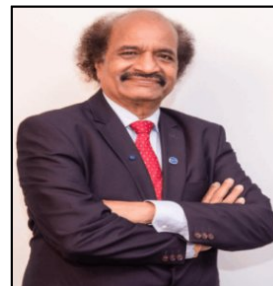


Invited Speaker's Profile

Padma Shri Prof. GD Yadav

Former Vice Chancellor, (ICT), Mumbai



Prof. (Dr.) Ganapati D. Yadav is one of India's most distinguished engineering scientists, renowned for his ground breaking contributions to Green Chemistry, Catalysis, Energy Engineering, Biotechnology, and Nanotechnology. He currently holds the prestigious National Science Chair awarded by the Government of India and serves as Emeritus Professor of Eminence at the ICT, Mumbai, where he previously served as Vice Chancellor. His extensive accolades include over 150 national and international awards, the Padma Shri (2016), and the rare distinction of being elected to both the U.S. National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Inventors. His pioneering research in net-zero emission, green hydrogen, carbon dioxide refineries, and waste valorization has led to multiple industrial innovations, with several processes advancing to pilot and commercial scales. A leader in academia-industry collaborations, Prof. Yadav has mentored over 115 Ph.D. scholars, published 570 research papers, and holds 136 patents. His remarkable contributions to science and policy are reflected in his involvement with AICTE, DST, and India's National Hydrogen Infrastructure Committee, where he chairs initiatives on advancing India's hydrogen economy. He was awarded the *Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award for Science & Technology (2022)* and named among *Asia's Top 100 Scientists (2023)* by *Asian Scientist Magazine*. As Vice Chancellor of ICT Mumbai (2009-2019), he transformed the institution into a global leader, securing over ₹1800 Cr in funding and establishing multiple new academic programs, departments, and centers of excellence.

Beyond his scientific impact, Prof. Yadav serves on the boards of leading companies like Godrej Industries and Clean Science & Technology, contributing his expertise to industrial growth. He is President of the Indian Chemical Society and Maharashtra Academy of Sciences and has chaired over 50 national and international conferences. A polymath, he is also a poet, writer, and scholar of Sanskrit, philosophy, and etymology. His extraordinary journey from a village schoolboy to a global scientific icon is documented in over 60 video lectures and interviews, solidifying his legacy as a transformative force in science, technology, and innovation.

Prof. Smita Lele

Institute of Chemical technology (ICT), Mumbai



Prof. Smita Lele is a distinguished chemical engineer, academician, and researcher with an illustrious career spanning several decades. She holds a Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degree in Chemical Engineering from UDCT, Mumbai (now Institute of Chemical Technology, ICT). A trailblazer in her field, she became the first woman engineer to work at Unilever India in 1977 and later pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Pittsburgh, USA. Her association with UDCT/ICT began in 1986, where she served as a Professor of Biochemical Engineering, taking on key administrative roles such as Head of the Department, Controller of Examinations, and Registrar. She retired in January 2021 as the Founding Director of ICT Mumbai, Marathwada Campus, and was honoured as an Emeritus Professor for two years in recognition of her invaluable contributions.

Prof. Lele's research expertise spans Biochemical Engineering, photobioreactors, effluent treatment, enzyme and microalgal technology, and food product and process development. She has made significant contributions to reducing post-harvest losses, developing fruit wines, utilizing fruit and vegetable waste, and understanding food allergies. With 178 research publications, including 167 in international peer-reviewed journals, four granted patents, and two authored books, she has left an indelible mark on her field. She has supervised 72 Master's and 34 Doctorate students in Food Technology and Biotechnology, transferred 23 technologies, and mentored two start-ups in Maharashtra, furthering innovation in the sector.

Beyond her research and academic achievements, Prof. Lele has been widely recognized for her contributions to science and technology. She has received prestigious awards such as the VASVIK Award (2018), the Zee Marathi "Uncha Maza Zoka" Award (2016), and the UDCT Distinguished Alumnus Award (2015). A fellow of esteemed scientific bodies like the Maharashtra Academy of Sciences, Biotech Research Society of India, and AFSTI, she continues to serve on national committees, including DBT, UGC, and CSIR. Passionate about science outreach, she actively promotes scientific awareness through radio talks, books, and television interviews. Prof. Lele's remarkable journey, from breaking gender barriers in the industry to pioneering research and mentorship, serves as an inspiration to future generations in science and technology.

