

Meet a New ASP Member

New ASP Member Dr. Paul Bagavandoss is an Associate Professor at Kent State University at Stark, North Canton, Ohio. In addition to teaching, Dr. Bagavandoss' incorporates undergraduates in his research on cancer. He shares his interest in collaborating with other ASP members and testing compounds for anticancer activity. We warmly welcome Dr. Bagavandoss to the ASP and look forward to seeing him and his students at future Annual Meetings.

By Dr. Dan Kulakowski

How did you hear about the ASP?

I found out about the ASP while searching for natural products topics on the internet.

Why did you join ASP?

I teach at a regional campus of Kent State University, and have eight courses per year. I like to do research, but this is very difficult with 4/4 teaching load. I obtain internal grants for research and train undergraduate students in *in vitro* research with ovarian cancer cells. We gather enough data to attend the American Society of Cell Biology meetings, which provides an opportunity for students to seek admission to graduate school, if they are interested. I also would like to meet ASP researchers for potential collaboration.

Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

I belong to the American Society of Cell Biology and International Cannabinoid Research Society (ICRS).

What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

I would like to test plant chemicals on ovarian cancer cell proliferation. I am presently researching oleoylethanolamide (OEA), an analog of anandamide which acts as an appetite suppressant and an inhibitor of certain cancer cells. If there are ASP researchers who are willing to share their compounds for undergraduate research, that would be great.

What is your scientific background?

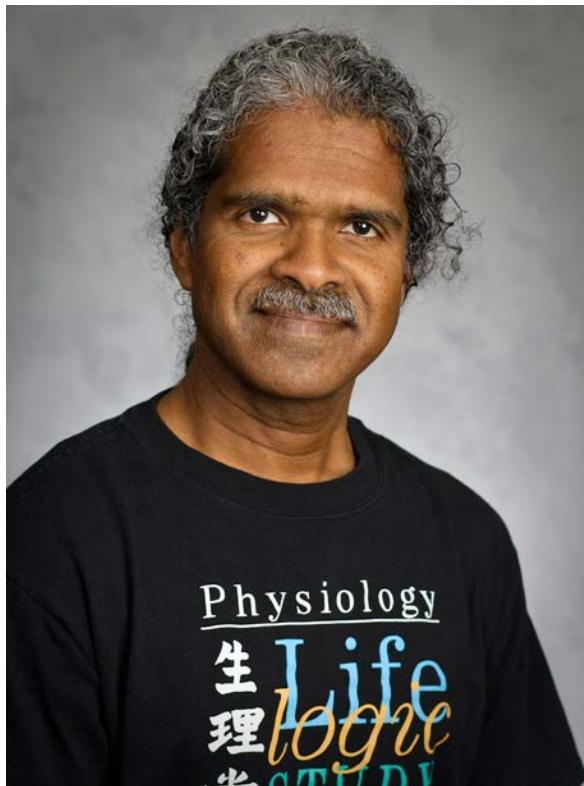
I am trained as a reproductive physiologist, but I am becoming an *in vitro* cell biologist; it is difficult to do animal research due to lack of time, facility and funds.

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I am looking for collaboration and would like to bring undergraduate students to the Annual Meetings.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

Very little spare time exists for me!



Dr. Paul Bagavandoss

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY-STARK

What are you currently reading?

I am reading articles on the biology of aging and the caste system in India.

What is your favorite plant, fungus, animal or microbe (for research or general interest) and why?

I like the neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*). In India, this tree is revered as a medicine and used in religious festivals. I also am fascinated by *Cannabis sativa*. Of all the plants on earth, only this one seems to produce tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which has captured the interest of people over thousands of years. ■

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