



# *Panjab University Alumni Association*

*Felicitates*



*Dr. Naveen Kumar Navani*

*Distinguished Alumnus Award*

Citation



Dr. Naveen Kumar Navani (Professor , Department of Biotechnology, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee) obtained his Ph.D from Department of Biotechnology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He did his Post Doctoral work at McMaster University, Hamilton, (Canada). He is a recipient of Young Innovator Award and Fellow of National Academy of Dairy Science and has worked at Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry. He worked as a scientist at National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (ICAR), Karnal. His area of interest include Molecular Biology, Synthetic Biology, Gene regulation, Microbial Biotechnology and Nanobiotechnology, Aptamers and MEMS nanodevices in Diagnostics, Probiotic recombinant enzymes, NanoBiotic Materials, Microbes' mediated bioremediation of polluted environments., Isolation and characterization of microbes from extreme and polluted environments.

Department of Biotechnology  
Panjab University  
Chandigarh (2021)

Dean Alumni Relations  
Panjab University  
Chandigarh



# *Panjab University Alumni Association*

## *Felicitates*



## *Dr Ashwani Kumar Thakur*

### *Distinguished Alumnus Award*



### **Citation**

**Dr Ashwani Kumar Thakur** (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (U.P)), obtained his M.Sc and PhD from Department of Biotechnology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He did his Post Doctoral work at University of Tennessee Medical Center and Pittsburg Medical School. He is a recipient of Alexander von Humboldt fellowship and worked at Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry. Prior to joining IIT-Kanpur in 2010, he worked as a Senior Manager in Biologics Development Center, Dr Reddy's Laboratories.

Dr. Thakur is deciphering structural and biophysical basis of aggregation of proteins in human diseases and utilize this information for therapeutic design. Another area of interest is to utilize self assembly of proteins in material sciences and bioengineering applications. He is also interested in method development, characterization, stability, process development and formulation of biopharmaceuticals.

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# *Panjab University Alumni Association*

## *Felicitates*



### *Purusharth I Rajyaguru*

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### *Distinguished Alumnus Award*



#### **Citation**

**Dr Rajyaguru pursued MSc (1998-2000) from Department of Biotechnology, P.U. under the JNU umbrella program. He did Ph.D. from CCMB Hyderabad followed by a postdoctoral stint at University of Arizona, Tucson (U.S.A.). He joined the Dept. of Biochemistry at Indian Institute of Science in 2013 and am currently an Associate Professor.**

**His research interests primarily focus on the exciting aspect of RNA biology, wherein he aspires to elucidate mechanistic basis of mRNA fate decisions. His team is intrigued by RNA granules (mRNP condensates) specifically its disassembly and the implication of this process in neurodegenerative processes such as Amyloid lateral sclerosis and Fronto-temporal dementia. His recent exciting work on granule disassembly has been widely highlighted**

**He has been awarded the Wellcome-DBT India alliance Intermediate fellowship He is currently the Associate editor of WIRES RNA and editorial board member of BBA Advances.**

Chairperson  
Department of Biotechnology  
Panjab University, Chandigarh (2022)

Dean Alumni Relations  
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Chandigarh



# *Panjab University Alumni Association*

*Felicitates*



**Dr. Rakesh Sharma**

*Distinguished Alumnus Award*



## **Citation**

Dr. Rakesh Sharma is working as Senior Principal Scientist, Microbial Genomics at IGB (Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology), New Delhi. He is interested in understanding microbial diversity and functions in environment and host using metagenomics and molecular genetics.

He has nearly 82 publications to his credit with 2588 citations. His research focuses on Microbiome as a source of novel bioactive molecules and peptides, Stress tolerance and arsenic detoxification mechanisms from microbial communities, Metal ion homeostasis and membrane transporters in Mycobacteria.

His group has identified a novel calcium uptake transporter of P-type ATPase superfamily and shown that it is important for cell wall integrity in Mycobacterium smegmatis. His group is also actively working on exploiting human microbiome for novel antimicrobials. He has identified a number of microbial isolates from human skin, including a new genus (*Auricoccus indicus*); several of these produce antimicrobial compounds and peptides.

Chairperson/Director  
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# *Panjab University Alumni Association*

## *Felicitates*



**Dr. Akshay Anand**

## *Distinguished Alumnus Award*



### **Citation**

Dr. Akshay Anand is Professor at Department of Neurology, PGIMER, Chandigarh and has been working in the field of Neuroscience. He is also Professor-in-charge of CCRYN Collaborative Center for Mind Body Intervention through Yoga at PGIMER, Chandigarh. He has acquired D.Sc. degree in Yoga from SVYASA, Bangaluru apart from his PhD in neuroscience from PGIMER, Chandigarh.

He has 231 publications (203 as corresponding) and 34 publications in the field of Policy Research. He is a Visiting Professor at SVYASA, Bangaluru and a former scientist at University of Kentucky, USA. Dr. Anand is also an Advisory Board Member at Centre for Consciousness, Cognition and Compassion, Harvard University, Boston, USA.

Dr. Anand has been nominated for Padma Bhushan in 2020. He has been awarded with Retina Research Foundation / Joseph M. and Eula C. Lawrence Award (2003), DAE Young Scientist Award (2005), ICMR Shakuntala Amir Chand Award (2010), ICMR Amrut Modi Unichem Award (2012), 9th International Prestigious Sardar Patel Award (2014), Quality Council of India Award (2014, 2016), DAE Young Scientist Award (2005), and Dr Anand was honored by UT Police, in 2019, for exemplary work in advancement of Yoga research. He has also received Bharat Nirman Award (2017) for Clean India campaign from Ministry of Science and Technology.

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**Chandigarh**



# Panjab University Alumni Association

## Felicitates



**Dr. Bhupesh Taneja**

## Distinguished Alumnus Award



### Citation

**Dr. Bhupesh Taneja** is at the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, since 2007 and currently holds the position of Senior Principal Scientist and Professor at Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR). Specializing in structural biology and genomics, his work integrates informatics, big data and AI-based methods towards

point-of-care diagnostics and quicker decision-making in AMR or drug resistance in clinical settings. The major focus areas of his lab are “*Structural investigations of key cellular components involved in host-pathogen interactions*” and “*Antimicrobial resistance in bacteria and fungi*” and has contributed significantly to these fields.

His lab was the first to determine crystal structures of 16S rRNA methyltransferases from *M. tuberculosis*; firmly establishing that ribosomal methylations are common in mycobacteria. In addition, his group has been monitoring emerging drug resistance in dermatophytic fungi through genomic surveillance of recalcitrant clinical strains.

His work has been published in more than 40 peer-reviewed national and international journals, popular articles and a book chapter. He is an Editorial Board Member in Scientific Reports (Nature Publishing Group) and MycoAsia Journal of Modern Mycology; an ad-hoc peer-reviewer of several international SCI journals and a subject expert in many national scientific committees. He enjoys both research and mentoring, highlighting his commitment to scientific excellence and in the development of future scientists in genomics and biology.

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