Prof. Mohammad Jawaid

Professor, Chemical & Petroleum Engineering (COE)

United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE



Prof. Mohammad Jawaid is currently working as Distinguished Professor at Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Department, United Arab Emirates University, UAE. He has more than 25 years of experience in teaching, research, and industries. His area of research interests includes hybrid composites, lignocellulosic reinforced/filled polymer composites, advance materials: graphene/nanoclay/fire retardant, modification and treatment of lignocellulosic fibers and solid wood, biopolymers and biopolymers for packaging applications, nanocomposites and nanocellulose fibers, and polymer blends. So far, he has published 90 books, 95 book chapters, more than 500 peer-reviewed international journal papers, and several published review papers under top 25 hot articles in science direct during 2013–2020. He also obtained 6 Patents and 6 Copyrights/Industrial design. His H-index and citation in Scopus are 97 and 39845 respectively and in Google scholar, H-index and citation are 114 and 53777 respectively. 40 Ph.D. and 17 Master’s students graduated under his supervision during 2014–2024 in the fields of hybrid composites, green composites, nanocomposites, natural fiber-reinforced composites, nanocellulose, etc.

He secured various research grants at university, national, and international levels on polymer composites of around USD 2.1 Million. He also delivered plenary and invited talks in international conferences related to composites in India, Turkey, Malaysia, Thailand, United Kingdom, France, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China, Germany, Indonesia, Spain, UAE, etc. Besides that, he is also a member of technical committees of several national and international conferences on composites and material science. He is founding series editor of Springer three book series. He worked as guest editor of special issues of several peer-reviewed Journals. Besides that, he is also reviewer of several high-impact international peer-reviewed journals of Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, Saga, ACS, RSC, Frontiers, etc. Dr. Mohammad Jawaid also received several award at national and international level. He is also winner of Newton-Ungku Omar Coordination Fund: UK-Malaysia Research and Innovation Bridges Competition in 2015. He has professional membership of ACS, SPE, APA, MySET, etc. He is fellow and chartered scientist of the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3), UK.

Mr. Christoph Sprung



**Freelance Lecturer, Trainer and Consultant,
Berlin, Germany**

Dr. Christoph Sprung, is a freelance lecturer, trainer/coach and consultant. He holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry and has gained international research experience in the field of catalysis in internationally renowned laboratories in Europe and the US, amongst them University of California Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Utrecht University, University of Oslo, and the Fritz-Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society. In his professional career he worked in multinational corporations and SMEs in the field of microelectronics, regulatory consultancy in energy storage manufacturing, and quantum chemical calculations.

As a lecturer he has over 8 years of experience in designing and performing innovative and activating learning methods at university level. For many years he has been training lecturers in various aspects of lecturing innovation, activating lecturing concepts, examination, and future-oriented lecturing concepts. He is actively publishing his insights in this field. He is as well active in coaching individuals for personal development and performance enhancement. His current consultancy business is providing regulatory compliance service for SME facilitating their international trade in the field of energy storage.

Prof. (Dr.) Shozeb Haider

**Distinguished Professor, School of Pharmacy, University
College London, United Kingdom**

Professor Shozeb Haider is a distinguished professor of computational biophysics, currently serving at the UCL School of Pharmacy. He also holds the position of an



Adjunct Professor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Before joining UCL, he held positions at the University of Oxford and Queen's University Belfast. He is a currently a senior editor at eLife.

Professor Haider's academic journey began at Aligarh Muslim University in India, where he earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in Biochemistry. He moved to the UK to do MRes in Bioinformatics from the University of Leeds. He later obtained his PhD from the

Institute of Cancer Research, London. Professor Haider is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and has published extensively, with his work being cited over 13,000 times. His research interests include beta-lactamase enzymes, antimicrobial resistance, quadruplex structures, and biomolecular simulations. His research focuses on understanding the relationship between molecular structure and function, with applications in drug discovery.

