

## **OUCF - Step UP Mentoring Program**

Mentoring is a process to support and encourage people to identify goals and develop their skills through a series of confidential one-on-one conversations. A mentor will share their wisdom and experiences to maximize mentee's ability to improve and perform to become the person they want to be.

Over the years OU Department of Chemistry faculty educated and prepared thousands of students to become scholars, professionals and entrepreneurs. As a token of appreciation and also serve the Chemistry community, Department of Chemistry Alumni initiated a mentoring program to help students in their career path. Step-Up mentoring program is an initiative lead by the OU Department of Chemistry Alumni in collaboration with the Department of Chemistry faculty members. The aim of this program is to provide support and guide research scholars and students to achieve their career aspirations and professional goals. This initiative is supported by the Head of The Chemistry Department.

# "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

## Mentor and Mentee Shared Expectations for Success

### STEP-UP Mentoring

#### Partners:

- \* Dial Your Village
- \* OU Alumni Association (NA)
- \* OU Chemistry Foundation (OUCF)

#### About DYV

Dial Your Village Inc. (DYV) is a USA not-for-profit organization committed to the empowerment of communities by supporting in the areas of education, health and livelihoods.

#### About OUAA-NA

OU Alumni are committed to help students, faculty and alma mater to promote education, research and employment

#### About OUCF

OU Chemistry Foundation is committed to support Chemistry faculty, scholars and students and foster the interaction to promote academic, research and entrepreneurship culture among scientific community

Be committed and develop a strong relationship by building a foundation of trust and understanding:

- Set a schedule and meet on a regular basis to establish a working relationship
- Confidentiality of information is required to build trust
- Be transparent and honest

#### Mentor Expectations:

- Be prepared to initiate interactions and do not hesitate to follow up to get a kick start
- Help the mentee to recognize and define development goals
- Provide both positive and constructive feedback and help them grow
- Serve as a positive role model

#### Mentee Expectations:

- Proactive to initiate interaction, your mentor is here to help you but not to judge
- Identify your strengths and weakness and goals to improve; do not hesitate to ask for help
- Be openminded to accept suggestions and constructive feedback, feedback is for your growth and improvement

#### Respect Each Other's Time and Commitment:

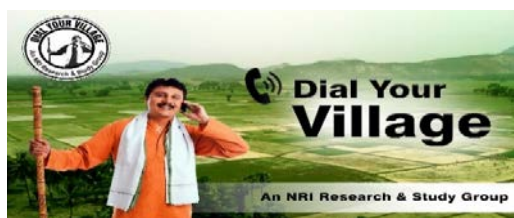
- Be on time and come prepared to scheduled meetings
- Notify mentor/mentee if you can't make the meeting and schedule a follow up in timely manor
- Engage in the relationship with open mind and maintain confidentiality
- Reach out to program coordinators (Dr.Padmasri, Dr.Madhavi, and Dr.Ravi) for assistance when needed

#### Some Topics to Discuss:

- Career Guidance
- Goal setting
- Communication
- Presentation skills
- Organizing skills
- Leadership skills
- Problem-solving
- Determination
- Motivation

#### Tools for Success:

- **Show COMMITMENT**
- **Be HONEST**
- **Build TRUST**
- **Respect CONFIDENTIALITY**
- **Develop COMMUNICATION**
- **Demonstrate ACCOUNTABILITY**



# "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

## Mentoring Sessions - Getting Started

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1. Please select your choice of mentors from the mentor list and rank them 1 to 3 (1 being the 1<sup>st</sup> choice). Specify mentors' names:
  - a. ----
  - b. ----
  - c. ----
2. Why did you choose this professional as your mentor? (Select one or more)
  - a. Similar research interests
  - b. Mentoring experience
  - c. Other: (Specify)Comments:
3. How often would you like to meet with your mentor?
  - a. Once a month
  - b. Twice a month
  - c. Other: (Specify)Comments:
4. How committed you are? (hrs per week or month)
5. How would you describe your primary communication style?
  - a. Direct & Decisive
  - b. Enthusiastic & Emotional
  - c. Steady, Patient & empathetic
  - d. Conscientious, Analytical & careful
  - e. Other: (Specify)Comments:
6. Which communication style would you prefer from your mentor/mentee?
  - a. Similar to me
  - b. Different from me
  - c. No preferenceComments:
7. The primary area in which I would like to grow as a mentee is
  - a. Develop communication skills
  - b. Organizational skills
  - c. Help with determination
  - d. Other: (Specify)Comments:
8. What are your strengths (more than 1)
  - a. Hard working
  - b. Committed
  - c. Good communication skills
  - d. Organized
  - e. Other: (Specify)Comments:

