

Professor Manoj Kumar Dhar, Ph.D., FNASc, FNAAS
VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU, JAMMU.

Prof. Manoj Kumar Dhar holds a Masters degree in Botany from University of Kashmir and was awarded Gold Medal and certificate of distinction for securing First class First position. His association with University of Jammu has been for the last 34 years since he moved to University of Jammu during 1986 to join for the research programme after qualifying NET-JRF and subsequently earned M. Phil. and Ph. D. degrees in Botany, specializing in Genetics and Cytogenetics.

Since 1992, he has been serving University of Jammu in academic namely Lecturer, Reader and Professor and various administrative capacities namely as Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Director, Academic Staff College etc. He is the founder Head of the erstwhile Department of Biotechnology established in 1998, and also is the Inaugural Director of the School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu, Jammu. He has been instrumental in initiating Masters and Doctoral programmes in Biochemistry and Microbiology and PG Diploma in Bioinformatics. He served as Coordinator of DBT funded Bioinformatics Centre and also of UGC Special Assistance Programme (SAP) sanctioned to the School. He has also been Coordinator, RuTAG (Rural Technology Action Group), Chapter (catalyzed by Principal Scientific Advisor, GOI) and Centre Coordinator, Institute of Human Genetics.

Prof. Dhar is the only Scientist in the J & K State whose work has been recognized by three prestigious Science Academies of the country. He is the Fellow of National Academy of Sciences, India and Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He is also the recipient of Indian National Science Academy Young Scientist Award Medal. Besides, he has several awards and distinctions to his credit. Some of these are: Distinguished Scientist Award by Society for Plant Research; Prof. Hira Lal Chakravorty Award by the Indian Science Congress Association; Young Scientist Award by J&K State, Department of Science and Technology; Biotechnology Overseas Associateship (DBT, GOI); BOYSCAST Fellowship (DST, GOI); Biotechnology National Associateship (DBT, GOI).

Prof. Dhar is a highly trained Molecular Biologist who has conducted Post-Doctoral Research at Kansas State University, USA; Penn State University, USA; Leibniz- Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Evolution (IPK) Gatersleben, Germany; National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, IARI, New Delhi. He was awarded a research project funded by the DST, India and DAAD Germany. Recently, he was also invited by IPK, Germany on a DFG (German Research Foundation) grant to conduct advanced research in Super-resolution Microscopy. Prof. Dhar has established a strong research group on Genome Research in the University of Jammu. He has been instrumental in establishing state of the art facilities at School of Biotechnology, including high throughput Next Generation Sequencing platform (first of its kind in J & K). So far, he has supervised 24 students for Ph.D. and 7 for M. Phil. degrees. He has about 150 publications in reputed National and International journals to his credit. His research group has made significant contribution to genomics of several horticultural crops of high value and relevance to J & K. Prof. Dhar is the Principal Investigator of major Network projects funded by Department of Biotechnology, GOI, on Apple, Saffron and Tomato. He has taken a novel initiative to establish a National Germplasm Repository of Apple at Bhaderwah Campus of the University, wherein about 300 varieties of apple are

being maintained. He has been able to attract extra mural funding to the tune of about 18 crores from different funding agencies for creating the research facilities at School of Biotechnology. His recent work on rare genetic disorders published in Nature Scientific Reports has been widely acclaimed.

Prof. Dhar has served on several National Committees. He is the member of DBT, Govt. of India Task Force on Human Resource Development and has served as member of DST Expert Committee for Young Scientist Projects; SERB, Programme Advisory Committee on Plant Sciences to name a few. He has been a member of Academic Council of SKUAST Jammu and Kashmir. University Grants Commission has nominated him a member of the Advisory Committee of SAP DRS in Biotechnology of HP University and Kashmir University. Within University of Jammu he has immensely contributed to the Corporate life as Chairman or as member of various Committees.

Currently he is a member Medical Advisory Council of National Medical Commission of India (NMC). He is also the member of the Executive Council of almost all the Universities of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.