

Short Bios
of
Dr. Chowdhury Faiz Hossain

Dr. Chowdhury Faiz Hossain is a Professor in the Department of Pharmacy at East West University. He earned his Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from Dhaka University in 1987. He then obtained his Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Doctor of Pharmaceutical Sciences degrees from Chiba University in Japan in 1991 and 1994, respectively. During his doctoral studies, he discovered a series of novel small-molecule natural products that possess selective monoamine-B inhibitory activity from the fungus *Monascus anka*.

After completing his doctorate, Dr. Hossain worked as a Research Scientist in the Department of Pharmacognosy at the National Institute of Health Science (NIHS) in Japan for three years. In 1996, he joined the Department of Pharmacy at Dhaka University as an Assistant Professor directly and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2000. In the same year, he was invited to serve as a Visiting Scientist at the National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR) at the University of Mississippi in the USA, collaborating with Professor Alice Clark's research group until the end of 2005. Dr. Hossain played a crucial role in several federally funded anticancer research projects at the University of Mississippi. He discovered and characterized various new anti-tumor agents that selectively block the hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α (HIF-1 α) in breast tumor cells. He also identified a series of dineolignans, known as manassantins, from an aquatic plant, which are the most potent inhibitors of HIF-1 α reported to date. His research resulted in two US patents and several peer-reviewed publications. One notable article on the discovery of laurenditerpenol, published in the Journal of Natural Products, was awarded the Jack L. Beal Award by the American Society of Pharmacognosy for being the best manuscript published in 2004.

After returning from the USA, Dr. Hossain joined Manarat International University as an Associate Professor and Head of the Department in March 2006. He became a full Professor in June 2006. In January 2009, he joined East West University as a Professor. Throughout his tenure at the university, he has served in various capacities, including Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering for two and a half years, Chairperson of the Department of Pharmacy for seven and a half years, and as a member of the Syndicate and Finance Committee for two and a half years, respectively. He has also been a member of EWU's Academic Council for the last 16 years. Prof. Hossain received a Certificate of Excellence from East West University in 2009 in recognition of his outstanding academic and research contributions. He was honored with the Bangladesh Education Leadership Award in 2019, recognizing him as the Best Professor in Pharmacy Studies by the World Education Congress. Additionally, in 2025, he received East West University's Faculty-Level Best Researcher Award as the top-ranked researcher in the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Dr. Rejina Afrin

Dr. Rejina Afrin is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy at East West University (EWU), Bangladesh, a position she has held since January 2023. She joined EWU as Assistant Professor in July 2017. From February 2024 to August 2025, she served as a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Marshall University School of Pharmacy, West Virginia, USA, where she contributed to NIH-funded projects on chemo-preventive and therapeutic strategies for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (SCCHN) and lung cancer.

She earned her B.Pharm (Honors) and M.Pharm degrees with first class from the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh, receiving a Gold Medal for outstanding performance in her bachelor's program (2012). In 2013, she was awarded the prestigious Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship to pursue her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences at Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences (NUPALS), Japan, which she completed with distinction in just three years (March 2017).

Dr. Rejina's primary research focuses on the molecular mechanisms linking non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) under diabetic conditions, with the aim of identifying preventive and therapeutic interventions using natural and synthetic compounds. Her additional research interests include cancer, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), metabolic disorders, diabetes-related complications, autoimmune myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, skin inflammation, Alzheimer's disease, and bioactive natural products. She has developed several disease-specific animal models and has expertise in elucidating associated signaling pathways.

She has published 36 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact international journals (total citations: 1,186), presented at numerous international conferences, and secured extramural research grants as Principal Investigator from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Bangladesh (2025), and the Center for Research and Training, EWU (2023; Co-PI in 2019) and the HIBAH (grant) PUTI 2022 of University of Indonesia as Co-PI in 2022. Dr. Rejina serves as a regular reviewer for reputed journals including International Immunopharmacology, Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy, Phytomedicine, and Experimental Dermatology.

Among her recent accolades are the Best Researcher Award 2025 (Associate Professor category) at EWU's Department of Pharmacy and the 2025 Outstanding Leadership in Mentoring Award from the American Chemical Society (ACS) Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholars Recognition Program.

Throughout her academic journey, Dr. Rejina has consistently received prestigious scholarships and recognition for academic and research excellence at primary, secondary, higher-secondary, undergraduate, and doctoral levels.

Dr. Aditya Arya

Dr. Aditya Arya is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the School of Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Taylor's University in Malaysia. He also holds the position of Academic Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and at Liverpool John Moores University, UK. From October 2015 to April 2020, he was awarded a national fellowship and served as a Research Fellow at the Malaysian Institute of Pharmaceuticals and Nutraceuticals (IPHARM) and the National Institutes of Biotechnology, under the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation in Malaysia.

Dr. Arya has received numerous international awards, including the prestigious civilian "Hind Rattan Award" from the Government of India in January 2019. He is an active member of multiple committees and advisory boards and serves as a reviewer for several esteemed peer-reviewed journals. He has published over 60 high-impact research papers. Additionally, he holds various leadership positions, including Group Leader of the Cardio-metabolic Research Group and Project Leader on flagship grants related to Ageing and Quality of Life, as well as on a flagship grant within the Obesity & Wellbeing program. Dr. Arya has successfully secured several national-level research grants, including the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) and the High Impact Research Grant (HIR) from the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), amounting to more than RM 14 million.

His research focuses on cellular and molecular pharmacology and biology, employing advanced techniques and diverse in vitro and in vivo approaches. Dr. Arya's team is actively involved in identifying the specific mechanisms underlying the development of diabetes associated with cardiovascular dysfunction. They target insulin networks and signaling pathways involved in pancreatic and metabolic functions, while also exploring the translational relevance of molecular biomarkers to identify potential therapeutics for diabetes and cardiometabolic disorders.