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**Anirban Maitra, MBBS, Receives the
2016 ASIP Outstanding Investigator Award**



Dr. Anirban Maitra from the MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas is the recipient of the 2016 ASIP Outstanding Investigator Award. This prestigious award recognizes midcareer investigators with demonstrated excellence in research in experimental pathology.

Dr. Vinay Kumar from the University of Chicago acclaims Dr. Maitra's numerous publications over his academic career. Dr. Maitra has published over 250 papers and is the first or last author on 57 publications since he joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins in 2002. Dr. Maitra has also had 162 collaborative papers during the same time. Dr. Kumar states "the 2003 *Nature* paper in which Anirban shared first authorship with two others was a landmark paper that established aberrant hedgehog signaling in a wide variety of gastrointestinal cancers." The 2003 *Nature* paper has been cited almost 500

times. Dr. Kumar also praises Dr. Maitra's excellence in clinical service and teaching. Dr. Maitra's mentoring skills are also highlighted by the fact that he has mentored about 20 PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and residents since 2005.

Dr. Ralph Hruban from Johns Hopkins further explains the impact of Dr. Maitra's work: "Dr. Maitra's significant impact is further exemplified by his selection by the World Health Organization to contribute the section on precursor lesions for the 2010 WHO "blue" book on tumors of the digestive tract." Dr. Maitra's 2005 paper in *Nature Genetics* on the genomic instability of human embryonic stem (ES) cells is a "landmark in the field as it establishes the presence of genome-wide genetic abnormalities in the available public repository of ES cells in the United States."

Dr. Asif Rashid of MD Anderson Cancer Center praises Dr. Maitra's contributions to "understanding the molecular pathogenesis of pancreatic cancer, one of the deadliest of all human malignancies, with a five year survival of less than 5%, and accounting for >37,000 deaths in the US annually." Dr. Maitra was an "integral member of the team that sequenced the exome of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinomas, as well as that of the relatively uncommon pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors." Dr. Rashid also acclaims that Dr. Maitra is "recognized internationally in the development of molecularly targeted therapies for the disease." Dr. Maitra received his MBBS from the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences in India. He then came to the United States to do his postgraduate training. Dr. Maitra has been a member of ASIP since 2002.

Dr. Maitra presented his award lecture, "Making progress against pancreatic cancer: where the rubber hits the road," on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the ASIP 2016 Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology in San Diego, California. He received the Outstanding Investigator Award on Monday, April 4, 2016 at the ASIP Membership Business Meeting and Awards Presentation.

