Foreign Fellows Elected - 2020

(Effective from January 1, 2021)

Banerjee, Utpal (*b.* 19.12.1957), *Professor, Department of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology, Professor, Department of Biological Chemistry, Co-Director, Broad Stem Cell Research Center and HHMI Professor, University of California,Los Angeles, 610 Charles E Young Drive East, Los Angeles, California 90095 USA*.

Professor Utpal Banerjee has made fundamental discoveries in molecular and developmental genetics. He identified a gene 'son of sevenless' (or Sos) which proved to be the first example for a guanine nucleotide Exchange Factor in higher eukaryotes. He has also studied linkages between ATP, oxidative stress, cell cycle checkpoints and oncogenic pathways during development.

Bennetzen, Jeffrey Lynn (*b.* 22.05.1952), *Giles Professor, Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar and Professor, Department of Genetics, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, USA.*

Professor JL Bennetzen is a leader in plant genomics, genome organization and plant microbe interactions. He was the first to clone a plant transposable element (TE), discovered preferential insertion of TE into genic region and co-discovered the TE epigenetic regulation associated with DNA methylation.

Bevan, Michael W (*b.* 05.06.1952), *Project Leader, Genes in the Environment, John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, Norwich NR4 7UH, UK.*

Professor Bevan's work has laid the foundations of modern day plant molecular biology and genetics. He pioneered plant transformation and expression technologies, developing the most widely used vector and gene expression systems. He initiated and led the multi-national efforts to sequence the first plant genome - Arabidopsis and Brachypodium genomes, which provide key foundations for plant biology.

Ravishankara, Akkihebbal Ramaiah (*b.* 16.11.1949), *University Distinguished Professor, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, USA.*

Professor Ravishankara has made pioneering contributions to the chemistry of the stratospheric ozone depletion, climate change, and regional air quality. His measurements in the laboratory and in the atmosphere along with model calculations have contributed to deciphering the ozone layer depletion, including the ozone hole; to quantifying the role of chemically active species on climate; and to advancing understanding of the formation, removal, and properties of air pollutants.

Sunyaev, Rashid A (*b.* 01.03.1943), *Professor of Astrophysics, Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics, Kari-Schwarzschild-Str. 1, 85748 Garching, Germany and Space Research Institute (IKI) of Russian Academy of Sciences, 84/32 Profsoyuznaya Street, 117997, Moscow, Russia.*

Professor Sunyaev has done pioneering work in the fields of theoretical astrophysics, X-ray astronomy and cosmology. He, along with Zeldovich, developed the theory of primordial perturbations propagating soon after the Big Bang. Later with Shakura, he developed a model for the accretion of matter onto a black hole. The Shakura-Sunyaev model proved to be very influential and is now widely regarded to be the key theoretical cornerstone for black hole studies.