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\* OU Chemistry

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9. What are your weaknesses (more than 1)

- a. Procrastination
- b. Lack of Focus
- c. Distraction
- d. Lack of Enthusiasm
- e. Others: (Specify)

Comments:

10. What is your primary goal for this mentor/mentee relationship (select up to 2)

- a. Educational advice
- b. Receive career advice/perspective
- c. Connections with pharma companies
- d. Learn more about opportunities

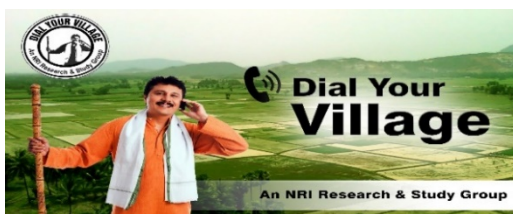
Comments:

11. What are your short-term goals?

12. What are your long-term goals?

13. What are our expectations?

14. Any other comments: Please Specify:



## STEP-UP

Mentoring

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# "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

**Saturday June 19, 5PM IST**



**Dr. Mahender B Dewal**  
Founding member, Head of Research & Product Development Expansion technologies, Inc. ([www.extbio.com](http://www.extbio.com))  
Cambridge, MA, USA

Dr. Dewal, received his Bachelor's with Chemistry and Biology as majors from Giriraj Govt College, Osmania University Nizamabad. Masters in Inorganic Chemistry from Osmania University Campus Hyderabad. He has received his Ph. D. in Organic Chemistry from Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, USA. He has completed his postdoctoral studies from Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA. He has worked as a Research Scientist at Department of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA, USA

Dr. Dewal's service on COVID19 fight had recognized him as "COVID19 WARRIOR" by together Karnataka State Ministry of Youth Empowerment & Sports and SAARC Nations International Human Rights Association.

Dr. Mahender B Dewal is a Biotech Entrepreneur and Biomedical Scientist with 20 years of interdisciplinary experience in number of research areas including Organic Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Chemical Biology, Antibody Engineering, Genomics, Transcriptomics and Expansion Microscopy.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mahender-b-dewal-16a061b/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-SGmg59utphgDEdlg7JFvQ>

**Saturday June 19, 5PM IST**

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## "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

**Saturday June 26, 5PM IST**



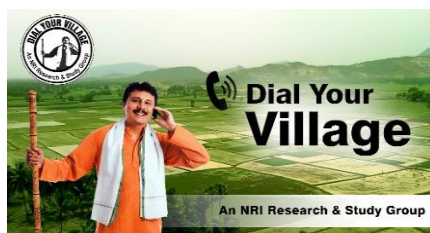
**Dr. Madhavi Srikoti Ph.D.**  
**Bristol Myers Squibb, NJ, USA**

Dr. Madhavi Srikoti, received her Bachelor's in Chemistry and Biology from Govt Women's College, Kakatiya University, Karimnagar. Then she graduated with a Masters in Organic Chemistry from Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad. She has received her Ph. D. in Analytical Chemistry from the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at Seton Hall University, NJ, USA.

**Interesting Fact:** She started working as an analytical scientist then pursued a career as a web developer during the IT boom in early 2000s. After 5 years, she joined BMS as a research scientist and obtained her PhD.

Dr. Madhavi Srikoti is a Principal Scientist with 15 years of industry experience in drug product development. She is currently an Analytical Project Lead for adult and pediatric pharmaceutical drugs and a Strategic Innovation Lead to design patient centric drug products with the knowledge of drug journey and user needs. In addition, she is working as an Operational Lead for BMS business partners.

