industry leaders, energy experts, and innovative start-ups showcasing cutting-edge technologies for industrial energy efficiency. The team gathered valuable insights on sector-specific developments in decarbonization and energy efficiency. Discussions focused on potential collaborations to improve energy efficiency and promote decarbonization, particularly in the MSME sector. This event provided RICH with opportunities to explore partnerships and stay updated on the latest trends in sustainable industrial practices.



» AI Global Summit



The AI Global Summit took place on 5th and 6th September 2024. During this two-day event, team RICH engaged with industry leaders and gained insights into generative AI advancements, particularly in the manufacturing sector. The summit featured discussions on AI's potential to address global challenges.

A significant focus was on Telangana's initiatives in AI, including:

1. An ambitious project to make AI accessible to everyone
2. Release of an AI strategy document
3. Plans to leverage AI for addressing governance challenges in education, healthcare, and agriculture
4. Announcement of an AI city near Hyderabad
5. Several MOUs signed with major tech companies

This event provided RICH representatives with valuable knowledge about AI trends and Telangana's positioning in the global AI landscape, potentially informing future initiatives and collaborations.

» BRIDGE – Financing Climate Action – India in a Global Context

On 6th and 7th August 2024, Srinivas Cherla, Director of Sustainability at RICH, participated in the BRIDGE - Financing Climate Action event, focusing on India in a global context. BRIDGE (Building Roadmaps for Industrial Decarbonisation and Green Economy), an initiative by IIM Calcutta, aims to create knowledge bases for transitioning towards net zero emissions in India and other developing countries. The working group is developing a volume titled “Financing Climate Action: India in a Global Context,” to which RICH is contributing a chapter on “How Corporations Approach Climate Financing and the Role of Good Corporate Governance.” This involvement highlights RICH’s significant role in shaping discussions on sustainable industrial practices and corporate governance in the context of climate change mitigation.



» Problem Solving and Decision Making Frameworks in R&D

On 30th and 31st July 2024, Srinivas Cherla, Director of Sustainability at RICH, delivered a session on “Problem Solving and Decision Making Frameworks in R&D” as part of a capability building initiative. This lecture was organized by Gurunanak Institutions under the IIC Mentor - Mentee Scheme of AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education). The audience comprised faculty members from Gurunanak Institutions and various mentee institutions. As part of a broader lecture series, this session aimed to enhance the problem-solving and decision-making skills of faculty members in the context of Research and Development. Through Srinivas Cherla’s participation, RICH contributed to the professional development of educators and researchers, potentially influencing the quality of R&D practices in these institutions and furthering RICH’s commitment to knowledge sharing and capacity building in the academic sector.





» Amara Raja Evolve Conclave 2024



On 9th August 2024, Naga Durga Babu Nainala, Project Manager (Sustainability) at RICH, represented the organization at the Amara Raja Evolve Conclave 2024. This seminar focused on battery energy storage solutions and brought together industry leaders, stakeholders, and experts from across the battery value chain. The event provided a powerful platform for insightful discussions on the future of energy storage in India, emphasizing the importance of local manufacturing and the critical need for co-creation to accelerate India's energy transition. Through participation in this conclave, RICH gained valuable insights into the evolving landscape of energy storage technologies and their potential impact on India's energy sector. This engagement with key industry players strengthened RICH's understanding of current trends and future directions in sustainable energy solutions, potentially informing future projects and initiatives in the field of energy storage and sustainability.

» Ascend power battery packs facility visit

On 18th July 2024, RICH representatives Srinivas Cherla and Naga Durga Babu Nainala visited Ascend Power Battery Packs' manufacturing facility. They interacted with the team, assessed production capabilities, and viewed presentations on e-rickshaw and e-scooter batteries and production lines. The visit also included discussions about potential collaborations with Pixii for developing battery storage solutions. This engagement demonstrates RICH's commitment to fostering partnerships and staying informed about advancements in sustainable energy technologies, particularly in electric vehicle and energy storage sectors. The insights gained could inform future projects and collaborations in battery technology and sustainable transportation solutions.

» MARI office visit

On 1st July 2024, Srinivas Cherla, Director of Sustainability, and Naga Durga Babu Nainala, Project Manager (Sustainability), visited the MARI (Modern Architects for Rural India) office. During this visit, they engaged in discussions with MARI's management about their community engagement initiatives. The RICH representatives gathered information on MARI's integrated farming and waste management projects. This visit provided valuable insights into MARI's approach to rural development and sustainable practices, potentially offering opportunities for future collaborations or informing RICH's own sustainability initiatives in rural areas.



Cross-Sector Common Highlights



Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have signed an MoU to provide exceptional internship opportunities for post graduate women students in STEM fields at CCMB.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between DRILS (Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences) and RICH (Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad). DRILS is a host institute for the "Scholarship and Mentorship Programme for Women in STEM education and careers" launched by RICH.



Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India

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RICA
Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad

Navigating Academic Careers: Lessons and Insights from the Professional Journey of Dr. Pallavi Rao

Principal Research Scientist & Deputy Head of the Center for Advancement of Research Skills (CARS), DRILS

There are countless opportunities out there, and you just need to tap into them. I would like to say - be curious. Keep that curiosity alive and dare to dream big. Aim high, and I'm confident that each of you has the capability to achieve it.

We conducted the first seminar for the Cohort 2 of our Women in STEM Scholarship and Mentorship Programme, titled "Navigating Academic Careers: Lessons and Insights from the Professional Journey of Dr. Pallavi Rao."

We conducted the second seminar about "Industry Driven Skills and Career Growth: A Conversation with Dr. Nidhi Khurana."

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RICA
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INDUSTRY-DRIVEN SKILLS AND CAREER GROWTH: A Conversation with Dr. Nidhi Khurana

Science Career Coach,
Head of Marketing and New Initiatives at GV Research Platform,
Chief Scientific Officer at Stemgen Therapeutics

Never follow the herd blindly. Ask questions, never shy away from expressing doubts, and always seek clarification when needed. However, ensure you ask the right person and always make informed decisions.

Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad

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