

## Prof. Sudesh Kumar

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Prof. Sudesh's main research interest is in the design and synthesis of biodegradable polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) using microbial systems. He started researching in this area in 1992 and obtained his Masters in Biotechnology from University Malaya. Then, he continued research in this area for his PhD, which was sponsored by Japanese Government (Monbusho). His research project was on the cloning and characterization of the genes involved in the production of PHAs. The research was conducted at RIKEN Institute, Japan. He obtained his PhD in 1999 and then continued as a Special Postdoctoral Researcher at RIKEN. He returned to Malaysia under the Brain Gain Program and joined the School of Biological Sciences,

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) as a lecturer in 2001 and became a full professor in 2011. In the past 16 years in USM he has significantly contributed to the research and development of biodegradable plastics in Malaysia and is one of the recipients of the Top Research Scientist Malaysia (TRSM) awarded by Academy of Sciences Malaysia. During this time, he has supervised 25 MSc and 27 PhD students. Currently, he is supervising 20 postgraduates. In addition to the more than 150 scientific publications, he has 5 granted patents, 2 of which has been successfully licensed. His *h*-index and total citations under Scopus are 27 and 3292 respectively. Prof. Sudesh is actively involved in international research collaborations with Japan, Russia, Thailand, Sweden, India, Vietnam, Germany and USA. His research activities are funded by grants from the university, ministries (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation), as well as industries from both within Malaysia and abroad.