[Madhavi Srikoti | LinkedIn](#)



**Saturday June 26, 5PM IST**

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220040243?pwd=T2RqVjNnSk10Rnl4aUNZeStvTi9nUT09>

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## "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

**Saturday July 3, 2021 @ 5PM IST**



**Prof. Thallada Bhaskar**

**Head, Material Resource Efficiency Division  
CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP),  
Dehradun 248005, Uttarakhand**

Dr. Bhaskar, received his Bachelor Degree with Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics as majors from New Govt. Degree College, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Osmania University. Masters in Physical Chemistry from University College of Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

He has received his Ph. D. in Chemistry from Department of Chemistry, Osmania for his work at Catalysis Division, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. Worked as a postdoctoral fellow and as a Research Assistant Professor at Department of Applied Chemistry, Okayama University, Jaan (7 years), before joining as a Scientist at CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum in 2007.

- 185 publications in ISI indexed journals, 8260 citations with 52 *h-index*
- Editor/Editorial board member for several Journals
- Working with Industries, R & D organisations in India and abroad

Over 25+ years of experience in Heterogeneous catalysis, Biofuels/Biochemicals from Biomass, Polymeric waste (waste plastics, ewaste), Biobased chemicals production for herbal/medicinal etc, Speciality & functional carbons from renewable carbon sources, valorization of residual algal biomass & aquatic biomass.

Key words: Heterogeneous Catalysis, Bioenergy, Biofuels and Biochemicals, Solid Wasate Management

<https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=wh5NdbkAAAAJ&hl=en>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bhaskar-thallada-9773787/>

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82179722423?pwd=UjZET2dnVUcrZEI1VndIM3BZdEZ5UT09>

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## "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

**Saturday July 10th, 5PM IST**



**Dr. Prasanna Reddy Ph.D.**  
Merck, NJ, USA

Dr. Prasanna Reddy, from Nalgonda District, received her Bachelor's degree in Maths, Physics and Chemistry and M.Sc degree in Organic Chemistry from Osmania University, Hyderabad. Then, she earned her M.Phil in Organic Chemistry from Hyderabad Central University. She received an M.S and a Ph. D. in Bioorganic Chemistry from Department of Chemistry & Chemical Biology, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.

**Interesting Fact:** She received a Gold medal in Mathematics from Osmania University in B.Sc, but pursued Chemistry for her Masters and later career.

**Saturday July 10, 5PM IST**

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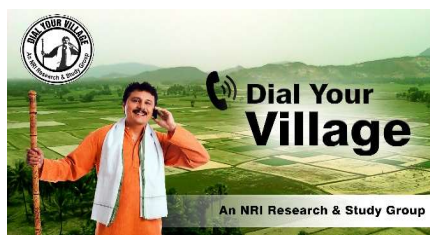
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Dr. Prasanna Reddy has been working in the pharmaceutical industry for twenty plus years. She is currently at Merck as an Associate Director in Global Regulatory Affairs, CMC group for late stage biologic products. Prior to joining Merck she was at Prolong Pharmaceuticals, NJ as a Director, R&D and led complete product development of PEGylated proteins from early research to late stage clinical phase in many therapeutic areas including oncology and hematology. Before that she worked at Enzon pharmaceuticals for ten years leading the research, developing customized PEG linkers to improve the delivery of small molecules, proteins and oligonucleotides.

[Prasanna Reddy|LinkedIn](#)





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## "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 5PM IST



### Academic and Research interests:

✚ Dr. Rao's research interests include synthesis, stereochemistry and medicinal chemistry of heterocyclic compounds; the Blaise reaction, the Voight Reaction, development of reagents, reaction conditions and green chemical methods etc.

✚ He has published over 145 papers and 10 review articles in leading Organic Chemistry journals. He teaches organic chemistry to the post-graduate and undergraduate- students.

✚ Under his guidance 24 research scholars obtained their Ph.D. and 26 scholars their M.Phil. degree.

✚ He has been a recipient of Chemical Society of India Bronze medal, National Merit Citation, by Govt of India and National Associate Award by UGC. He has been an elected fellow of the Telangana Academy of Sciences.

