



Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations



Dr Prakash Keshaviah

Annual Report 2022

November 2022

Message from Director



Prof. KAMAKOTI VEEZHINATHAN
Director, IITM

IIT Madras, in the 63 glorious years of its journey, has been scaling new heights of success and excellence. This is reflected in many ways including in its exemplary performance for six years in a row, on the National Institute Ranking Framework released by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Chosen as one of the Institutes of Excellence, IIT Madras has established a number of Research Initiatives in various fields of contemporary relevance showcasing the commitment towards fostering world-class research. In this continuing pursuit of academic and research excellence, we will continue to embrace innovative practices while promoting efficient, and effective governance through AI-driven hyper-automation.

The outpouring of generous support we have received in the past year from well-wishers such as yourself has been humbling. On behalf of the Institute, I offer you our deepest gratitude for keeping IIT Madras strong. I am confident that we will continue to make many positive strides and leaps forward with renewed vigour to achieve the goals that we have set out for us. Together, with your support, we are confident of creating an IIT Madras with a diverse group of faculty and staff pursuing nationally relevant and globally recognized research. If this past year has taught us anything, it's that it takes a dedicated and committed community to keep us moving forward — and far beyond. Thank you!

Message from Dean



Prof. MAHESH PANCHAGNULA
Dean, Alumni & Corporate Relations,
IITM

Heartfelt gratitude to Dr Prakash Keshaviah and his family from IIT Madras

“ Our aim to provide continued solutions to social problems on a global scale is realized through the sustained support of alumnus such as you. We thank you for your contribution as we present a report of its impact. We hope to receive your help and support for our future endeavours to take IIT Madras to the global stage. ”

Causes

- **Keshav - Rangnath Excellence in Research Award**
- **TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2)**
- **Perry L Blackshear Institute Chair**
- **1967 Batch Reunion – Heritage Center**

Keshav - Rangnath Excellence in Research Award



Mr Kuldeep Purohit (EE14D217)

Awarded in 2020

"I am very grateful to IITM and the donor for establishing this award. This is the most prestigious award for all the researchers in the university. This recognition has been a motivating factor for me and other colleagues/juniors in the department to strive for high quality research. Including this recognition in my resume has indeed helped me in my career after PhD. Such awards play an important role in merit based VISA applications in the USA. My sincere thanks to the committee at the institute."

Suhail Ahmad Rather (PH18D018)

Awarded in 2022

"I am very grateful to the Donor for instituting this award given in recognition of the research work done across many disciplines of science and engineering. I hope such awards will motivate many more researcher scholars to excel in their respective fields."



Aghna Mukhherjee (AM16D406)

Awarded in 2021

"I am honored to receive the "Keshav Rangnath Excellence in Research Award". In the world of research, a lot of work is carried out in solitude. And by the very nature of it, recognition comes from very few places. By instituting an award for research excellence, the donor has provided us with an added motivation to excel and produce good work. I am immensely thankful for the opportunities that IIT Madras, the Department of Applied mechanics, and my supervisors Dr. Shaikh Faruque Ali and Prof. A Arockiarajan have provided me, which was instrumental in me getting this award. I want to thank the donor for their continued efforts in making the research environment in the country better."





Preksha Nema (CS15D201)

Awarded in 2021

"I am grateful for being selected for the Keshav Rangnath Excellence in Research Award. This is one of the most significant milestones of my Ph.D. journey. This recognition will always motivate me to keep making such efforts to excel further in my professional career."

Marri Girish Kumar (ME16D408)

Awarded in 2021

"I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Keshav Rangnath Excellence in Research Award- IIT Madras (Jan-May 2021). This accomplishment is a significant milestone in my life. I extend my gratitude for allowing me to receive this award."



Dr. Balaji Ramachandran

Awarded in 2019

"It was a delightful experience to be nominated for the Keshav-Rangnath Award and Institute Research Award 2018-19. Both honored and humbled to be further selected as the award's winner among many worthy applicants. I am grateful to the selection committee for recognizing my commitment and choosing my work as the best research work for 2019 at IIT Madras. It made me realize that all the work and effort I put into my Ph.D. research is significant. The KR award gave me the push and motivation I needed to pursue a career in the field of Biomaterials. This prestigious award will always encourage me to serve better in my area of research."



TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2)

R2D2 is the TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development at IIT Madras, headed by Prof. Sujatha Srinivasan of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The group is involved in research related to human movement, and the design and development of rehabilitation and assistive devices for people with movement impairments.

R2D2 engineers affordable products for rehabilitation needs in India and beyond, works with clinical specialists, NGOs, hospitals, etc., to field-test the designs, and fosters a research environment to evaluate assistive device designs from biomechanical and functional standpoints.

Using appropriate technology, scientific methods and innovative translational models, R2D2 aims to enable easy accessibility and affordability of assistive devices and rehabilitation resources. R2D2 has successfully transferred technology to like-minded industrial partners including its startup, NeoMotion.



The first product from R2D2 was launched on November 05, 2019 in collaboration with industry partner, Phoenix Medical Systems. The Standing Wheelchair, named Arise, was launched at IITM Research Park by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot.



KADAM, India's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee joint was launched on April 8, 2022. KADAM is the fourth product to be designed and developed here, and now ready for mass manufacturing.

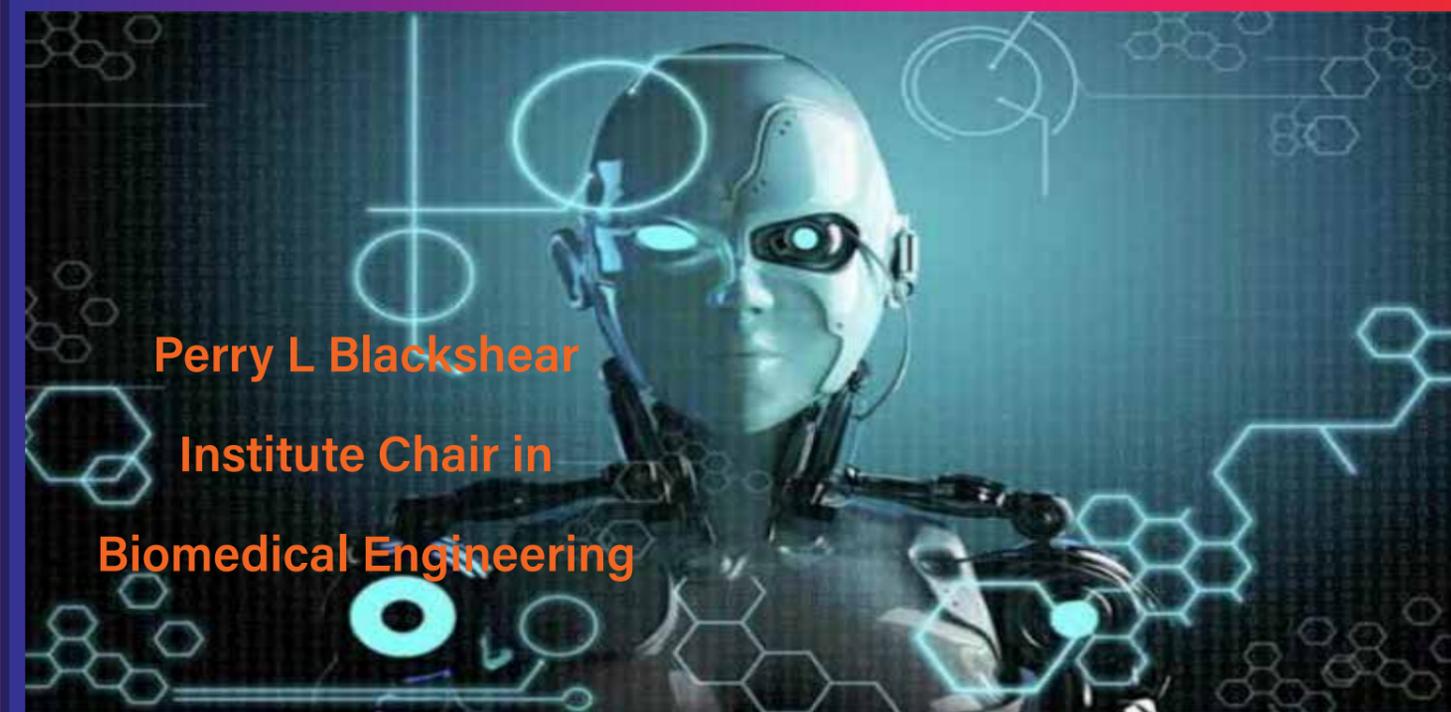


To read more [click here](#). To watch a video on the product [click here](#).

