

## University of California, Santa Barbara

In a recent visit to the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), explored the cutting-edge facilities available on campus. The visit included an in-depth exploration of the BioPACIFIC MIP's advanced shared research infrastructure, made possible through NSF funding. Dr. Panchanathan engaged with researchers, faculty members, and students, gaining insights into the innovative projects and experiments facilitated by these resources. During his tour, Dr. Panchanathan displayed keen interest in BioPACIFIC MIP's high throughput capabilities and their potential to significantly accelerate research endeavors.

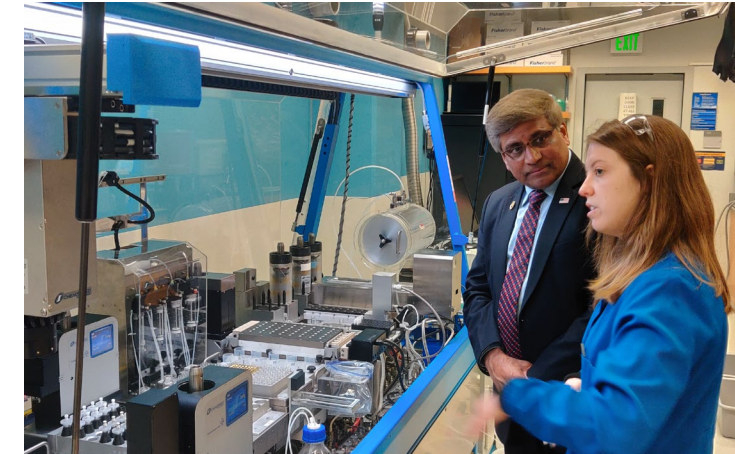
In his address, Dr. Panchanathan highlighted the concept of the "missing millions", the trove of young, undiscovered talent who may not have the access to the training and the scientific career opportunities that their more fortunate peers have had. He emphasized the crucial role of shared facilities in unlocking this potential, fostering inclusivity, promoting accessibility, and encouraging interdisciplinary studies.

To enhance the pace of scientific discovery, Dr. Panchanathan emphasized the NSF's collaborative approach, breaking down traditional silos and fostering interdisciplinary partnerships. He applauded UCSB's dedication to nurturing such a collaborative research atmosphere. His words resonated, "UCSB is punching way above its weight... imagine this to be 10 times more. That's what the nation needs of you. And NSF is ready to partner with you on that journey."



*Dr. Panchanathan during his address at the Engineering Sciences Building.*

*Photo credit: Matt Perko*



*BioPACIFIC MIP's project scientist Dr. Morgan Bates and Dr. Panchanathan, discuss how automation can help accelerate research*