

Obituary-Dr. G. K Jayaprakasha

Dr. Guddarangavvanahally K Jayaprakasha (Jay), 59, Research Professor, Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center (VFIC), Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M University (TAMU), College Station, TX, USA, died on October 25, 2020 of brain cancer.

A native of Guddarangavvanahally, Karnataka, India, Jay received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry, physics, and mathematics from the University of Mysore, Mysore, India in 1983, and MS and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the same university in 1985 and 2004, respectively. As a scientist, he served the food industry (1986–1990) and at the prestigious Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore (1990–2004) in India.



In 2004, he joined TAMU as post-doctoral research associate and later in 2005, he accepted a position as Research Scientist under the supervision of Dr. Bhimu Patil, Director, at the VFIC of TAMU, College Station, TX. He rose through the ranks to become Research Professor in 2014. In 2014, Jay received the VFIC Director's Award of Excellence, which recognizes the Center's most outstanding faculty at TAMU.

Jay's major contribution to science was to the development of methodologies for isolation of bioactive compounds from fruits and vegetables, their characterization combining a variety of analytical platforms, and assessing their role in promoting human health as well as preventing diseases. He authored more than 151 research publications as well as 31 book chapters or reviews in the general areas of organic chemistry, natural products, nutrition, and health. He is the editor of five books and 12 proceedings. He presented 183 abstracts at national and international conferences. Also, he filed 24 patents in the US, Europe, and India. He is well-recognized for his work on natural products and health. Remarkably high citations (Citations – 17871; h-index 63; i10-index – 154) for his body of research work put him in the top 5% of leading authorities in natural products and health in the world.

He received many awards in recognition of his contributions, including the Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC, 2010), Fellow of Agricultural and Food Chemistry (AGFD- Division of American Chemical Society (ACS), Washington DC, Fellow of Association of Food Scientists and Technologist (FAFSTI), Mysore, India, and Fellow of Indian Chemistry, India. He served as Chair, Subdivision of Functional Foods and Natural Products, Agriculture and Food Chemistry Division, ACS as well as organized and presided over several symposia at the ACS annual meetings (2011, 2013, 2017, 2019). He was an ACS member since 2006.

He taught graduate students in food technology for 14 years (1990–2014) and he was an outstanding and caring mentor to over 70 undergraduate and graduate students, and 10 visiting scientists. His dedication to science and his exemplary work ethic inspired students and colleagues at the VFIC and beyond. He embodied humility and empathy and was willing to help anyone in need. Jay will be deeply missed by his friends and colleagues, and remembered for his scientific and personal contributions.

Jay is survived by his wife Savitha, two children Shreyas and Swathi, father Krishnareddy Kommein, four siblings and in-laws Vasudevareddy and Savitramma.