Dr. Satdarshan Pal (Paul) S. Monga, Division Director of Experimental Pathology and Professor in the Department of Pathology and Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, is the recipient of the 2014 ASIP Outstanding Investigator Award. This prestigious award recognizes mid-career investigators with demonstrated excellence in research in experimental pathology.

Dr. Monga’s recent work has been examining the significance of beta-catenin inhibition as a treatment strategy in liver cancer. Dr. George Michalopoulos of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine praises Dr. Monga’s extensive research and findings: “he has identified novel small molecule inhibitors of Wnt/beta-catenin signaling that are currently being tested for preclinical use in treatment of beta-catenin-active liver tumors.” Dr. Monga has “uncovered many additional and relevant aspects of Wnt signaling in liver health and disease. In addition, his recent findings also uncover an unexpected role of beta-catenin as a ‘tumor suppressor’ in the liver cancer,” according to Dr. Michalopoulos.

Dr. Janardan Reddy of Northwestern University states that Dr. Monga “has truly achieved the status of a respected physician scientist with the international name recognition in the field of experimental liver research.” Dr. Reddy also praises Dr. Monga’s teaching abilities and his high visibility at the national level in scientific organizations and as an invited speaker.

Dr. William Coleman of the University of Carolina, School of Medicine (a former recipient of the ASIP Outstanding Investigator Award) notes Dr. Monga’s expertise in regards to his many publications. Dr. Coleman states: “Dr. Monga’s national and international reputation as an excellent scientist is reflected in his active participation in various professional activities, including reviewing manuscripts for journals, reviewing grant applications, and serving professional societies.”

Dr. Monga has been an active member and leader within ASIP for many years. He served as Chair of the ASIP Program Committee from 2008-2010 and is serving again as Chair of the ASIP Program Committee for the ASIP 2014 and 2015 annual meetings. Dr. Monga also was the first Chair of the ASIP Special Task Force on Scientific Events and Special Programs. In those capacities, he has served on the ASIP Council. Dr. Monga had a very active role on the ASIP Long Range Planning Committee (2006-2007) and helped produce a plan for the continued growth and development of ASIP.
Dr. Monga received his MD from Dayanand Medical College & Hospital, Ludhiana and Punjab University in 1992. He came to the United States to pursue further training and joined the University of Pittsburgh in 1999.

Dr. Monga presented his award lecture, “Beta-catenin in Liver Pathobiology: You Wnt Some, You Lose Some!” on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at the 2014 ASIP Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology in San Diego, California. He received the Outstanding Investigator Award on Monday, April 28, 2014 at the ASIP Membership Business Meeting and Awards Presentation.