Perry L Blackshear Institute Chair

Chairs are occupied by Professors who have distinguished themselves and been recognized by their peers for their research and/or technology development, and who have excelled in teaching and service to the Institute / nation / profession. It is intended to host the eminent expert Professors as Chair with various options for visits and engagement, suitable salary and benefits or honoraria, accommodation and varied endowment amounts as applicable. The achievements must therefore go beyond those that earned them the Professorship, and should demonstrate leadership in one or more of these aspects.

We are in the process of identifying an occupant for the Chair. We will keep you informed about the process and arrange for an introductory call once the identification process has been completed.



Perry L Blackshear
Institute Chair in
Biomedical Engineering

1967 Batch Reunion – Heritage Center

The Heritage Center is a treasure trove of information and a repository of materials of heritage value and historical significance to IIT Madras. It includes the collection of artifacts include photographs, campus publications, newspaper clippings, the foundation stone that was laid at the inauguration of the institute in 1959 and so forth. It also houses an exhibition center and a small theater along with a green reading space with scenic views of the campus.

The Center was conceptualized in the year 2000 and was formally inaugurated by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, former Director IIT Madras on 3rd March 2006. It is located on the ground floor of the administration building.

The following activities were conducted by the Heritage Center in 2022:

International conference 'Archiving the Contemporary'

Heritage Centre had organised an exhibition as part of the international conference 'Archiving the Contemporary'. The conference was organised by the Archive Project of IIT Madras, the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and AITIA, the International Research Network at Exhibition Hall, IC&SR building, IIT Madras on 6th April 2022.



Thiru. Har Sahay Meena, I.A.S., Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research, Government of Tamil Nadu with staff of Heritage Center.



Office of Alumni & Corporate Relations, IIT Madras
November 2022



From left to right: Thiru. Har Sahay Meena, I.A.S., Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Archives and Historical Research, Government of Tamil Nadu, Egmore, Chennai, Prof. Roland Wittje, Faculty In Charge, Archive of IIT Madras, Dr. S. Ponnarasu, Archive Project Leader, Archive of IIT Madras and Mr. Kumaran Sathasivam, Operational Head of Heritage Centre, IIT Madras



Heritage Centre Team and Archive Team, IIT Madras

Development of website

The revamped website of Heritage Centre <https://heritage.iitm.ac.in/> was made live in July 2022.

The website now also has a very interesting way to enable its users to view the Heritage Center with a 360-degree view. This entitles the user to view the Center as if being physically in the Center itself!



Mr. Kumaran Sathasivam, Operational Head of Heritage Centre presenting at the Conference.



Creation of metadata

The team has been working to create metadata of the photographic collection of the Heritage Centre. This invaluable compendium of photographs which carry invaluable memories for all those who have passed through the portals of the institute have been preserved for viewing. These photographs are also saved digitally so that they can be accessed from anywhere. This exercise is being carried out to categorically segregate and save this information in a structured manner so that it can be accessed easily.

Oral History Project

What best way to know more about the Institute than hearing it from those who are associated with this campus.

Recorded conversations are held with the Alumni, staff and others associated with the Institute to learn in depth about the history and growth of the departments and about IIT in general. We have recorded more than 60 Oral History Interviews so far. The videos also have subtitles so that it reaches a wider audience.

To watch videos of the Oral History project – [Click here](#)

Revamping of Heritage Centre

Renovation works are currently being carried out at the Heritage Center to accommodate the expanding collection of items. The work that was started in January 2022 is estimated to be completed by December 2022.



Glass display towards the entrance of the Administration building



Central dome work



Entrance of the Heritage Centre



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

Dr Prakash Keshaviah



Thank you for your sustained generosity to IIT Madras over the years. Contributors such as yourself enable our students and Professors to dream big and work towards a better and brighter future. We hope you are proud of your alma mater and how it has remained steadfastly committed to academic and research excellence since your time here. You and your family have been instrumental in facilitating this significant growth.

Our efforts to nurture the culture of academic excellence that is the hallmark of IIT Madras - quality education, cutting-edge research, and unfettered creativity shall continue. We are privileged and humbled to have you and your family walking with us along this trail. We wish you and your family the best always in all walks of life!



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