

PROFILE OF SCIENTIST/RESEARCH WORKER

Name : Dr. Arvind Saklani

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Qualification : Ph.D. in Botany

Area(s) of Specialization: Ethnobotany, medicinal plants, drug-discovery and development of phytopharmaceuticals and generation of novel chemical entities (NCEs), taxonomy.

Occupation/Designation : Assistant Director

Major Activities

Over 27 years experience in (a) botanical/ Ethnobotanical survey, taxonomy of higher plants, maintenance of Herbarium, developing databases on traditional medicinal plants for selected diseases, developing herbal Gardens, landscaping and cultivation of medicinal plants, (b) teaching pharmaceutical botany and guiding research. (c) Evaluation of bioresources - plant-based drug discovery research and herbal drug development, building up plant extract libraries, generation of NCEs, standardization and extraction of novel plant materials, scale up and bulk manufacturing of API in GMP facility for clinical evaluation.

Awards/Recognitions

Achievements

1. Validated hundreds of ethnobotanical claims and generated several potent hits in the area of antiinflammation, antiobesity, anticancer and antiviral from plants.
2. Discovered Potent Phytopharmaceuticals for the treatment of HSV1 and HSV2; one entered in phase II clinical trials, second ready to enter in clinical trials. Discovered 3 leads for developing antiobesity herbal formulation.
3. Streamlining the collection of plant materials for research purpose through NBA/ various State Biodiversity Boards. Established network with suppliers of botanicals and GMP manufacturing units for scale up.

4. Delivered over 30 invited scientific lectures in India and abroad.
5. Reviewer of 10 national and international scientific journals and Editorial board member of 2 journals.
6. Published 2 books and over 30 papers and has 4 patents (**Total no. of citations in Google scholar – 475**)
7. Awarded 2 projects at NIPER worth US\$ 0.4 million on ethnopharmacology and medicinal plants.
8. Guided several M.Pharm., M.Tech., M. Sc. and Ph.D. students; designed syllabi on phytopharmaceuticals.
9. Built a ready-to- use plant extract library of over 7500 plant extracts for drug discovery programs.
10. Developed ethnomedicinal plants gardens, Herbaria and a Museum.
11. Evaluated several Ph.D. theses and projects received from external funding agencies
12. Spent over 1100 days in Indian forests and among tribals for ethnobotanical and botanical explorations.
13. In 1994, worked in Amazonian forests, Brazil to study the tribal medicines through UNDP program.

Honour and awards

1. **“Merit of Excellence Award”** at Johns Hopkins University, Rockville, MD, USA, Sep 2012.
2. **“Academic Excellence Award”** by Indian Botanical Society, Mumbai Chapter, Feb 2011.
3. **“B.N. Mehrotra Medal”** awarded by ‘Society of Ethnobotanists’, Lucknow, India, 2009
4. **“Talented Scientist Award”** in ‘International Seminar on Medicinal Plants & Herbal Products’ at S.V. University, Tirupati, 2008
5. **‘S. K. Jain Medal’** for young Ethnobotanist awarded by ‘Society of Ethnobotanists’, Lucknow, India, 2003.
6. **“Young Scientist Award and Medal”** at `35th World Congress on Natural Medicines’ at S.V. Univ., Tirupati, 1997.
7. Chief Guest in a National Seminar on ‘New Frontiers in Biological Sciences’ at Holy Cross College, Tiruchchirapali from 19 - 20 Jan., 2007
8. Fellow of India Association of Angiosperm Taxonomy – F.I.A.T. (2006)
9. Fellow of Association for Plant Taxonomy – F.A.P.T. (2005)
10. Fellow of Society of Ethnobotanists – F.E.S. (1992)
11. Figured in Marquis Who’sWho in Medicine and Healthcare, 2010 onwards