Prof. Subhash C. Chauhan
Professor and Division Chief,
Cancer Immunology and Microbiology Group
Founding Director,
South Texas Center of Excellence in Cancer Research



Dr. Subhash C. Chauhan is a tenured Professor of the Cancer Immunology and Microbiology Division at the School of Medicine, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), Edinburg, Texas. Dr. Chauhan is also a Founding Director of the South Texas Center of Excellence in Cancer Research (ST-CECR). The primary research interest of Dr. Chauhan's lab is to identify and characterize the diagnostic and therapeutic targets for cancer. His research is aimed for the identification and characterization of biomarkers that aberrantly express or localize in cancer cells to develop newer tools for early disease diagnosis. Cancer tissues overexpress certain cancer associated antigens, and antibodies against these antigens will potentially recognize cancer cells. These antibodies can be used to deliver the *radionuclides and nanoparticles-encapsulated drugs* specifically to the tumors. His research group publishes high impact research articles and he has obtained significant extramural funding (5 NIH RO1, 2 DOD and 1 Private Foundation, 1 Industry grants). Dr. Chauhan has published over 180 peer reviewed manuscripts and book chapters along with several patents related to drug delivery systems, nanoparticle formulations and antibodies. Dr. Chauhan has delivered more than 70 invited lectures at several national and international forums.

After joining UTRGV, he has successfully established a brand-new Department (immunology and Microbiology) and South Texas Center of Excellence in Cancer Research (ST-CECR). He has received the STARS award (\$5 million) from the University of Texas System and substantial major funding from CPRIT (\$2.5M; and 6.0M) in addition to several private foundation grants. All these demonstrate his continuous efforts toward extramural funding,

teaching, and scholarly activities. He has gained substantial experience in faculty/staff recruitment, developing their career enhancement strategies, educational programs, and budget management. Dr. Chauhan's research group includes a team of basic scientists, physician scientists, clinicians, and biostatisticians. He has been actively involved in the peer review process of manuscripts for numerous journals, NIH study sections, multiple external funding agencies, training of junior faculties and graduate students.

Dr. Aamir Ahmad

Senior Scientist

Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar



Dr. Aamir Ahmad is a Senior Scientist at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Doha, Qatar and an Adjunct Professor at Department of Bioengineering, Integral University, Lucknow, India. Dr. Ahmad was a University Gold Medalist and obtained his PhD in Biochemistry from AMU, Aligarh, India. He completed his post-doctoral training at National Cancer Institute, NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, USA and continued his research as an independent scientist and faculty member in the US, before joining as a Senior Scientist to lead Epigenetics Research at HMC, Qatar. Dr. Ahmad has authored more than 250 peer-reviewed publications (h-index: 79, >20,000 citations), 30 book chapters and edited 10 books. He has ranked among the top 2% scientists globally for the years 2020 through 2024.

He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of journal 'Non-coding RNA Research' and serves on Editorial Board for several journals. He also serves as Expert Reviewer for Scientific Research Proposals submitted to different funding agencies in US, Canada, Europe, Asia and Africa. Dr. Ahmad's research is focused on studying the epigenetic changes, particularly gene activation/silencing through methylation/acetylation and the regulation by non-coding RNAs such as microRNAs, long non-coding RNAs and circular RNAs, in the progression of various human diseases.

Dr. Mahesh Bhalgat

CEO and Managing Director,

Veeda Clinical Research Limited, Ahmedabad



Dr. Mahesh Bhargat is the Group – CEO and Managing Director of Veeda Clinical Research Limited. With 33+ years of global experience with leading Drug Discovery and Development companies, which include pharmaceutical, biotechnology, Contract research and manufacturing organizations, Mahesh comes with a deep understanding and expertise in key functional areas of Operations (Clinical and Commercial), Quality, Regulatory, Process Development, project management, operational excellence and capital projects. Mahesh has a vast experience of being in Senior Leadership roles and prior to joining Veeda as Group – CEO, Mahesh held Senior Management positions with companies in India such as Syngene International (a Biocon Group Company), where he was the COO leading discovery, development and manufacturing leading a team of over 8000 staff. Prior to that Mahesh was with Sanofi, and Biological E Limited. During his work tenure as Executive Director, COO and Site Head at Sanofi's, Hyderabad site, Shanta Biotechnics, Mahesh was awarded the Platinum prize in fifth FICCI Quality Systems Excellence Awards for Industry. Mahesh had a long stint of international experience wherein he spent 20 years in the US completing his PhD and working with multi-national pharma giants such as Amgen and Monsanto. Mahesh developed deep interest in research sciences while he was pursuing his Graduation in Pharmaceutical Sciences from University of Bombay. His pursuit for learning led him to Salt Lake City where he completed his doctorate in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Utah. Early on in his time in the US, Mahesh was awarded "Best Research Presentation" Award at the Third Annual Western Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences Graduate Students' Meeting.

