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FAPC student wins Burdock travel award during IFT national conference

By Mandy Gross, FAPC Communications Services Manager

(Stillwater, Okla. – Sept. 17, 2010) An Oklahoma State University and Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center graduate student was selected as the recipient of a travel award to attend the Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting held in Chicago, Ill., this summer.

Dinesh Babu, Ph.D. candidate in food science, won the 2010 IFT Burdock Group Student Travel Award and was presented with \$500 and an engraved plaque during the IFT meeting on July 17-21.

“It is an honor for me to be recognized by the Burdock Group, which is a leading group of scientists and consultants in food safety and risk assessment,” Babu said. “This award is very encouraging for me to be committed in the field of food toxicology research and feed safety evaluation.”

The award is designed to encourage student excellence in the areas of ingredient toxicology, safety and regulations.

To be considered for the award, national and international full-time graduate or undergraduate students submitted letters describing their interest in toxicology and the safety evaluation of food or regulations.

In addition, faculty members supplied support letters for the students, including the students’ plan of study for courses involving food ingredient safety.

Peter Muriana, FAPC food microbiologist and professor for OSU’s department of animal science, has served as the graduate research adviser for Babu for more than one year.

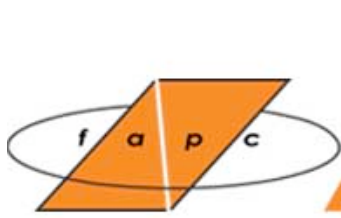
“Dinesh is exceptionally bright, very studious and is among the hardest working students I have had the pleasure to work with in quite some time,” Muriana said. “I place him among the top one to two students I have had the opportunity to advise.”

Babu’s research interests are to develop rapid and sensitive methods to detect natural food toxins in complex food and animal feed samples at levels not easily detected by traditional methods. His long-term research interests are to develop strategies to detect and quantify natural food toxins while understanding the toxigenic effects and diversity of toxigenic microorganisms.

“Winning this award allowed me travel to the IFT meeting and meet with my peers and industry people working in the field of food toxicology and learn about the latest research and technological development in food toxicology,” Babu said.

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