

31 January 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Appointment of Distinguished Visiting Professors

I am delighted to inform you that the Vice Chancellor has been pleased to appoint Professor Virander S. Chauhan and Professor Kamaljit S. Bawa, both eminent and internationally acclaimed academicians and researchers, as the **Distinguished Visiting Professors** in the Institution of Eminence, University of Delhi. I am equally delighted to share that the two gentlemen Professors have accepted the offer and are on board, with immediate effect.

Professor Virander Singh Chauhan is a former Chairman, UGC and former Director, International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (ICGEB), a UN-funded research organization. Prof. Chauhan is a University of Delhi alumnus and a Rhodes Scholar. After a brief stint as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Georgia during 1977-78, he returned to India and joined the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and later to his alma mater, the University of Delhi's Chemistry Department in 1982, where he worked as a Professor till 1988.

Prof. Chauhan joined the ICGEB, as senior scientist leading the research group involved in studies on Malaria. He subsequently rose to be the Director, ICGEB, a position he held till 2014. At the ICGEB, he led a team of researchers engaged in investigations on basic malaria biology, immunology and in particular blood stage malaria vaccine development. His group developed two recombinant blood stage combination vaccines. The numerous contributions of Prof. Chauhan include the understanding of the mechanism of 'artemisinin and chloroquine, in the treatment of Malaria, which are well recognized internationally. His research on conventionally defined peptides, crucial for developing antibiotic peptides as well as anti-fibrillizing structures, is promising in the treatment protocols for diseases like HIV and Type 2 Diabetes.

Besides the highest quality research, Prof. Chauhan has held high positions at various institutions internationally. He is a well-known education administrator and is well-known for his crucial leadership roles at the UGC, NAAC, etc. Among the many awards and accolades of Prof. Chauhan are Padma Shri, Fellow, Indian National Science Academy, Fellow, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Dr. Iyengar Memorial Award of the ICMR, Ranbaxy Research Award, Om Prakash Bhasin Award, ICMR Basanti Devi Amir Chand Prize, Raj Kristo Dutt Memorial Award of the Indian Science Congress Association, the BioSpectrum Person of the Year Award.

Professor Kamaljit Singh Bawa is an Indian-born scientist and a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) London. He is an evolutionary biologist, a conservation biologist, and is currently the Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA. After receiving his PhD in 1967 from Punjab University, he held the position of a postdoctoral researcher and instructor at College of Forest Resources, University of Washington. In 1972, Prof. Bawa received the Maria Moors Cabot and the Charles Bullard Research Fellowships at Harvard University working as a research fellow at the Grey Herbarium, Harvard University for five years. He later joined the Department of Biology, University of Massachusetts, Boston, where he held the positions of Assistant, Associate and Full Professor. In 1996, Prof. Bawa was appointed Distinguished Professor in Biology at the same institution.



Prof. Kamal Bawa has made outstanding contributions in the field of global change and biodiversity conservation, linking basic researches to human livelihoods, particularly in the Himalayan region. His seminal contributions in the field of reproductive biology of tropical forest trees in Central and Latin America are some of the highest cited works in the discipline. Prof. Bawa's research is focused on generating knowledge about the impact of land use and land cover change, climate change and human use of natural resources on biodiversity. He is interested in developing new paradigms of conservation that can be applied to alleviation of human poverty and development of adaptive strategies advocating the central role of local knowledge.

Kamal Bawa, is the editor-in-chief of *Conservation and Society*, an interdisciplinary journal in conservation, and he serves on the editorial boards of several other academic journals. He is the Founder-President of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), a non-governmental organization devoted to research, policy analysis, and education in India.

Prof. Kamal Bawa has received numerous awards during his illustrious career which include: Giorgio Ruffolo Fellowship at the Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government (2009), Charles Bullard (1972 and 2010) and Maria Moor Cabot Fellowships (1973) Harvard University, Guggenheim Fellowship (1987), Pew Scholar in Conservation and the Environment (1992), the world's first prize in sustainability- the Gannerus Award in Sustainability Science from the Royal Norwegian Society of Letters and Sciences (2012), and the international MIDORI Prize in Biodiversity (2014) from the Aeon Foundation in Japan at the United Nations Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was elected a Member of the American Philosophical Society in 2019.

We look forward to an academically fruitful and rewarding association of Professors Chauhan and Bawa with the University of Delhi.

Sincerely,

Maharaj K. Pandit
Chief Executive Officer