✚ His extension activities include development of higher education in India as a member of peer teams of National Assessment and Accreditation.

### Dr. H. Surya Prakash Rao Ph.D. FTAS

Adviser, Syntho Cascade Research Laboratories, Professor (superannuated), Pondicherry University and earlier Dean (Research) and Officiating VC, Sharda University

e.mail: [profhspr@gmail.com](mailto:profhspr@gmail.com),  
[hsp.rao.sharda@gmail.com](mailto:hsp.rao.sharda@gmail.com)

Dr. H. Surya Prakash Rao is an adviser to Syntho Cascade Research Laboratories, Mallapur, Hyderabad. He superannuated as Professor, Department of Chemistry, Pondicherry University in 2018. Subsequently he worked in Sharda University as Dean (Research), Dean (Academic) and Officiating VC and Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry up to September 2020. He was a student of B.Sc. (special, 1973) and M.Sc. (Organic Chemistry, 1975) in Osmania University, Hyderabad. He joined Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for Ph.D. in 1975 and obtained his degree in 1980 by working in the area of Stereochemistry of Organic Compounds under the guidance of Professor S. N. Balasubrahmanyam. He had postdoctoral training in the USA and India; Rice University, Houston, Texas (1980-82), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota (1982-84) and Hyderabad University (1984-85). He was a visiting scientist in the University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands during 1999-2002.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89979261647?pwd=eWhYdUwyRGNlcWw3ZXNINzV1b2VoQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 7926 1647

Passcode: OUchem-5

Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 5PM IST

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Department Of Chemistry, Osmania University

STEP-UP Mentoring

### "CAREER TIMES"

By

Dr Srinivas Puppala

VP of Human Resources

VIMTA LABS, Hyderabad

## "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

Saturday July 24, 5PM IST

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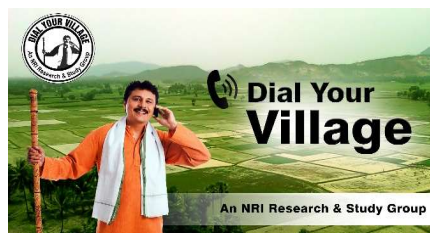


**Dr. Narahari Sastry Ph.D.**  
**Director, CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat, Assam**

Prof. Sastry is the alumni of Dept. of Chemistry, Osmania University. He received his Ph D degree from University of Hyderabad in Theoretical & Computational Chemistry. After having several years of exposure in different countries he joined Pondicherry University in the year 1997 as an Assistant Prof. in the Dept. of Chemistry. He moved to CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad in the year 2002. Prof. Sastry, has taken over the directorship of CSIR-NEIST in Feb., 2019 and is actively involved in leading the institute in several interdisciplinary areas.

Prof. G. Narahari Sastry trained as a computational chemist and has made fundamental contributions in theoretical organic chemistry, bioinformatics, non-covalent interactions; concept of cooperativity in non-covalent interactions, and allied areas. His group has been developing indigenous software for CADD, Molecular Property Diagnostic Suite, and is focused on strengthening CADD in the country primarily through focusing development of disease-specific portals.

[Dr. G. Narahari Sastry | LinkedIn](#)



**Professional Achievements:** He has guided successfully 26 Ph. D. students and an equal number of PDFs, besides about 200 people were trained as dissertation students in the last three decades. He is a fellow of all major scientific academies of the country (FNA, FASC, and FNASC), besides fellow of royal society of chemistry, biotech research association, Biotech and Pharmacy association, Telangana and AP academy of sciences. (FRSC, FBRSI, FAPB, FAPAS, FTAS). He was awarded with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in Chemical Sciences (2011), considered as one of the highest prize for science and engineering in India, National Bioscience award (DBT) 2009, one of the highest for Life sciences in India, Swarnajayanthi Fellowship 2005 (DST), B. M. Birla award for 2001, BC Deb Memorial award (2009), CRSI Medal 2011, and Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship. He is also Sir J. C. Bose National Fellow.