Dr. Shamim Ahmad

Director and Head of IP & Legal

Aurigene Oncology (a subsidiary of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories)

Dr. Shamim Ahmad is an accomplished professional with over 18 years of experience in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), specializing in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. As a Head of IP and



Legal, he plays a key role in developing and executing comprehensive patent filing and prosecution strategies on a global scale. Dr. Ahmad leads various IP business diligence activities and is known for his strategic approach to managing international patent portfolios.

He has a proven track record of monetizing IP assets, contributing to multi-million-dollar business transactions. His areas of expertise include risk assessments, patentability

evaluations, and due diligence, with a focus on driving sustainable growth in an evolving IP landscape. Dr. Ahmad excels in formulating global patent strategies, overseeing patent portfolio management, and implementing IP monetization strategies.

Dr. Ahmad holds a PhD in Chemistry from Jamia Hamdard University and a law degree from Karnataka State Law University. He is a registered patent agent with the Indian Patent Office. Dr. Ahmad is also an invited speaker at national and international IP forums and takes pride in mentoring IP professionals. In addition to his IP work, Dr. Ahmad has extensive experience in business agreements and transactions. He actively participates in high-value licensing and collaboration agreements with U.S.-based biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

Prof. R. Mahendran

Head

**Department of Food Process Technology,
NIFTEM, Thanjavur**



Dr. R. Mahendran is a Professor at the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management – Thanjavur (NIFTEM-Thanjavur). He has acquired a B. Tech (Chemical Engineering), M. Tech (Industrial Biotechnology) and Ph.D. in Food Process Engineering. Prior to his association with NIFTEM-Thanjavur, he worked as a production officer in Krebs Biochemicals and Industries Ltd. Nellore, Andhra Pradesh and as a scientist in the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India at New Delhi from 2006 to 2010. Dr. Mahendran joined NIFTEM-Thanjavur in 2010 and presently heading the Department of Food Process Technology, which housed School of Sensory Sciences, Centre of Excellence in Nonthermal Processing, one of the unique centres in the world and the first in Asia. Dr. Mahendran's research focus includes Advances in Food Processing Technologies, novel nonthermal processing including Cold plasma, High Pressure Processing applications in Agri-Food, Food structure & shape transformation (4D printing) and Super Critical CO₂ Extraction.

Dr. Mahendran has authored over 150 publications in reputed journals. He has been awarded with Dr. V. Subrahmanyam, Best Scientist Award for the year 2021 for his outstanding research contributions and received “Best Whole Grain Researcher - South Asia - 2023

Award” from Whole Grains Research Foundation, Canada. He is a fellow of the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers (IEI). Dr. Mahendran is a Life member of various professional bodies, and he is the Vice President of Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (India) – AFSTi for the year 2025. Dr. Mahendran has got two patents and edited three books on nonthermal food processing.

Dr. G. P. S. Raghava

Head & Professor,

Department of Computational Biology, IIT-Delhi, India



Dr. Gajendra P.S. Raghava is a Professor in the Department of Computational Biology at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi. He obtained his M.Tech from IIT Delhi in 1986 and his Ph.D. from IMTECH, Chandigarh, in 1996. He has held prestigious positions globally, including as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Oxford (UK), a Bioinformatics Specialist at UAMS (USA), and a Visiting Professor at POSTECH (South Korea). He is fellow of all major scientific bodies such as FNASc, FASc and FNA. He is a Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardee in 2008 by CSIR. He has received National Bioscience Award in 2006 by DBT. He served in various scientific roles at CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh (1986–2017). His research group has published more than 350 high-impact research papers and developed over 300 in silico tools, including web servers, databases, and software packages-one of the largest contributions from a single group worldwide. A strong advocate of open-source science, all tools developed by his group are freely available for academic use, attracting over 200,000 hits per day globally. Recognized as a highly cited researcher, his publications have received more than 31,000 citations, with an h-index of 91.

Mr. Pramod Prasad

**Scientist E, DST- Anusandhan National Research
Foundation, Delhi, (ANRF)**



Dr. Pramod Kumar Prasad is working as Scientist-E in Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) (Erstwhile Science and Engineering Research Board), a Statutory Body created by Act of Parliament, Govt. of India. He was awarded PhD in Zoology from North-Eastern Hill University (A Central University), Shillong, Meghalaya. His area of research covers fields of Molecular Biology, Parasitology and Bioinformatics. Work done by him during PhD provided “PCR-based diagnostic markers for species discrimination of zoonotic trematode parasites” for correct diagnosis and development of novel therapeutic and preventive strategies. The work resulted in research papers in high impact International and National Journals and DNA sequences in GenBank.

