LIFELINES

R. Ganeshjeevan, see *JALCA* **99**, 12, 2004

S. Suresh is a post graduate in Chemistry and with over 10 years of experience in Analytical chemistry of Leather and in particular specialized in the area of Hazardous Chemicals analyses; an expert in various Chromatography and Spectroscopic techniques.

C. Muralidharan, see *JALCA* **110**, 23, 2015

S. Raja is a post graduate in Chemistry and with 5 years of experience in Analytical chemistry of Leather with specialization in Hazardous Chemicals analyses. Gained good knowledge in various sophisticated instrumental techniques.

A. B. Mandal, see *JALCA* **105**, 309, 2010

Can Akpolat, received a bachelor's degrees in both Biology and Chemistry in 2011, M.Sc. degree in 2014 from Biology Department of Marmara University. He was an Erasmus student in Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sevilla from 2012 to 2013. He also receieved a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2014 from Anadolu University. He is a PhD student in Department of Biology, Institute of Pure and Applied Science, Marmara University. He has been working as an IB Chemistry Teacher in Rainbow College since 2014. He presented 3 poster presentations in national and international congress. His research interests are halophilic microorganisms and hide microbiology.

Antonio Ventosa is a PhD in Microbiology (1981, University of Granada, Spain) and currently is Professor at the University of Sevilla, Spain. He is the Head of the Department of Microbiology and Parasitology of the University of Sevilla, Spain. He has been Vice–Dean (1993-1997) and Dean (1997-2001) of the Faculty of Pharmacy, and Vice-rector of Postgraduate Studies (2003-2006) of the University of Sevilla, Spain. He has published more than 317 research articles in books and journals. He has supervised 20 Doctoral Thesis and has been involved in a large number of research projects. Currently is Editor of the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology and member of the Editorial Boards of the journals: Extremophiles, International Microbiology and Archaea. Member of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP) and Chairman of the ICSP-Subcommittees on the Taxonomy of *Halobacteriaceae* and *Halomonadaceae*. In 1991 received the award Jaime Ferran from the Spanish Society of Microbiology (SEM) and in 2008 the Price FAMA of Research from the University of Sevilla. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (2004) and the European Academy of Microbiology (2009). Currently is President of the International Society of Extremophiles (ISE) and the Spanish Society of Microbiology (SEM). His research is focused on the study of extremophilic microorganisms, especially halophiles; he has interest in the microbial diversity of hypersaline environments, using both classical and molecular approaches (metagenomics), the taxonomy and phylogeny of halophiles and their biotechnological applications.

Meral Birbir, received a bachelor's degree in biology in 1985, M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in 1987 and 1991, respectively from Department of Biology, Marmara University. She has been working in Biology Department of Marmara University since 1985 and currently is Professor at the Marmara University. She is the Head of the Division of Plant Diseases and Microbiology, Biology Department of Marmara University, Turkey. Professor Birbir has been a member of the Editorial Board of JALCA since 2014. She was a visiting research scientist in Department of Pathology and Microbiology, Veterinary Medical School, Purdue University in 1990. She was a research scientist in Hides and Leather Department of USDA from 1992 to 1993. Her research interests are moderately halophilic bacteria, extremely halophilic archaea, hide microbiology, food microbiology, antimicrobial agents, electric current application and microbiology of hypersaline environments. Professor Birbir especially focused on halophilic and non-halophilic microorganisms that live on salted hides and their control with antimicrobials or electric current. She has published 64 research articles and graduated 32 master and one doctorate students. She presented 60 oral and poster presentations in national and international congress. She has completed 26 scientific projects.

Cristina sánchez-Porro has a degree in Pharmacy (1999, University of Sevilla, Spain) and a PhD in Microbiology (2005, University of Sevilla, Spain). Her Doctoral Thesis received the award Ayuntamiento de Sevilla, in 2005. Currently is Assistant Professor at the University of Sevilla, Spain. In 2005 she received the prize from the Academia Iberoamericana de Farmacia. Se has published more than 70 research articles in books and scientific journals. She has supervised one Doctoral Thesis and has been involved in a large number of research projects. Her research is focused on the microbial diversity of hypersaline environments, using both classical and molecular approaches (metagenomics), the taxonomy and phylogeny of halophilic archaea and bacteria as well as on the study of extracellular enzymes produced by these microorganisms.

