Thayumanasamy Somasundaram

Florida State University
Institute of Molecular Biophysics
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4380

Phone: 850-644-6448
E-mail: tsomasundaram@fsu.edu

Current Position

Senior Research Associate, Institute of Molecular Biophysics, Florida State University

Background

- 1993-present, Director, X-Ray Crystallography (Macromolecular) Facility, Institute of Molecular Biophysics, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.
- 2013-present, Manager, Powder X-Ray Diffraction Facility, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Tallahassee, FL.
- 1989-93, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Physics Department, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- 1987-89, Research Associate, Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, India.

Activities

- Member, DoE APS Beamline Review Committee, 2015
- Local Organizer, SER-CAT Symposium and Workshop, 2013
- Conferee Networking, Facilitator, Pittcon 2016
- Mentor, Young Scholar Program, Department of Biological Science, 2007-present

Interests

- Structural biology
- Development of automated and low cost robotics for crystallization
- Methods for improved user-training

Goals

I have been a long-distance and/or external user of various synchrotron facilities for the last twenty-five years. One of my goals is to investigate better methods of user-training and seek approaches to transfer the skills of beam line staff to novice and first time users. This is especially important as we expand the user base to non-crystallographers and new beam line users. As beam lines are moving toward more automation and robotics, another goal of mine would be to communicate the needs and necessities of remote users which are different from local users of the beam lines.