Presently he is working as Program officer for Prime Minister – Early Career Research Grant (PM-ECRG), Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) and International Travel Support (ITS) programs of ANRF in addition to erstwhile SERB programs. In SERB he worked as Member Secretary for implementation of programs such as Young Scientist – Life Sciences (YSS, ECRA, SRG and NPDP), EMEQ, DIA, STAR, TETRA, 3D-BIOPRINTING IRHPA and PAC-Organismal and Evolutionary Biology – Animal Sciences, Biomedical and Health Sciences. Prior to joining SERB, he was involved in the implementation of Internship and Faculty Award components of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) program of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India (DST).

Dr. Sandeep Sharma
CEO & Co-founder,
NeatMeatt Biotech Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi



With over 22 years of experience in Bioprocess Engineering, Dr. Sandeep Sharma has been instrumental in developing innovative processes for vaccine production, particularly in the areas of Pneumococcal and Meningococcal multivalent conjugate vaccines, Haemophilus influenzae type B (HiB), and Group B Streptococcus conjugate vaccines. Throughout his career, he has held senior leadership positions, serving as Head of R&D, Director of Research, and Head of Manufacturing at some of India's most prestigious Biotechnology organizations, including Serum Institute of India Ltd., Glenmark, Panacea Biotech, MSD-Wellcome Trust Hilleman

Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., and Premas Biotech. His contributions have been pivotal in advancing vaccine technology and large-scale bioprocess development.

Currently, he is the CEO and co-founder of NeatMeatt Biotech Pvt. Ltd., a pioneering startup focused on cultivated meat technology. Under his leadership, the company is at the forefront of stem cell research for lab-grown chicken and fish meat, with active research facilities at Delhi University and AIC-CCMB, Hyderabad. His expertise extends beyond vaccines to biosimilars, nutraceuticals, and pandemic-related research, including work on COVID-19. His multidisciplinary approach combines scientific innovation with industrial application, driving progress in both the pharmaceutical and alternative protein sectors.

A prolific innovator, he holds eight patents granted in the United States and other countries, reflecting his significant contributions to Bioprocess Engineering and Biotechnology. In addition to his patents, he has authored multiple research publications, further establishing his reputation as a thought leader in the field. His work continues to push the boundaries of Biotechnology, bridging the gap between cutting-edge research and real-world applications in healthcare and sustainable food production.

Dr. Tanweer Alam
Additional Director & Regional Officer
The Indian Institute of Packaging, Delhi



Dr. Tanweer Alam is a distinguished expert in packaging technology and currently serves as the Additional Director & Regional Officer at the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Delhi, while also overseeing IIP Lucknow. The Indian Institute of Packaging operates as an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Dr. Alam plays a crucial role in shaping national packaging regulations, serving as a member of the Scientific Committee on Sustainable Packaging at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Additionally, he chairs and contributes to multiple technical and sectional committees of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), including CHD 16, CHD 15, and FAD 6. His expertise was instrumental as the Rapporteur in drafting FSSAI's Packaging Regulations.

A highly regarded academician and researcher, Dr. Alam is the Editor-in-Chief of the peer-reviewed *Springer Journal of Packaging Technology and Research* and serves as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Postharvest Technology* and the *Asian Journal of Dairy and Food Research*. He also leads *Packaging India*, a bimonthly institutional magazine, and is on the editorial board of *Processed Food Industry*. His scholarly contributions include over 100 research and technical publications in high-impact journals, along with invited lectures both in India and internationally. He has filed six Indian patents and secured 21 design registrations.

Dr. Alam has made significant contributions to the field through his authorship of five books on packaging and editing of various industry reports, vision documents, and conference proceedings. As a board member of the World Packaging Organization (WPO) and the Asia Packaging Federation (APF), he has been actively involved in global discussions on packaging advancements. His international academic engagements include serving as a guest faculty member at the University of Copenhagen under the European Union's faculty exchange program. Recognized for his contributions, he has received numerous accolades, including the *Exhibition and Business Excellence Award 2023* by the MSME Global Conference. He is a governing board member of FFDC Kannauj, APEDA, and GS1, and represents Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) as a Court Member. Through his pioneering work, Dr. Alam continues to shape the future of packaging technology in India and beyond.

