



UC San Diego Foundation Faculty Representative



Suresh Subramani

A man of many scientific and academic accomplishments, Dr. Suresh Subramani, Distinguished Professor of Biology and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning and Resources, is also very interesting on subjects ranging from visits to India to his delight in his undergraduate students to the rapport he enjoys with fellow Foundation Trustees. Suresh is the Faculty Representative on the board.

Raised in India to the age of 22, Suresh received his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and joined the UC San Diego faculty in 1982 following a post-doctoral fellowship in Nobel Laureate Paul Berg's laboratory at Stanford University. Recently, Suresh served as the Interim Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences at UC San Diego.

His laboratory studies how and why cells segregate their biochemical functions in specialized compartments, termed organelles, as well as how these organelles themselves are regulated by environmental signals. He is the author of more than 155 research articles and in 2004 he was listed by Thomson ISI as among the most highly cited researchers for publications in Molecular Biology and Genetics between 1980-1999.

Suresh is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, a Searle Scholar and has received numerous awards, including a ten-year NIH MERIT award, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a Research Career Development Award from the National Cancer Institute and a Jane Coffin Childs Fund Fellowship.

Suresh served as the Director of India Operations for the Affymax Research Institute, a subsidiary of GlaxoSmithKline, from 1996-2001 and participated in the establishment of one of India's first biotechnology parks, called IKPL (ICICI Knowledge Park Ltd.). He has served as an advisor to numerous corporations including Akkadix, Gangagen Incorporated, Invitrogen and Viagene.

Suresh has actively pursued academia-industry partnerships for the students and faculty of UC San Diego, including biotechnology industry internships for undergraduates and meetings between professors and scientists/managers from the biotechnology industry. He also participated as a Steering Committee Member in the establishment of graduate and



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undergraduate programs in bioinformatics at UC San Diego, and in the initiation of the Rady School of Management.

Suresh travels to his homeland yearly to visit family, and takes the opportunity to be a bridge of sorts between the two countries, and an informal representative of UC San Diego. “I am interested in education, so whenever I go to India I try helping various groups – colleges, universities, biotech companies, government organizations, on an ad hoc basis. At times they want me to speak to the students and faculty, other times I’ve spoken to government officials about sponsoring biotech. And I’ve run courses in India to train post-docs and young faculty members in new areas of science.”

Although he currently has less time to teach at UC San Diego, Suresh makes the time to serve and represent the university as a faculty link on the UC San Diego Foundation. “One of the major reasons I am on the board is to meet and be with people in the community who support the university. It’s a very positive group of achievers, a high-energy, accomplished group. It’s a real privilege.”