Short Bio
of
Susmita Das

Susmita Das received her B.Pharm from the Department of Pharmacy and her M.Pharm from the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University of Dhaka. For her master's thesis project, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh granted her the National Science and Technology (NST) Fellowship (2022–23). In addition, she was awarded scholarships for academic performance by her department and hall. In 2024, she began working as a lecturer in the State University of Bangladesh's pharmacy department, where she remained for a year. Her research experience includes phytochemistry and computer-aided drug design.

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: 1,288), presented at numerous international conferences, and secured extramural research grants as Principal Investigator from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Bangladesh (2025, 2023), 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.

Joya Rani

Joya Rani is currently serving as a Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacy at East West University (EWU), Dhaka, Bangladesh. She completed both her Bachelor of Pharmacy and Master of Pharmacy degrees from the University of Rajshahi (RU). Throughout her academic journey, she received several prestigious accolades, including the Dean’s Award-2023 from the Faculty of Science, University of Rajshahi and multiple merit scholarships from Rajshahi University for her outstanding academic performance. She was also awarded the Rajshahi Division Merit Scholarship (2015) in recognition of her academic excellence and the NST Fellowship (MS 2023-24) for her master's thesis project. Joya began her teaching career at East West University, shortly after completing her M.Pharm. She is currently engaged in teaching and research at EWU, where she focuses on analytical chemistry, phytochemistry and natural products, pharmacology, and public health.