Mr. Rishabh K. Sawansukha

CEO, Fruz India Private Limited

Mr. Rishabh K. Sawansukha is a seasoned finance and business strategist with over 25 years of diverse experience spanning corporate, government, startups, and advisory roles. A Chartered Accountant and a Masters in Business Finance, he has honed his expertise in M&A, tax litigation, ERP, AI advisory, policy advocacy, and venture investments. His professional journey includes leadership roles at Indian Oil, Schlumberger, Coca-Cola, Oracle, and Snapdeal, before transitioning into consulting, mentoring, and investing.



As the founder of **BizStreet**, an innovative boutique advisory network established in 2006, Mr. Rishabh Kumar has built a robust ecosystem offering shared CFO services, funding solutions, M&A advisory, tax and legal consulting, HR recruitment, and technology transformation. His platform connects over 1,000 domain experts across 100+ cities worldwide, leveraging AI to enhance strategic business execution.

He is a **certified ESG & BRSR expert** and a thought leader in business networking, having led initiatives with JITO, JBN, and various industry bodies. He is also a **venture partner at Venture Catalysts** and an advisor to multiple startups and cooperative organizations.

A passionate educator, Mr. Rishabh Kumar has conducted over **200+ workshops** on finance, policy, AI, and business strategy. He has contributed extensively to fiscal policy discussions and has authored books on taxation, including a notable publication on UAE VAT rules.

Beyond his professional pursuits, he is deeply committed to community development, agripreneurship, and knowledge sharing. His resilience in overcoming personal and professional challenges defines his inspiring journey in the finance and business world.

Mr. Nilesh Lele,
President,
Chamber for Advancement of Small and Medium
Businesses, Mumbai



Mr. Nilesh Lele is a seasoned finance professional, entrepreneur, and mentor with extensive experience in investment banking and startup funding. He is the Founding Partner of RampUp Advisory LLP, a boutique investment bank specializing in startup funding, debt, and equity financing. Under his leadership, the firm has mentored and supported over 100 startups across India, helping many secure crucial investments for growth and expansion.

With a strong academic background, Nilesh holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Institute of Chemical Technology (formerly UDCT, Mumbai) and an MS and MBA in Finance from the University of Oklahoma, USA. He is also a CFA and FRM charter holder. Before venturing into the startup ecosystem, he held key leadership positions as Vice President at multinational banks such as Barclays Capital and Deutsche Bank in both the USA and India.

Currently, Nilesh serves as the President of the chamber for the advancement of small & medium businesses and actively contributes to India's startup ecosystem. He is a mentor for Food & Beverages and Agriculture under Start-up India (DPIIT, Govt. of India) and provides strategic guidance to incubation centers such as AIC-ADT Baramati, T-Hub Hyderabad, and IIT-Mandi's Human Computer Interface (HCI) Hub. Through his mentorship and advisory roles, he continues to empower startups, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

Dr. Mohd Salman Hashmi

Research and Development Scientist, Sun pharma

Dr. Mohd Salman Hashmi is a seasoned research and development specialist with over 22 years of experience in the pharmaceutical and agrochemical industries. He has played a pivotal role in designing non-infringing synthetic routes for



Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and developing commercially viable, cost-effective, and eco-friendly processes. With extensive expertise in process optimization, technology transfer, and compliance with GMP and GLP standards, Dr. Hashmi has successfully led teams of scientists and researchers, driving innovation and efficiency in pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hashmi has contributed significantly to the industry, holding key positions at Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. and Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., where he spearheaded the development of numerous APIs. His work includes the successful lab-scale development and commercial-scale transfer of Sildenafil Citrate, Sitagliptin Phosphate Monohydrate, Upadacitinib, and Tofacitinib Citrate, among others. His dedication to research is reflected in his multiple patents and research publications, covering a wide range of pharmaceutical advancements. He has also authored the book *Understanding Nitrosamine Impurities - Scientific Insights and Safety Measures*.

Dr. Hashmi holds a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Aligarh Muslim University and has an extensive academic background in steroid synthesis. In addition to his technical contributions, he has been instrumental in mentoring scientists and optimizing processes for

cost reduction, capacity improvement, and operational efficiency. His expertise in chemistry tools like ChemSketch, Chemdraw, and Reaxys further enhances his ability to innovate in pharmaceutical research. With his vast experience and leadership in R&D, Dr. Hashmi continues to make significant strides in the pharmaceutical sector, ensuring advancements in drug development and manufacturing.