Pinar Caglayan, graduated from Department of Biology, Ataturk Faculty of Education, Marmara University, Turkey in 2007. She received her M.Sc. degree in Biology in 2010 from Institute of Pure and Applied Sciences, Marmara University. She was an Erasmus student in Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Sevilla University, Spain from 2008 to 2009 and 2013. Pinar Caglayan is Graduate student (PhD) at Marmara University, Department of Biology. She has been working as a research and teaching assistant of the Division of Plant Diseases and Microbiology, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Letters, Marmara University since 2011. Her research interests are moderately halophilic bacteria, extremely halophilic archaea, antimicrobial agents, electric currents and hide microbiology. She has published 7 research articles. She presented 28 oral and poster presentations in international congress

K. V. Sandhya obtained B. Tech., (Chemical Engineering) Degree from St .Peter's Engineering College (Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai), Avadi, Chennai, India. She is working in the area of Green Chemistry and Engineering for the past three years mainly focusing in Development of New Processes for Leather and Chemical Industries. She is working in CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) as Project Assistant and presently doing M. S (By Research), in Chemical Engineering at Anna University, Chennai, India. She has presented six papers in National and International Conferences and published Two papers in peer reviewed journals.

N. Vedaraman, see *JALCA* **107**, 435, 2012

V. John Sundar, see *JALCA* **107**, 435, 2012

R. Mohan, B. Tech (Leather Technology), M. Tech (Footwear Technology) from Anna University, Chennai, INDIA, currently designated as Principal Scientist in Shoe Design and Development Center, CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI). He has worked for more than 25 years in research & development activities in the field of Leather and footwear Science. He has published 22 research papers, 2 patents and guided 10 M.Tech (footwear) projects.

K. C Velappan, B.Tech (Chemical Engineering), MS (Chemical Engineering) from AC Tech, Anna University, Chennai, INDIA, currently designated as Senior Principal Scientist in Chemical Engineering Department, CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. He has more than 25 years of Research & Development activities in the field of process development, scale-up studies, and basic engineering package design for chemical and alternate energy. He has honored as "The Best Young Scientist" by The Human Resource Development of Tamil Nadu for Biodiesel process development. He received the Poster Award for Liquid Biofuels in the *17th European Biomass Conference*, Hamburg, Germany He has more than 25 research papers, 4 book chapters and 14 national / international patents.

Yanhong Li, see *JALCA* **109**, 207, 2014

Fengxiang Luo is a PHD candidate and now studying in the Key Lab of Leather Chemistry and Engineering of Ministry of Education in Sichuan University, Sichuan Province, China. She focuses on the study of the application of carbohydrase in the unhairing process of leather manufacture.

Biyu Peng, see *JALCA* **109**, 207, 2014

Bingbin Xu graduated from Sichuan University, Sichuan Province, China. He gained a master degree in fermentation engineering and has been working in Dowell Science & Technology Co. Ltd, China. His thesis was about the study of hydrolytic performance of proteases on elastin.

News Release from the IULTCS
May 20, 2015
2015 IULTCS Merit Award Winner Announced

The Executive Committee of the IULTCS takes great pleasure in announcing the 2015 winner of the ***"IULTCS Merit Award for Excellence in the Leather Industry".*** The winner of this prestigious award is the world renowned leather scientist **Professor Bi Shi**. Dr. Shi completed his studies on leather and Chemistry at Sichuan University and Sheffield University and spent a year as visiting scholar at Nene College in the UK. Today, he is Director of the National Engineering Laboratory for Clean Technology of Leather Manufacture of Sichuan University, in Chengdu, China and also serves as an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

At last count, Dr. Shi had authored or co-authored 427 papers, 5 books, and his research group has 35 patents. His contributions to the leather industry extend beyond academics. He is active in leather organizations, a Past President of the IULTCS, a well-known contributor at international technical meetings and Congresses and a sought after key-note speaker.

The current IULTCS President, Dr. Patricia Casey from Argentina said: "*I hope that many in our global leather family will be able to attend the 33rd IULTCS Global Congress in Brazil in November where Dr. Bi Shi will be honored with the IULTCS Merit Award for Excellence. His career and ongoing contributions to our understanding of leather and how to make it with less environmental impact define excellence. Our global industry benefits significantly from the work done by Bi Shi and his colleagues at Sichuan University and they deserve our recognition.*"

Dr. Bi Shi

Editor Note: We are most pleased to have Dr. Bi Shi as a very active *Journal* contributing author and member of the *JALCA* Editorial Board.

RFW May 2014

Few people realize that Leather Making is the world's oldest manufacturing process, thus the world's oldest industry. Tanning—the process of converting hides and skins into leather—is also the world's first science. Also, because of the pure craftsmanship involved, tanning may well be the world's first art form.

Anyone who doubts that a sheepskin has up to 30,000 fibers per square inch has only to count them.

NOTHING TAKES THE PLACE OF LEATHER

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