

Profile and Research Interests

Geeta K Vemuganti, MD, DNB, FAMS, FICP

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- President Elect, International Society of Ophthalmic Pathology
- Committee Member, International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Residency Curriculum
- International Advisor to APAO online Education "International Consultation for Ocular Oncology and Pathology Cases"
- Nominated International Member, ARVO
- Members Awards Committee, ARVO
- Chairman, Global Member Committee, ARVO

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1. **Training:** Underwent training in ocular pathology at Doheny Eye Institute, LA, Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia and Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), Washington, DC. Also a visiting pathologist at Eye and Ear Infirmary, and Department of Pathology, Univ of Illinois, Chicago.
2. **Collaborations:** Scientists from Ottawa, Canada, Northwestern University Chicago, Australia, Malaysia, UK
3. **Publications:230** (Papers:179; Published abstracts: 29; Book chapter:12) Citation Index of 4196 and H Index of 36 (Google Scholar)
4. **Invited Talks/ Courses/CME: 300**(International-100;National-200)
5. **Awards & Honors: 36**
 - Best papers/posters in National meetings : 5
 - National Awards/Honors of Breakthrough Research : 17
 - Leading Women Scientist Awards : 4
 - International Awards : 10
6. **Grants: 20** (worth 15 crores INR; USD: 4 million)
7. **Professional Associations/Membership: 20** (International- 5; National 15)
8. **Advisory Board: 6** (International 2, National 4)
9. **Reviewer: 23** (International Journals: 14; National : 9)
10. **Brief Biosketch:** A physician- pathologist by training, with special interest and experience in ocular pathology and stem cell research.
Ocular Pathology: Areas of interest include in corneal infections,

genotype-phenotype correlation in corneal dystrophies, oculo-adenexal tumors; especially retinoblastoma, ocular surface squamous cell carcinoma.

Stem cell research: Translational research, specially related to ocular surface reconstruction using cultivated epithelial sheets using human amniotic membrane as a carrier. Current research interests; Plasticity of Bone marrow stromal cells; Biology of limbal, conjunctival and oral mucosal cells; and cancer stem cells in ocular tumors.

Awards & Honors:

- Awarded the best thematic film at the Film festival of All India Ophthalmological Society, Chennai, 2000 entitled " Mimics of Retinoblastoma"
- Awarded the best Poster for the paper entitled "Microwave assisted rapid Gomori's Methanamine Silver staining for identification of fungus in corneal scrapings" at 31st meeting of Indian Academy of Cytologists, held on 5-6th November, 2001, at Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad
- Awarded the Rangachari Gold medal for the best paper entitled " Proliferative potential of stem cells from fresh vs cadaveric limbal tissues" All India Ophthalmological Society, January 2002
- Interviewed for an UGC program on Women Scientist and chosen as one of the leading – Ladies in labs for a 15 minute documentary film
- Awarded the CHEMTECH PHARMABIO "**Outstanding Contribution**" Award (Biotech), for the year 2005. This is in recognition of the pioneering contribution in the area of medical biotechnology and biosciences, especially in the area of using stem cell techniques to restore the precious vision in patients.
- Awarded the "National Bioscience Award for Career Development for the year 2003-4, in recognition of the outstanding research contributions. This award is from the Secretary, Govt of India, Ministry of Science & technology, Department of Biotechnology.
- Awarded the "Best paper presentation" for the paper entitled " Histopathology of cornea after cultivated limbal epithelial transplantation" at the annual meeting of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists, AP chapter, 10-11th September 2005
- Awarded the "Dr Shurveer Singh Trust Oration Award" at RNT Medical College, Udaipur, Rajasthan, 23rd February 2006
- Awarded "Vaidashri Award" by Megacity Kala Vedika, on 28th February 2006 at Tyagaraja Gana Sabha, Hyderabad
- Life Patron of Al Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- Awarded the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Achievement Award, 2006
- Awarded the Best Oral Presentation for a paper presented at the Stem Cell Research Forum of India and International Stem Cell Meeting, 29 - 1st Feb 2007, Bangalore.

- Awarded 5 best photographs by the Ophthalmic Photographic Society, at the American Society of Cataract and Refractory Surgery, San Diego, April 2- 3rd May 2007, for the following Categories
- Awarded the Biotech Products and Process Development and Commercialisation for the year 2007 in initiating the first adult stem therapy in India which turned out to be the largest clinical trial of its kind that has restored sight to more than 200 patients. This is a joint award shared by Dr Virender S Sangwan and Geeta K Vemuganti and is from Govt of India, Ministry of Science & technology, Department of Biotechnology.
- Elected Fellow of National Academy of Medical Sciences, 2007
- Awarded as one of the Outstanding Woman Achievers of year 2008 by International Lions Club- on Mahilaotsav Day on 30th January at NTR Gardens, Hyderabad.
- Nominated and Elected as Member Program Committee ARVO (AP section) 2009
- Invited Reviewer for projects submitted to Medical Research Council, UK on Translational Research
- Association of Biotechnology & Pharmacy Senior Scientist Award at the International Symposium on “Emerging Trends in Biomedical and Nanobiotechnology: Relevance to Human Health” held at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, A.P, India, from December, 19-21, 2009.
- Four Decade Trust Oration on “Stem Cell Research: How do we make the Bench to Bedside Journey?” at SMS Medical College, Jaipur, on 24th December, 2009..
- Elected Fellow of Indian College of Pathologists
- Shri Shyam Lal Saksena Memorial Award for year 2010 from National Academy of Medical Sciences
- Best of the awardees award at National Academy of Medical Sciences Amritsar Award 2007 given at the NAMS meeting, Patiala, 31st October 2010
- Nominated and Elected as Fellow of Indian College of Pathologists, 2009
- Nominated and Elected as President Elect, International Society of Ophthalmic Pathology
- Invited as a Committee Member to update the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Residency Curriculum
- Nominated International Member ARVO
- Nominated member of Award Committee, Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, USA 2011-2013
- Elected member of ARVO program committee- Anatomy-Pathology Section
- Chair, ARVO Program member committee, Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, USA 2013
- Awarded the Dr Chapati Raju Memorial Oration at IMA CME, Warangal, 11th of August 2012

- Felicitated by Megacity Navakala Vedika on Women' s Day Celebrations on 7th March 2013
- Invited to deliver the Lt Gen Mushtaq Baig Memorial lecture on Stem cell therapy at the 11th Biennial meeting of SAARC Academy of Ophthalmology and 16th Islamabad Congress of Ophthalmology at Bhurban, Pakistan 3-6th October 2013
- Recipient of Scientific and Engineering Research Board, Dept of Science and Technology Travel Award, April 2014
- Awarded the 2013 ARVO/Merck Collaborative Research Fellowship Award by ARVO Foundation for Eye Research and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) through a grant from Merck for the proposal entitled “ Effect of Androgens on Human Lacrimal Gland Cells In-vitro.”
- Nominated Chair of Global Member Committee, Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, USA
- Distinguished Lecture Schepen's Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, May 2014 on "Human lacrimal gland cultures: progress and promise
- Indian Academy of Pathologists Oration 5th December 2015, Kochi
- ARVO Women in Ophthalmology Keynote Speaker
- International Mentor for ARVO Women Leadership Program
- American Academy Senior Achievement Award 2017
- Selected for the Vishtha Puruskar by Dr Ramineni Foundation, USA 2017