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Ajay Royyuru heads the Computational Biology Center at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, where he leads 35 researchers in a wide range of projects that include bioinformatics, structural biology, life sciences research on BlueGene supercomputer, functional genomics, systems biology and medical informatics.

Royyuru is the lead scientist for IBM on the Genographic Project, working closely with National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Spencer Wells and the distinguished team of field researchers working globally to collaborate with indigenous and traditional peoples and conduct DNA testing. He brings to the Genographic Project exceptional, in-depth talent in the computational analysis, simulation, mining and management of scientific data for large-scale research programs in life sciences.

Royyuru's passion for science began in his youth when he first took science courses. Biology was of particular fascination to him. He received his bachelor's degree in human biology, and his master's degree in biophysics, from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in New Delhi, India, and obtained his Ph.D. in molecular biology from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, in Mumbai (Bombay).

Royyuru then performed post-doctoral study in structural biology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, one of the world's leading research and clinical cancer facilities, under the expertise of noted structural biologist Dinshaw Pantel. While there, Royyuru and colleagues identified a new structural protein-RNA complex in BIV (bovine immunodeficiency virus), which offered the first breakthrough animal model for a key molecular structure in HIV. He calls his three years there "the most scientifically productive and rewarding period of my life."

Prior to joining IBM Research in 1998, Royyuru spent two years developing structural biology software at U.S.-based Accelrys, a global leader in computational science.

Currently, his work focuses on collaborative research at the interface of information technology and biology. Working with biologists and institutions around the world, he is engaged in research and development of computer and software systems that will advance personalized, information-based medicine. Royyuru has authored and co-authored more than 30 research publications in structural and computational biology. He is an active member of the International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB).

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