Saturday July 24, 5PM IST

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## "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

**Saturday September 11, 5PM IST**



**Dr. K. Aravind Babu**  
**Postdoctoral Researcher**  
**Inorganic Chemistry, Wayen State**  
**University. Detroit, MI, USA**

Dr. Aravind, received his Bachelor's with Chemistry and Biotechnoloy (2009) as majors from Swami Vivekanada Degree College, Osmania University Mahaboob Nagar. Masters in Organic Chemistry (2012) from Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad. He has received his Ph. D. in Inorganic Chemistry (2019) from Department of Chemistry, National Institute of Technology – Rourkela. He was visiting fellow (2016) at Institute of Molecular Science and Technologies of the CNR, Milan, Italy. Presently He is working as postdoctoral Researcher in Department of Chemistry, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA.

Dr. Aravind B. Kajjam is a Postdoctoral Researcher in Inorganic Chemistry.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-aravind-kajjam-13883375>



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**Step-Up” Mentoring Program**  
**Saturday September 18, 5PM IST**



**Dr. Ramana Doppalapudi**  
**Vice President, Avidity**  
**Biosciences,**  
**La Jolla, CA, USA**

Dr. Doppalapudi, a native of Khammam, received BSc and MSc Organic Chemistry from Osmania University. He has completed his PhD in Organic Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad. He then conducted postdoctoral research at UT Southwestern Medical Center and Southern Methodist University, Dallas before moving to San Diego, CA in the year 2000 for a career in the pharma and biotech industry. Over the last 21 years in the pharma and biotech industry, Dr. Doppalapudi developed multiple clinical candidates for the treatment of cancer, muscular diseases, and wet AMD. He currently lives in San Diego with his wife and two children. Dr. Doppalapudi loves to play tennis and a regular hiker of local mountains.

*Dr. Doppalapudi would be happy to offer guidance to interested Osmania University chemistry students with career opportunities in pharma and biotech industry.*

**Saturday September 18,**  
**5PM IST**

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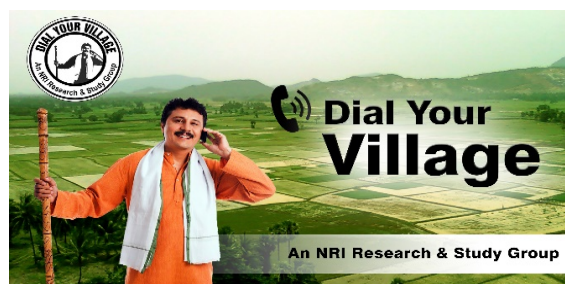
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Dr. Ramana Doppalapudi is a scientist with experience in the discovery and development of a variety of drugs including peptides, antibodies, oligonucleotides and antibody drug conjugates. Dr. Doppalapudi is currently serving as Vice President, Chemistry at Avidity Biosciences in La Jolla, CA, USA where he is responsible for discovery chemistry and CMC.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/venkatadoppalapudi/>



## "Step-Up" Mentoring Program

Saturday Sept 25, 5PM IST



**Dr. Thota Ganesh**  
Associate professor  
Department of Pharmacology and  
Chemical Biology  
Emory University, School of Medicine

<https://med.emory.edu/directory/profile/?u=TGANESH>

**Career profile:** Thota Ganesh obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D (1994-1999). in Organic Chemistry (with Prof. David Krupadanam) from Osmania University. He did his postdoctoral studies at IIT-Bombay (with Prof. S. Kotha), University of Durham (UK) and Virginia Tech (USA). He is now an Associate Professor at Emory University, School of Medicine Atlanta, GA.

**Research:** Dr. Ganesh research interests are to study biochemical, molecular and pathological phenotypes in the brain and lung disorders, and develop medicines (drugs) for treating epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease and infections caused by viruses of pandemic potential (Influenza and SARS-CoV-2).

**Contributions:** Ganesh has published well over 100 peer-reviewed scientific research articles; and made ~ 50 presentations in international scientific conferences. He received 9 issued patents and 12 other patents in pending review. He also co-founded a company (Pyrefin, Inc) to develop next generation anti-inflammatory drug for CNS and Lung disorders.

