

## Message from Director

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To: Director Office <office.director@iisc.ac.in>

Dear all,

I am deeply honoured and privileged to be appointed as the Director of our Institute. I have big shoes to fill and I hope to live up to all of your expectations. I take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Prof. Anurag Kumar, for his stellar service to the Institute. I would also like to thank the members of the Council and Court for their unwavering support.

I believe that one of my primary responsibilities as the Director is to enable each and every one of you belonging to the Institute community to live up to your full potential. I will also strive to challenge faculty members and students to push the boundaries of their research areas and pursue groundbreaking ideas, by providing them with an enriching intellectual environment and supportive research and administrative infrastructure. I can assure you that I will devote all my time and energy towards fulfilling these and other responsibilities.

After I interact with the Institute community more closely over the next few months, and better understand the various issues and concerns, I will communicate with you all once again. As I will be moving to temporary quarters on campus within a month, I will also have the pleasure of interacting with many of you in a more informal setting.

We are currently living in very challenging times. The pandemic has disrupted everyone's lives and heightened concerns about safety and health. In response, our medical officers, staff members and volunteers are putting in tremendous efforts to ensure that these concerns of our community members are adequately addressed. Students are understandably anxious about their academic and research careers. Faculty members are equally worried about their stalled research programmes. I can assure everyone that we are sensitive to these concerns and we will definitely address them in a fair and suitable manner.

This is the time for us to stand tall and face this adversity head-on. To reword one of Martin Luther King Jr's famous quotes: The ultimate measure of an institution is not where it stands in moments of comfort, but where it stands in times of challenge. If we – the faculty members, students, and staff – all work together, I am fully confident that our great Institute will emerge from this ongoing crisis stronger.

Wishing you all the very best. Please stay safe.