

## BIOGRAPHY

**Professor Arun Dharmarajan**

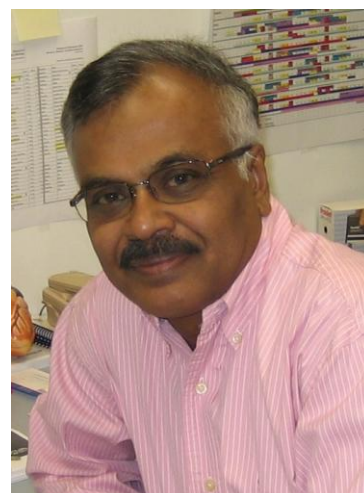
**Winthrop Professor**

**School of Anatomy and Human Biology**

**Associate Dean (South Asia Research Initiatives)**

**Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences**

**The University of Western Australia**



Professor Arun Dharmarajan is a Winthrop Professor and Associate Dean (South Asia Research Initiatives) and has the responsibility of teaching and research in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology. As Associate Dean for South Asia Research Initiative, Professor Dharmarajan's primary role is to establish strong research links with Universities and Research Institutes in India. He has already established excellent research links with many universities such as University of Kerala University, University of Mumbai, University of Madras, Bharadisan University, SRM University, Anna University, Madurai University and Delhi University. In addition he has established research links with CCMB, RGCBT, NCBS, NII, IISc, VIT, ICFAI and many other institutes throughout India.

Prior to his appointment with UWA, Professor Dharmarajan was at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA for 10 years. Professor Dharmarajan has conducted an active research program in the area of apoptosis and cell signalling since taking up a position in the department (now School) of Anatomy and Human Biology. His international standing as a scientist is evidenced by his publication record, his experience as a student supervisor and mentor, his extensive collaborations both overseas and within Australia, and his invited attendance at over 75 international/national meetings. Professor Dharmarajan and has published over refereed 100 papers/reviews and book chapters. He has supervised more than 80 Hons, M.Sc and PhD students. He has served in the editorial board of several journals and currently he is on the board of 5 international journals.

In addition to his studies on apoptosis of the corpus luteum, which included studies of ceramide and sphingosine signalling in TNF-alpha-induced apoptosis, his research more recently has focussed on cancer biology. He and his colleagues were the first to show a role for secreted frizzled related protein-4 (sFRP4) in ovarian, breast, prostate and mesothelioma cancers and proposed an application for this protein as an early diagnostic. Preliminary research has been carried out into its effects on endothelial cell function, migration and *in vitro* wound healing. Methods are currently being devised to identify the active fragment of sFRP4, together with its signalling pathway, to develop a tumour-specific regimen for sFRP4 either acting alone or in combination with other anti-tumour drugs in an *in vivo* setting.

More recently he has discovered a novel anti-angiogenic protein which also has important clinical implications in cancer diagnosis and treatment; Australia, US and India patents have been approved based on this discovery. This work was published in American Journal of Pathology in March.