Dr. Sudarsan Dash

Full Bright Senior Program Officer

Dr. Sudarsan Dash serves as Senior Program Officer at the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), the Fulbright Commission in India, New Delhi. He heads the Indian Program operations, develops robust strategies and goals, and supervises all Fulbright Fellowship programs for Indians. He oversees the administration of Fulbright-Nehru, Fulbright-Kalam, and other Fulbright fellowships for the citizens of India.



Dr. Dash holds a Ph.D. in philosophy, an MBA in international business, and completed postdoctoral research in Mahāyāna Buddhism and Postmodernism. He is the author of *Modernism versus Postmodernism* and has published in academic journals. His current research focuses on international education, scholar exchange, and education policy.

Prof. Naidu Subbarao,

Professor, School of Computational and Integrative Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Dr. Naidu Subbarao is Professor at School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from IIT, Kanpur. He was



ranked 9 on the list of best Bioinformaticians in India. Earlier, Dr. Subbarao has been appointed as Junior Information Scientist (1993-1995), at Bose Institute, Calcutta; and as an Information Scientist / System Analyst, at the School of Computational and Integrative Sciences, JNU from 1995 to 2013. He has been awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary Postdoctoral Fellowship (Common Wealth) at Department of Biochemistry and Molecular

Biology, University of Leeds, UK for a period of two years (October, 1990-April, 1992). His research interests include drug designing and molecular modeling, and have published many research articles in various reputed international journals.

Dr. D. D. Wadikar
Scientist,
DRDO, Mumbai



Dr. D.D. Wadikar is a distinguished scientist in the field of food science and technology, with extensive contributions to research, innovation, and industry collaborations. He holds a B.Tech. and M.Tech. in Food Sciences from the College of Food Technology, VNMKV, Parbhani, Maharashtra, and a Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of Mysore, Mysore. He commenced his career with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) in December 2001 as Scientist 'B' and currently serves as Scientist 'F' and Head of the Grain Science & Technology Division at the Defence Institute of Biodefence Technologies (DRDO-DIBT), Mysore. His expertise spans food technologies related to grains, millets, oilseeds, and spices, with a keen focus on smart nutrients and advanced food processing techniques, including microwave and infrared technologies.

Dr. Wadikar has made significant contributions to food science, earning numerous accolades, including the AFSTi Young Scientist Award (2012), DRDO-Laboratory Scientist of the Year Award (2017), and the prestigious Prof. G.S. Bains Award (2020). He was further honored with the DRDO Technology Day Oration Award (2023) for his work on the technological and nutritional aspects of millets and the Science Day Oration Award (2024) for his research on microwave and infrared technologies for food processing. His prolific research career includes 65 research publications and seven patents, alongside the successful transfer of over 32 product technologies to various industries. As a recognized guide for Ph.D. research in food science and technology under Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, and the University of Mysore, he has mentored several MSc and M.Tech. students and is currently guiding four Ph.D. scholars. A committed leader in the scientific community, he has served as the National Secretary of the Association of Food Scientists & Technologists (India) [AFSTI] (2019-20), actively participating in various committees and conferences. He has also contributed as an

editor for esteemed scientific journals, including the *Journal of Food Science & Technology* (Springer) and the *Indian Journal of Nutrition* (Open Science Publications).

Beyond academia and research, Dr. Wadikar has played an instrumental role in national food safety and standards. He has served as a member of FSSAI Scientific Panels on Spices and Culinary Herbs, as well as Fruits, Vegetables, and their products. Additionally, he actively contributes to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) committees FAD-8 and FAD-13.

Dr. Tariq Ahmad Ganaie
Head,
Department of Food Technology
Islamic University of Science and Technology,
Awantipora, India



Dr. Tariq Ahmad Ganaie is an esteemed Academician and researcher in the field of Food Technology, serving the prestigious Department of Food Technology at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora, India. With a distinguished career spanning over 17 years, he has made significant contributions to food science, post-harvest technology, and functional food development. Dr. Ganaie holds a Ph.D. in Food Technology from the University of Kashmir and an MTech in Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology from Aligarh Muslim University. His expertise lies in food processing, bioactive compound encapsulation, and sustainable food packaging solutions. He has led and supervised several research projects funded by prestigious organizations such as the SERB, ICMR and ANRF.

