

# SIN Catalyses £4m UK-India Mental Health Project



In February 2014 SIN brought together leading UK and Indian neuroscientists and experts that resulted in a £4m <sup>[1]</sup> joint research funding call for mental health collaboration. India's diverse population and excellent research base will inform UK experts in their own research.

## On Our Mind – The Mental Health Challenge

Mental illness is a big issue in both countries. Some estimates say 70m people in India suffer from a mental health issue – a larger number than the UK's entire population. Building on SIN's analysis <sup>[2]</sup> covering India's landscape of support and research in this area and collaborating with India's National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), we were able to promote the UK as an excellent collaborative partner in mental health disorders, prevention and intervention. Further research by SIN uncovered a real demand in India for partnership opportunities with UK's Research Councils, and in particular the Medical Research Council (MRC)



Responding to this demand, SIN worked with RCUK India, who led on liaising with ICMR and the MRC, to convene a high profile meeting of India and UK experts with representation from the universities of Imperial, Oxford, Exeter, Bristol, Liverpool and King's College in attendance. As a result UK's MRC and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) collaborated to launch a joint call <sup>[3]</sup> for proposals in mental health research.

## Results

SIN brought together Indian and UK research communities and secured it as one of the first joint programmes under the Newton-Bhabha programme, worth £4m. The joint call was included in communications during the PM Modi visit <sup>[4]</sup> to the UK. Going forward the programme will link researcher communities in a multi-disciplinary way and will unlock further research that will ultimately benefit patients.

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<sup>[1]</sup> £2m was funded by UK partners with equivalent matched resources from India.

<sup>[2]</sup> 'On my mind' – SIN India Blog: <http://blogs.fco.gov.uk/sunilkumar/2013/05/23/on-my-mind/>

<sup>[3]</sup> <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/funding/browse/icmr-mrc-joint-initiative-substance-misuse-and-mental-illness/>

<sup>[4]</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-united-kingdom-india-summit-2015>