

Office of the
PRO-Media Coordinator
Jamia Millia Islamia

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Press Release

JMI Professor elected as the fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore

The Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore has elected Professor Zahid Ashraf of JMI for the fellowship of the Academy. The honour is made in recognition of his contributions in the area of Biomedical Sciences.

The Indian Academy of Sciences, one of the most prestigious science academies of the country, through its elaborate science education programs propagates science at the national level. Selection of fellows, as a representative of the scientific work of India at international level, helps the academy to achieve its purposes. As a fellow of the Academy, Dr Ashraf will be involved in furthering the cause of science in the country. This is the second in a row as a fellow of a prestigious science academy following his election as a fellow of National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad.

Last year has been the prolific year for Dr. Ashraf for receiving the prestigious DBT's National Biosciences award and ICMR's Basanti Devi Amir Chand Award. These awards are the testament to his extraordinary research on thromboembolic diseases, as evidenced by his publications in high impact journals such as Blood (2014), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA (2017), EBiomedince (2017) and many more. Prof. Ashraf conducted seminal research on thrombosis problem inflicting our soldiers positioned at high altitude. Cardiovascular disorders are the predominant killer of our population, costing billions of rupees in health related expenses. Inflammation is the central event in atherosclerosis as well as in thrombosis which can be initiated by many genetic and environmental factors. A detailed understanding of mechanism at the molecular and cellular levels is imperative to devise rational therapeutic strategies.

Prof. Ashraf's contributions, over the years have set out prevalence, pathophysiology, genetic, diagnostic, and development of clinically relevant animal model systems for thromboembolism at HA. He has exclusively established the pre-clinical studies for venous thrombosis in India and demonstrated the translational implications of pre-clinical findings in human patients, which supports the worthiness of the work. His research efforts have tried to resolve the mystery of clotting disorders at high-altitude (HA) to a large extent that will subsequently lead to the development of possible prophylactic agents/ antithrombotic. Such discovery of therapeutic interventions will be of immense societal benefit as it will significantly reduce the burden of thromboembolic disorders especially in Army Jawans posted at extreme altitudes.

Dr. Ashraf is currently a Professor in the Department of Biotechnology at Faculty of Natural Sciences, JMI, New Delhi. Prior to his joining at the University, he was Head of the Genomics Division at Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Delhi. Dr. Ashraf has had an exceptional academic career. He did his undergraduate studies in Biosciences from the JMI, New Delhi and his doctoral work at the JMI and Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute (VPCI), University of Delhi, New Delhi. After receiving his doctoral degree, Dr Ashraf worked as a post-doctoral fellow at one of the foremost research groups in cardiovascular biology at the department of cell biology and department of molecular cardiology at the Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic, USA. His post-doctoral research involved studies on regulation of cardiovascular function by endothelial gene expression and their modulation by signaling molecules accompanied by the studies on the role of scavenger receptors in cardiovascular diseases.

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