During his tenure as the Head of the Department of Food Technology at IUST (2022-2024), Dr. Ganaie played a pivotal role in curriculum development and the establishment of research initiatives. His scholarly contributions include numerous high-impact journal publications, book chapters, and conference presentations. He has also been actively involved in academic mentorship, supervising Ph.D., postgraduate, and undergraduate students.

Dr. Ganaie has received several accolades, including the DST INSPIRE MANNAK awards for three consecutive years (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-2023) and the Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Food Properties in Dubai (2018). He is a National Member of the BIS panel for millet-based product formulation and a life member of the Association of

Food Scientists & Technologists (India). He is member of many DLSA constituted by the local government in J&K.

Beyond academia, he has served as an observer for IGNOU examinations and contributed to food safety awareness programs. His extensive research, professional affiliations, and leadership in Food Technology makes him a key figure in advancing food science and innovation in India.

Dr. Mohammad Hassan Baig
CTO, BNJ BIOPHARMA,
South Korea



Dr. Mohammad Hassan Baig working as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of BNJ Biopharma in South Korea. Dr. Baig earned his PhD from Integral University. Dr. Baig has been associated with top institutions like Yonsei University (QS Rank 56). At BNJ Biopharma and Yonsei University College of Medicine, Dr. Baig is leading advanced research in AI-driven development of Targeted Protein Degraders. His work on lung cancer research have attracted multi-millions of dollars in funding, in collaborations with MGH, USA and Handok Pharmaceuticals in South Korea. His contributions to biopharmaceutical research have earned him several recognitions at national and international platforms.

Dr. Baig has also authored several research papers, edited books, and successfully licensed multiple molecules and technologies. His research has been widely featured in various media outlets and has received both national and international accolades.

Beyond research, he is also playing a prominent role in strengthening the India-Korea pharmaceutical research collaborations, earning recognition from the Indian Embassy in Korea and major companies like Piramal. Through his groundbreaking work in cancer drug discovery and global partnerships, Dr. Baig continues to drive innovation and make a significant impact in the field of biopharmaceutical research.

Dr. Jayati Trivedi
Former Senior Scientist,
CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun



Dr. Jayati Trivedi brings over 11 years of experience in the field of sustainable fuels and energy. Presently she works at Shell, as a Senior Strategy consultant. Before joining Shell, she has served as the Principal Scientist at CSIR – Indian Institute of

Petroleum, Govt. of India. Jayati has been involved in and led multiple high-valued projects for CSIR – Indian Institute of Petroleum related to energy security & alternate energy sources. She has extensive hands-on experience in decentralized biofuel production, focusing on creating sustainable solutions for producing biofuel locally and closer to feedstock sources. Jayati holds a Ph.D. in Engineering, M.Tech. in Advanced Petroleum Science and Technology and a B.Tech. in Biotechnology from IIT Roorkee.

Her expertise extends to serving as a Subject Matter Expert in Biofuels Policy for the Uttar Pradesh State Government, where she played a pivotal role in policy development and evaluation. Her outstanding contributions to sustainable energy were recognized with the prestigious Green Talents Award by BMBF, Germany.

Jayati has specialized in biofuels synthesis, biofuel feedstock development, waste valorisation, algae based biorefinery and bio-derived surfactant synthesis. Jayati is driven by the belief that our efforts can contribute significantly to the global efforts of combatting climate change and fostering a greener future for generations to come.

Er. Muhammad Farhan
Assistant Professor
Glocal University, Saharanpur



Er. Muhammad Farhan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Glocal University, India. He specializes in Materials Science, Manufacturing Technology, and Energy Conservation Management and has over seven years of research experience in Biocomposites, Natural Fiber Composites, and Sustainable Agricultural Techniques. He has published 40+ research articles in peer-reviewed journals and contributed to six+ book chapters with Taylor & Francis and Springer. His research focuses on natural fiber-reinforced composites, sustainable building acoustics, and ergonomic workstation design. He has also guided three graduate dissertations and actively collaborates on innovative engineering projects.

Er. Farhan has received several prestigious awards, including the Young Achiever Award 2024 and the Best Paper Award at NIT Srinagar. He has been invited as a keynote speaker, Plenary Speaker session chair, and Guest of Honor at various national and International conferences, including events organized by NIT Srinagar, Samarkand State University, and

IJIRA under the Ministry of Textiles, India. An active member of IMechE, IAENG, and IAAM, he continues to contribute significantly to engineering, sustainability, and advanced materials science, demonstrating leadership in research and innovation on a global scale.