



American Society for Investigative Pathology
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Amgen Outstanding Investigator Award - 2005
Arul Chinnaiyan



ASIP honors Dr. Arul Chinnaiyan, Associate Professor of Pathology and Urology and S.P. Hicks Endowed Developmental Professor, University of Michigan, with the 2005 Amgen Outstanding Investigator Award. The award is presented to an ASIP member under the age of 43 for meritorious research in experimental pathology.

Dr. Chinnaiyan has had a spectacular career in his research pursuits, beginning in the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) and as a house officer in Clinical Pathology and continuing during his professional career at the University of Michigan. He has made seminal contributions to the understanding of apoptosis and prostate cancer.

“Currently, Dr. Chinnaiyan is focused on using DNA, tissue, and microarrays to molecularly dissect prostate cancer,” said Dr. Peter Ward, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pathology, University of Michigan. “He is looking to define a molecular classification for this disease that will be of use in the clinical practice.”

After success as an MSTP student, Dr. Chinnaiyan was eager to develop an independent research program. Instead of building on his previous work investigating the molecular and cellular biology of apoptosis, he decided to take a risk and delve into the functional genomics of human disease. After establishing a laboratory, he made a major impact on the characteristics of prostate cancer, including gene expression profiles and biomarkers.

His laboratory has been awarded support from a variety of agencies including NIH/NCI, the American Cancer Society, and the Department of Defense. He is nationally recognized in the field of prostate cancer genomics/proteomics and has given more than 40 invited lectures. Dr. Chinnaiyan also directs the Tissue/Informatics Core for the Michigan Prostate Specialized Program of Research Excellence (S.P.O.R.E.) as well as the Pathology Microarray Lab.

With more than 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including Nature, Cancer Research and The American Journal of Pathology, Dr. Chinnaiyan has been designated as a Pew Biomedical Scholar.

“Arul is the best scientist I have had the pleasure of being closely associated with in my past 20 years in biomedical research,” said Vishva Dixit, M.D., Senior Director, Molecular Oncology Department, Genentech, Inc. “His high moral character combined with his outstanding academic achievement made working together a real pleasure.”

Dr. Chinnaiyan received his B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan and later his M.D. and Ph.D. through the University's MSTP program.

Dr. Chinnaiyan will receive his award at ASIP's Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2005 in San Diego and present the paper, “The future of pathology: genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics” on April 3.