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Tamil Nadu Scientist Award for Alagappa University Professor



Prof. S. KaruthaPandian (Left) receiving Tamil Nadu Scientist Award from the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru K.P. Anbalagan (Right) in the presence of the Principal Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu, Higher Education Department Shri. Sunil Paliwal (Middle).

Dr. S. KaruthaPandian, Professor & Head, Department of Biotechnology, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, has won the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) in Biological Sciences for the year 2012 in recognition of his outstanding research works done in the field of Microbial Biotechnology and Medical Microbiology. The Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, Thiru K.P. Anbalagan gave away the award in a function held in Chennai recently.

Dr. S. Karuthapandian has published more than 170 research articles in Peer-reviewed International SCI journals. He has also presented more than 300 papers in National and International Conferences/Seminars/Workshops and delivered 43 lectures in Refresher Courses and 44 Special/Keynote Addresses.

His research team has developed a highly sensitive PCR based (SCAR) diagnostic marker which can be used to rapidly (within 3 hours) detect the presence of the pathogen *Streptococcus pyogenes* in throat swabs which causes Rheumatic Fever in children at the age of 12 and invariably ends up in the rheumatic heart disease at a later stage for which thousands of open heart surgeries are being done every year in India. His group has also identified many novel anti-pathogenic agents which are considered to be alternative to antibiotics against various human and aquaculture microbial pathogens. He was the first one to delineate the bacterial diversity of different marine samples namely marine sediment, seawater, seaweed and sea grass from Palk Bay through Next Generation Sequencing Technology in which he identified more than 1500 different bacterial species without culturing them. The research work carried out by his group through industrial sponsorship has culminated in filing 13 Indian Patents, out of which two have already been published.

Besides this, Dr. S. Karuthapandian has also successfully completed thirteen Research Projects including the Prime Minister's New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) Project – 'Biotechnology for Leather' and a socially much relevant and sensitive 'Environmental Impact Monitoring (EIM) of Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project (SSCP)' by attracting funds to the tune of Rs.5.02 crores from various funding agencies.

Currently, he is carrying out three Research Projects to the tune of 1.39 crores. He has guided 20 Full Time Research Scholars for Ph.D. and is currently guiding 8 Full Time Research Scholars. He has also received several awards for his teaching and research contribution to the field of Biotechnology including Shri. P.K. Das Memorial Best Faculty Award in Biotechnology, Alagappa Excellence Award for Research and Shri P.K. Das Memorial Life Time Achievement Award.

Prof. V. Balachandran
Registrar i/c.