

**From:** niviram1967@gmail.com <niviram1967@gmail.com>

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**To:** Chairpersonpa-MSSRF <chairpersonpa@mssrf.res.in>

**Subject:** condolence

Dear Dr. Sowmya,

Dr Swaminathan was my first boss. I joined MSSRF after my PhD at IISc. Words can not describe what a brilliant mentor he was. An amazingly humble person, for all the worldwide fame, he had full faith in my ability to write up and present a project proposal for funding at the Department of Science and Technology.

I was a 26 year old competing with many of my college professors! It was Dr Swaminathan's confidence in me that gave me the strength to present my findings and proposal to the committee. Many of my friends at other labs around the country had also written up projects, but it always the professor who represented the lab and asked for funding, never the youngest.

The faith he had in each and every one of us and the freedom he gave us in our work has always struck me as unique and I try my best to bring this work culture to every group that I work with as well.

My condolences to you and your family,

Nivedita Ram