

Dr Senthil Kumar, D. Awarded ICAR-Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis in Veterinary Pathology



Dr Senthil Kumar D., Scientist, ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh was awarded ICAR-Jawaharlal Nehru Award for outstanding doctoral thesis research in agricultural and allied sciences for animal science category for the year, 2018. Dr Senthil Kumar was presented this coveted award on 16th July 2019 jointly by former Director General and President, NAAS Dr Panjab Singh and Dr Trilochan Mahapatra, Director General, ICAR and Secretary, DARE in 91st Foundation Day Celebrations of ICAR held at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex, New Delhi. He obtained PhD degree on thesis entitled “Pathobiology of Indian porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV) in pigs with special reference to high mobility group box-1 protein (HMGB-1)” in Veterinary Pathology discipline from Deemed University, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, UP under able guidance of Dr Rajukumar, K., Principal Scientist, ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal, MP. Dr Senthil was born on 10th June, 1980 at Vellore, Tamil Nadu. He obtained BVSc degree in 2004 (from Madras Veterinary College, TANUVAS, Chennai, Tamil Nadu), MVSc degree in Veterinary Pathology in 2008 (from Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Bengaluru) and PhD in same discipline (from Division of Pathology, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, UP). Dr Senthil Kumar joined as Scientist at ICAR-NIHSAD (formerly HSADL, IVRI), Bhopal in June 2009 and in June 2014 he was promoted as Scientist (Senior Scale). Dr Senthil Kumar was a brilliant student and he is recipient of Merit Scholarship during his graduation studies at TANUVAS, Chennai during 1998-2004 and ICAR-Junior Research Fellowship during his postgraduate studies at KVAFSU, Bengaluru during 2005-2007. He was also awarded NAIP International Fellowship cum Collaborative Research Programme on topic “Induced Pluripotent Stem cells” at Rutgers University-The State University of New Jersey, USA for a period of 3 months in 2013. Dr Senthil Kumar characterized the pathogenicity of Indian Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV) in experimentally infected pigs for the first time and elucidated the role of High Mobility Group Box Protein-1 (HMGB-1) in host defense responses to PRRSV infection. The study provided many insights like the highly pathogenic nature of Indian PRRSV, the virus distribution and shedding patterns, optimum period of sample collection, choice of sample for rapid and accurate diagnosis of the disease. *Taqman* based RT-qPCR was developed for rapid detection and quantification of highly pathogenic PRRS virus in clinical samples. The study also generated new knowledge on the potential role of HMGB-1, its interactions with lipopolysaccharides and reactive oxygen species in PRRS pathogenesis, indicating the usefulness of HMGB-1 as a biomarker for assessment of severity of the disease. **IAVP Congratulates Dr Senthil Kumar and his mentor Dr K. Rajukumar for this great scientific achievement.** You may congratulate him. (Email ID senvetpath@gmail.com).