**Honors:** ADDF scholar 2013-2016  
Harrington Institute Scholar 2014-2016  
Emory innovator of the year 2018  
Emory Hidden Gem 2020  
Associate Editor, Journal Alzheimer's Disease (2020-2021)

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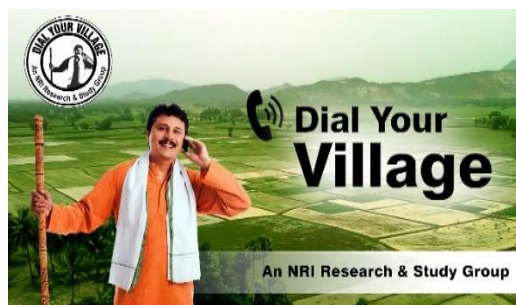
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**Bio:** Dr. Thota Ganesh born in village Ananthasgar, currently in Siddipet district. He studied intermediate and B.Sc. degree (1992) in Gov't College Siddipet, then M.Sc. in Saifabad Science College (1994), Hyderabad.

He loves community service, and 5 years ago, he created a non-profit (philanthropic) organization named **Thota Foundation**, <https://thotafoundation.org> that is committed to the advancement of students and schools in rural Telangana (India).

Working with an NRI organization in USA, he created a program called మన తెలంగాణ బడి (MANA TELANGANA BADI) with vision to digitalize classrooms and science labs in schools of rural villages of Telangana.



## "Step-Up" Mentoring Program Saturday Oct 2, 5PM IST

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### About DYV

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### About OUAA-NA

OU Alumni are committed to help students, faculty and alma mater to promote education, research and employment

### About OUCF

OU Chemistry Foundation is committed to support Chemistry faculty, scholars and students and foster the interaction to promote academic, research and entrepreneurship culture among scientific community



**Professor Dr. Challa Vijaya Kumar**  
Dept of Chemistry/Molecular/Cell Biology  
University of Connecticut, CT, USA

**Career profile:** Received Ph.D from IIT Kanpur under the supervision of Professor M. V. George. He did postdoctoral studies at the University of Notre Dame with Professor P.K. Das and at the Columbia University with Professors N. J. Turro and J. K. Barton. Currently, senior Professor at the University of Connecticut, USA.

**Research:** Professor Kumar's research interests include creating Protein-based Materials to replace synthetic polymers for practical applications, Protein Scissors, BioSolar cells, BioGraphene, Desalination by Forward Osmosis, Biofuel Cells and Metal-air batteries.

**Contributions:** He has published nearly 200 peer reviewed papers in international and national journals, with top 5 papers having impact factor of 29, nearly 100 invited oral presentations, 11 books and mentored >25 PhD students. He received numerous grants from the NSF, DOE, NASA and USDA.

**Honors:** Won 4 Fulbright Research Excellence Awards, Fulbright-Nehru Distinguished Chair Award, Chemical Research Society of India Chemistry Medal, Alumni Research Excellence Award, Recognition by CT Governor and Legislature for NanoArt Exhibits, AAUP Research Excellence Award, Merck Sharp and Dohme Faculty Development Award and Provost's Open Education Award. Volume Editor, Methods in Enzymology (Elsevier) (2015-2021)

**Saturday Oct 2, 5 PM IST**

### Supported by:

Osmania University Alumni association (ouaa-NA),  
OU Chemistry Foundation (OUCF)  
Department Of Chemistry

**Bio:** Professor Kumar born in Tenali, Guntur district got early education in Vijayawada. Attended Nampalli Multi-purpose Gov't High School Bazarghat, Hyderabad, earned PUC and BSc., degrees from the New Science College (Narayanaguda, OU), and earned M.Sc. from the University Science College, Hyderabad.

He enjoys mentoring high school students during summer months by conducting 3-week summer camps on nanochemistry and one-day weekend workshops for middle school children and their parents. Mentored more than 200 undergraduate students.

He expresses chemistry through his unique NanoArt exhibits all across Connecticut. He received recognition for this outreach activity from the CT Governor and the legislature.

<https://chemistry.uconn.edu/person/challa-kumar/>

