

Prof. Dr. Pindi Pavan Kumar is currently working as Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Palamuru University, Mahabubnagar, TS, India. He pursued his M.Sc. and Ph.D. Degree in Microbiology from Kakatiya University, Warangal. He is a recipient of DAAD fellowship, Germany (2000-2002) and worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at CCMB, Hyderabad from 2004-2009 in ISRO & NCAOR projects. He has 27 years of research and 15 years of teaching experience. He has completed his PDF (under German DAAD Fellowship) from GSF-Research Centre, Munich, Germany with Dr. J.C. Munch and Dr. Michael Schlöter on “Fungal Diversity of Baltic Sea”. As a Research Associate at CCMB, he carried out research on Bacterial Diversity & Metagenomics with Dr. S Shivaji. Identifying 3 novel bacteria from Stratosphere was a challenging venture and appreciation by former ISRO chairman Dr. Madhavan Nayar and former President of India Dr. Abdul Kalam, carved me into a confident microbiologist. He could successfully screened 3 novel species from the soil samples in the university campus that raised curtain to the new dimension of the research. That led to the hypothesis Bio-geo-inoculants for sustainable soil health and nursery plants. Isolates from the same geographical region were identified to be positive for plant growth in less fertile lands of the same region.

Received many prestigious international awards such as German DAAD Fellow (2000), Government of India DST-Young Scientist Award (2011), UGC Research award (2013), Best Scientist award from Dist. Collector, MBNR (2016 & 2018), Fellow, Royal Society of Biology, London, UK and Telangana Academy of Sciences (TAS). He is also a Life member of various organizations like Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI), American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). Dr. Pavan Kumar holds a Guinness World Record certificate in 2010. His Research areas include Metagenomics of extreme habitats, Mycorrhizae and Rhizobia (Biofertilizers) and Microbial ecology. Novel lipase gene LipHim1 (HM130054) was isolated through Metagenomics approach. He isolated three Novel bacteria from Mahabubnagar Dist.viz., *Bacillus* sp. (GU566359), *Rheinheimera* sp. (GU566360) and *Acinetobacter* sp. (GU566361). He also isolated, identified and characterized an industrially potential novel bacterium (Novel Biofertilizer) from Palamuru University campus and named it as *Chryseomicrobium palamuruense* (PUIIT ) FN555708 and also reported *Cupriavidus* sps (GU566329), a gold Bioleaching bacterium in water samples from Achampet. He has published more than 100 research papers in UGC-CARE II listed National and International journals, authored 3 books and contributed 13 book chapters.

Prof. Dr. Pavan Kumar has four international patents (WO2017115314A1), (WO2017216736), (WO2018/069881) and (WO 2022/229690); two Indian patents (202141019669) and (202241054359A) to his credit and is editor for Asian Journal of Microbiology, Biotechnology and Environmental Sciences. He has completed 3 major research projects funded by SERB, DST and UGC. During pandemic he served as Registrar and completed construction work of University Campus compound wall and planted one lakh plants in University Campus as a contribution towards Harithaharam, The Green Challenge for which he was awarded District Green Champion from MGNCRE, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. He has recently approved his project on Establishment of Institutional Herbal Garden and Aromatic Plants at Palamuru University. As a director, Research Cell, PU, he has initiated the construction of centralized research facilities building worth of Rs. 10 crores at Palamuru University campus.

His academic contributions include Head, Dept. of Microbiology (2010-13), Principal & Chairman NSS (2012-2017), EC Member, Palamuru University (2014-2019), Dean UGC (2017-19), Professor & Chairman BoS (2016- till date) and Dean, Sciences (2021). He served as Director, IQAC (2015-2019), Controller of Examinations (2019), Registrar and Dean, CDC (2019-2022), Palamuru University, Mahabubnagar. His major contributions involved strengthening academic bodies by achieving recognitions like UGC-12B (2014), PCI-Pharmaceutical Sciences (2014), NCTE-Education (2015), NAAC accreditation (2018), RUSA (2.0) and conducted Convocations (2014 & 2018). American Society for Microbiology (ASM) has extended an invitation to Dr. Pindi to present his research findings at a conference in Houston, Texas, USA, in June 2023.